

**HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING**

Meeting Number 342

4th September 2008

Council Chambers
Wentworth Shire Council



PRESENT Gabrielle Kibble AO (Chair), Rosemary Annable, Petula Samios, Peter Mould (Government Architect), Chris Johnson (for Director General, Department of Planning), Jason Ardler (for Director-General Department of Environment and Climate Change), Tina Jackson, David Logan, Julie Bindon

APOLOGIES John Robertson, Ross Fitzgerald, Sharon Sullivan AO (Deputy Chair)

ALSO PRESENT Cameron White (Heritage Branch), Rajeev Maini (Heritage Branch), Tanya Koeneman (Heritage Branch)

1. Opening – Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.30am

1.2 Confirmation and Timing of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed.

1.3 Declarations of Interest

Pecuniary Interests	Nil
Non Pecuniary Interests	Nil
Conflicts of Interest	Nil

2.0 Confirmation of Minutes

2.1 Heritage Council Meeting of 6th August 2008

Members considered minutes of the meetings of 6th August 2008.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. adopt the minutes of 6th August 2008.**

3.0 Reports

3.1 Chairs Report

The Chair welcomed all members to the special meeting being held in Wentworth NSW as part of the annual regional visit by the Heritage Council.

The Chair advised the members that Mr Hewitt Whyman had submitted his resignation from the Heritage Council due to ill health. The Heritage Council acknowledged his valuable contributions during his term.

The members were updated on the progress on the Heritage Act proposed Amendment Bill which is being drafted by the Parliamentary Council.

The Chair advised members of recent attendance at the Heritage Chairs and Officials Australia and New Zealand meeting in Canberra with the Director. The meeting was productive demonstrating good relationships between the State representatives and the Commonwealth. The Chair advised the members that the report on Sustainability and Heritage Conservation, presented by Heritage Victoria would be of interest to all members and a copy of this report would be forwarded to the members.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council of NSW

- 2. note the report**
- 3. request the Heritage Branch to provide members copy of Sustainability and Heritage Conservation report by Heritage Victoria.**

3.2 Director's Report

The Petula Samios presented her report covering.

HCOANZ (Heritage Chairs and Officials Australia and New Zealand)

The Chair and the Director attended the August meeting of the HCOANZ held in Canberra.

Actions arising from the meeting: the Chair agreed that NSW would prepare a paper on rural heritage issues for the next meeting.

EPHCSC

Environmental Protection Heritage Council Standing Committee includes representatives of Australian Government and state/territory heritage agencies as members. The next meeting of the Standing Committee is on 11th September 2008. The Director will be attending.

The EPHC will be meeting in October. This is attended by Ministers responsible for Environment and Heritage

Historic Shipwreck Delegates Meeting

The Heritage Branch hosted the annual Historic Shipwreck Delegates meeting on 1st September 2008. The event was coordinated by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage & the Arts (DEWHA) and included each State/Territory heritage or museum agency CEO's. The Director is the NSW Shipwreck Delegate for certain administrative actions under the Commonwealth *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976*.

Integration of Heritage Advice into Planning Assessment

The Director General on 19th August 2008 has agreed that the heritage planners who are working within the Assessments Branch are to replace the Heritage Branch as the source of heritage comment for Part 3A projects that do not involve projects for sites listed on the State Heritage Register or adjacent sites.

The members discussed how Aboriginal heritage matters are managed in relation to Part 3A applications and requested the Heritage Branch to advise further details at future meeting.

Volunteers Award Arrangements

The awards are to be held in the Museum of Sydney on 20th November, a late morning tea/brunch to be held after the awards, a tour of the exhibition of the 'Lost Gardens', and for the able, a walking tour of nearby 'lost gardens' that will last 2hrs for the award winners and their partners.

Award

The Heritage Council of NSW 2006-2007 Annual Report won a Silver Award in the 2008 Australasian Reporting Awards.

Annual report

A decision was made to not produce a separate Annual report for the Heritage Council but as a chapter in the Department of Planning's Annual Report. This is consistent with the other Boards serviced by the Department.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. note the report**
- 2. request the Heritage Branch to provide members advise on Part 3A applications management of Aboriginal heritage**

3.2.1 Matters approved under Delegation (Listings team)

3.2.2 Matters approved under Delegation (Conservation team)

3.2.3 Heritage Council Meeting Action Report

3.3 Members Reports – Nil Report

Recommendation:

- 1. that the Heritage Council of NSW note the reports**

4.0 Matters for Consideration and Decision - Nil Matters

5.0 Matters for Information or Noting

5.1 Heritage Act Review Update

Cameron White updated the members on the progress of the implementation of the review.

Resolved:

- 1. that the Heritage Council of NSW note the report**

5.2 Wambo Homestead Complex, Warkworth (near Singleton)

The members were updated on the previous development consents to provide for the expansion of mining activities in the area and how the long-term conservation of the homestead complex will be impacted as mining continues to expand into its physical surroundings.

Approval for some extension of underground mining to Longwall 7 was provided under the Heritage Act and the EP&A Act in 2007. As part of that process United Collieries provided a letter of intent committed to the provision of \$2M as an offset for the mining of Longwall 7 through the Wambo Homestead Exclusion Zone. The \$2M is to be available to support projects in the local region, for example by establishment of a local heritage fund or other appropriate mechanisms.

Members were advised that United Collieries have engaged heritage and structural experts to undertake assessment of the homestead and outbuildings

With the issue of the consent for Longwall 7, United Collieries submitted a Subsidence Management Plan and Management Action Plan–Cultural Heritage Management to the Heritage Branch in March 2008. In August 2008 United Collieries advised the Department of Planning that preparations were being made for the \$2M payment.

The members agreed that the funds should be held in trust for use to fund community projects and the mechanisms for the management of these funds should be agreed to by the Director General, Department of Planning. To assist with the management of these funds it was agreed to form a subcommittee with the following members Sharon Sullivan, David Logan, Michael Clarke and the Heritage Branch Director or Deputy Director.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Council of NSW

- 1. note the information in this report**
- 2. requests the Chair to write to the Director General in regards to the management the funds into a Hunter Regional Heritage Fund.**
- 3. form a subcommittee to assist with the management of the Hunter Regional Heritage Fund consisting of the following members Sharon Sullivan, David Logan, Michael Clarke and the Heritage Branch Director or Deputy Director.**

6.0 General Business

The members discussed the initiative of the Commonwealth Government to purchase irrigation licenses from property owners, resulting in leaving possibly significant heritage no longer occupied and maintained. The members recognised that the conservation of these possible heritage items may become an area of concern to be discussed with the Commonwealth representatives.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW:

- 1. write to the Commonwealth Government and the Murray Darling Commission about the likely impacts on potentially significant homesteads.**

7.0 Presentations

7.1 Heritage Listing of Wentworth Wharf Precinct – Wentworth City Council

The members received a presentation from Cr Margaret Thomson, Mayor Wentworth City Council and Mr Garry Stanley, Wentworth Heritage Advisor. The members were informed about heritage in Wentworth and the work that has been carried out by the local community.

It was demonstrated that the local council and community are committed to preserving their heritage. Main areas of commitment by the Council are the Ruby PS, Wentworth Goal and the Main Street in Wentworth. Mr Stanley noted that funding has been made available from the Heritage Council for the replacements and reinstated of the verandahs in Main Street, as well as the development of an appropriate colour scheme.

The Court House has had recent restoration work undertaken by Department of Commerce. The National Trust was particularly active in this region. St John's Church restoration has also been aided by funding from the Heritage Council. Mr Stanley advised how he has been able to work with the Council in his role as advisor in providing incremental grants to help in the various restoration projects e.g. Wentworth Goal has had its slate roof repair, repainted and was being promoted as a tourist destination.

The fig trees in Wentworth are an important asset and the community is committed to their retention and upkeep.

The Heritage Council was very appreciative of Mr Stanley's presentation and his role in encouraging the community in its work to conserve its heritage.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW:

- 1. note the presentation and expressed its appreciation to Mr Stanley and the Mayor, Cr Thompson.**

7.2 Lake Victoria Aboriginal Cultural Heritage – Evelyn Crawford

The members received a presentation from Evelyn Crawford on the Lake Victoria Aboriginal Heritage. Evelyn described how important Lake Victoria was with regard to Aboriginal heritage. It was also the scene of the Rufus River Massacre and later that the Lake was the site of a RAAF training base in World War II.

The Elders Council has had a pivotal role in protecting the burial sites and the development of Priority Management Plans for Lake Victoria. It has also provided Aboriginal employment and traineeships. As the water receded in the Lake, many ancient Aboriginal burial sites were exposed and a major program of sandbagging and stabilisation work was undertaken to protect.

Water management in terms of levels, quality and environmental flows are an important issue facing both white and Aboriginal community. Salinity is a problem and a number of properties are been acquired. The Elders have also been involved in native vegetation regeneration program. Erosion monitoring is essential around the foreshores and the cliffs and it has lead to further exposure of more burial sites. Erosion barriers are being used to protect these now.

The Heritage Council was very appreciative of the presentation as it gave them a good understanding of the issues facing Lake Victoria as well as the heritage significance of the area.

Resolved:

that the Heritage Council of NSW:

- 1. note the presentation and expressed its appreciation to Ms Evelyn Crawford.**

There being no further items the meeting closed at 11.30am.