



# Heritage Committee Meeting

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Date of meeting: 28 July 2022  
Location: Council Chambers  
Time: 5:00 p.m.

**BUSINESS PAPER**



**HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

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- **APOLOGIES**
- **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
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Heritage  
Committee

Section 1

Reports  
for determination

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**SECTION 3 - Reports for Determination**

**ITEM: 1**                      **HC - Election of Chairperson - (79351, 80242)**

**Directorate:**              City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to outline the process for the election of a Chairperson of the Heritage Committee.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Under the terms of the Council Committee Constitution, it a requirement that at the first meeting of the committee, that a Chairperson be appointed from the members of the committee for a period of twelve (12) months, and then for each twelve (12) month period thereafter.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That a Chairperson of the Heritage Committee for the period from July 2022 to July 2023, be determined.

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**BACKGROUND**

Clause 5(b) of the Council Committee Constitution adopted by Council on 25 January 2021, is in regard to the election of a Chairperson, and is as follows:

*"b) Membership and voting rights of the Committee shall be as follows:*

**Heritage Committee**

- *Three (3) Councillors of the Hawkesbury City Council, and Fourteen (14) community appointments, appointed by Council following the calling of applications in the month of October following local government elections:*
  - *Council shall place advertisements in appropriate newspapers inviting nominations from Members of the community for Membership to the Heritage Committee*
  - *The Council shall select and appoint the community representatives to the Committee;*
  - *The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies at its discretion.*
- *Each Member of the Committee entitled to vote shall only have one vote except that of the casting vote of the Chairperson in the case of equality votes*
- *All other Councillors are able to attend Committee meetings as a participant with no voting right."*

At its Meeting on 11 January 2022 Council resolved as follows:

*"That the following Councillors be appointed as Committee Members to the Heritage Committee:*

- *Councillor Djuric*
- *Councillor Lyons-Buckett*
- *Councillor Reardon*
- *Councillor Wheeler*

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At its Meeting on 10 May 2022 Council resolved, in part as follows:

*"That Council:*

1. *Appoint the following community representatives for community members of the Heritage Committee until September 2024:*

- *Michael Edwards*
- *Graham Edds*
- *Jan Barkley-Jack*
- *Cheryl Ballantyne*
- *Gaye Wilson*
- *Deborah Hallam*
- *Michelle Nichols*
- *John Moxon*
- *Erin Wilkins"*

At its Meeting on 14 June 2022 Council resolved as follows:

*"That Council appoint Ms Cindy Laws to the Heritage Committee until September 2024 as an additional member."*

**DISCUSSION**

This meeting of the Heritage Committee will be its first meeting following appointment of members. In accordance with Clause 5(b) of the Council Committee Constitution, the nomination and appointment of a Chairperson for the next twelve (12) months by Committee members from those appointed is to be carried out at this meeting.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no supporting documents for this report.

**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**

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**ITEM: 2**                      **HC - Implementation of Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study - (80242, 95498, 124414)**

**Previous Item:**        HC - Item A (1 August 2019)  
                              HC - Item 5 (6 August 2020)  
                              HC - Item 1 (29 October 2020)  
                              HC – Item 4 (22 July 2021)

**Directorate:**            City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to seek guidance from the Heritage Committee regarding priorities and opportunities associated with the Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study which was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 12 October 2021.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Following receipt of funding from the then Department of Environment & Heritage to undertake a Hawkesbury Local Government Area – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study, Council engaged GML Heritage to undertake the Study.

The Study completed site inspections and consultation with the local Aboriginal community and representative organisations.

The Study explored how a holistic assessment of Aboriginal heritage values can be undertaken and then built into land use planning and Environmental Impact Assessment.

The Study extends its focus beyond the management of archaeological sites and relics, towards the integration of natural and cultural heritage and consideration of the full range of traditional, historic and contemporary values of Aboriginal communities.

Close liaison and engagement with local Aboriginal groups and elders was undertaken during the development of the Study to ensure that it was reflective and sympathetic of any sites and relics that are sensitive in nature as part of the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan. Subsequently, following consideration by the Heritage Committee, and Council the Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 12 October 2021.

With a newly formed Heritage Committee, there is a need to discuss priorities from the Study and potential opportunities for partnerships to deliver on the identified actions with the Study.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Heritage Committee considers the Hawkesbury LGA Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study and provides guidance on priorities and opportunities for potential partnership arrangements that may exist for Council to implement the Study.

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**BACKGROUND**

A \$30,000 grant was provided to Council by the then Department of Environment and Heritage on a dollar for dollar basis to undertake a Hawkesbury-wide Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study. Council's original funding application had been for 100% funding.

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The Hawkesbury local government area covers an area of approximately 2,800km<sup>2</sup>, and had not previously undertaken a comprehensive Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study.

Being the 3rd oldest European settlement, the Hawkesbury Local Government Areas was one of the earliest places of contact and conflict with Darug people. As such, it was important to assess and map archaeology including that early period of contact and conflict.

The study was designed to explore how a holistic assessment of Aboriginal heritage values can be undertaken and then built into land use planning and Environmental Impact Assessment.

The study extended its focus beyond the management of archaeological sites and relics, towards the integration of natural and cultural heritage and consideration of the full range of traditional, historic and contemporary values of Aboriginal communities.

The outcomes of the Study include:

1. Comprehensive assessment and mapping of the historic known and unknown Aboriginal archaeological sites and relics with the Aboriginal community to build a complete picture of the cultural landscape of the Hawkesbury
2. Comprehensive assessment and mapping of the historic and contemporary Aboriginal cultural heritage values in conjunction with local communities to complement the existing traditional and archaeological values in order to build a more complete picture of the cultural landscape of the study area.
3. Integrating Aboriginal cultural heritage into land use planning and Environmental Impact Assessment.
4. Establish effective mechanisms for community involvement in land use planning in the study area and a basis for communication between Government, landowners and the community about Aboriginal Heritage.

Council undertook the project management of the study, with clear scope and objectives to limit uncertainty in the project. In addition, Council closely liaised with local Aboriginal communities on the development of the project, timing, and study objectives to ensure that the study was reflective and sympathetic of any sites and relics that are sensitive in nature as part of the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan.

GML Heritage were engaged to carry out the heritage study and completed site inspections and consultation with the local Aboriginal community.

This engagement had been undertaken throughout the development of the Study, including site inspections, in order to ensure that the Study is reflective and sympathetic of any sites and relics that are sensitive in nature.

In addition to engagement with local Aboriginal groups and elders, the Study was also considered by the Heritage Committee, and Council. The Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study was subsequently adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 12 October 2021.

It should be noted that during formal exhibition a submission in support of the draft Study highlighted that the Hawkesbury area is highly important to Aboriginal peoples due to its landscape and water ways, a main water source being the Hawkesbury River and other water ways connecting and nearby the area.

These water ways are highly significant to Aboriginal peoples who understand how the water ways were created and outlined that they can be understood through oral traditions, stories and sky knowledge.

The submission also highlighted the importance of cultural interpretation which is a key theme of the Study, in order to educate the wider community and our next generations about the traditional owners of the land

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**DISCUSSION**

The Study outlines that there is still much that needs to occur in order to fully understand Aboriginal Cultural Heritage, and particularly the relationship to the entire landscape which is not documented and has been handed down verbally through generations.

The intention of the Study is to start the process of truly understanding connection to country, and to provide Council officers with the tools to recognise the potential for known and unknown sites that may be impacted through development or Council operations. The Study is a starting guide for mapping, Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHMIS) registering and to start the conversation with local elders first with respect to potential sites.

With a newly formed Heritage Committee, there is a need to discuss priorities from the Study and potential opportunities for partnerships to deliver on the identified actions with the Study.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council engaged with Aboriginal groups and Significant Community Elders in line with the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan from inception of the project to ensure transparency and sensitivity to any sites, and relics that may have been identified through the process.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The \$60,000 Study was jointly funded on a dollar for dollar basis by Council and the NSW Government.

The Study included a series of recommendations that have direct and indirect financial implications. Implementation of some of these recommendations requires Council to investigate further grant funding opportunities, and future budget considerations. Advice from the Heritage Committee is required in terms of priorities to implement the Study.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

**AT - 1** The Hawkesbury Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Study - *(Distributed under separate cover).*

**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**

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**ITEM: 3**                      **HC - Wayfinding and Signage - Heritage Interpretive Trail - (80242, 95498, 124414)**

**Previous Item:**        **9 HC (22 July 2021)**  
                                 1 HC (28 October 2021)

**Directorate:**            City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the draft heritage interpretive trail content associated with the Wayfinding and Signage Strategy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Council is currently in the process of revitalising the town centres of Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor and undertaking Place Plans for the villages. The Blueprint were engaged to create a wayfinding strategy and style guide which will be scalable from the larger town centres to the smallest villages. The Wayfinding and Signage Strategy Project aims to improve how visitors and residents are guided through the Hawkesbury local government area, to discover the diverse experiences, attractions and services that we offer.

The development of the Draft Wayfinding and Signage Strategy was based on best precedent wayfinding examples and principles, and was considered by the previous Heritage Committee at its meetings on 22 July 2021 and 28 October 2021.

In resolving to adopt the Wayfinding and Signage Strategy on 8 February 2022, Council also resolved (in part) that:

*"The detailed design phase consults closely with a working group of the local Heritage Committee the work of creating signage content that relates to historical interpretation."*

This report presents the draft Heritage trail content for consideration and input from the Heritage Committee before being finalised.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Heritage Committee provide input into the proposed signage content for the heritage interpretive trail content.

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**BACKGROUND**

Council adopted the master and public domain plans for Richmond, South Windsor and Windsor Town Centres at the Ordinary Council meeting of 29 September 2020. During the development of the master plans, a recurring recommendation was in relation to signage including:

- Signage to improve wayfinding to key destinations such as public transport, parking, retail areas, Hawkesbury River, parks and civic facilities.
- The creation of heritage trails through the town centres to highlight and provide information about the rich Aboriginal and European heritage of the town centres.
- Entry signs.
- Key sites and tourist facilities.

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Site audits and existing Council plans established a need of a signage strategy due to inconsistencies in locations, design, branding and messaging in signage.

Council subsequently prepared its Draft Wayfinding and Signage Strategy which it exhibited between 7 October 2021 to 5 November 2021, and subsequently adopted on 8 February 2022. The Wayfinding and Signage Strategy outlines strategy principles adaptable to all towns and villages across Hawkesbury City Council while ensuring the signage can be used across digital platforms where suitable.

In resolving to adopt the Wayfinding and Signage Strategy, Council also resolved (in part) that: The detailed design phase consults closely with a working group of the local Heritage Committee the work of creating signage content that relates to historical interpretation.

As such the draft Heritage trail content is presented to the Heritage Committee for consideration and input prior to finalising.

### **DISCUSSION**

The interpretive heritage trail will provide ways of connecting visitors to the rich stories from a First Nations and European history perspective, where First Nations history can be linked to country, whilst European history is linked to existing landmarks in the built environment.

The draft heritage trail content is presented to the Heritage Committee for input ahead of this being finalised.

The draft Heritage interpretive trail content was prepared by Kate Follington who is a copywriter for The Blueprint. The draft heritage trail content features stories of both colonial history, and Dharug and Darkinjung history within Windsor Town Centre. The proposed content for the Heritage trail will be presented to the Heritage Committee by Helen Punton, Project Design Manager of The Blueprint.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**AT-1** Adopted Wayfinding and Signage Strategy - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.

**AT-2** Draft Heritage trail content.

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**AT-2 Draft Heritage trail content**

**Proposed Content for Heritage Interpretive signage – Windsor Town Centre**

<b>WINDSOR Colonial History</b>	<b>Proposed location</b>	<b>Story</b>	<b>Reference sources</b>
1 British need for food	River front Baker and Terrace St	British need for fertile plain to grow food 1791 Observation of Aboriginal cultivation of yams/potatoes, through to Macquarie's Towns.	<i>Dyarubbin Project</i> G. Karskens & local educators.
2 South Creek	South Creek	<i>Hawkesbury River Land Grants.</i> <i>Mulgrave Place</i> <i>First ex-convicts, Thompson, Mary Reibey (face of our \$20 note)</i>	Various H. Proudfoot.
3. Frontier wars	River front - The Terrace	<i>The river wars and killing fields, guerilla and sanctioned killing occurred between Dharug warriors and new farmers. This resulted in widespread massacres of Aboriginal families. Revenge killings, kill on sight orders and massacres were ordered by various colonialists under William Cox, estimates of 400+ in one year alone 1816. Genocidal warfare was enacted along Dyarubbin.</i>	<i>Sydney Wars</i> Gapps <i>Dyarubbin Project</i>
4. Life on a Floodplain	Park end of Thompson Square (The current signage appears to be down by the river not in the park)	<i>Life on a floodplain. A first person account of the 1867 flood (19m)</i>	<i>Disastrous Decade</i> Michelle Nichols
5. Windsor Hospital and convict barracks*	Christie and George St	<i>The sweat and blood of free convict labour built the town and roads along the Hawkesbury, including The Great North Road and Windsor to Sydney Road. Hospital.</i>	<i>Various Essays</i> Proudfoot and Karsken.
6. St Matthews Anglican Church*	Moses and Greenway St.	<i>Impressive Architecture by Francis Greenway the famous emancipist and Macquarie's Civic Architect.</i>	State Library NSW online
7. Macquarie Arms Hotel*	George and Thompson Sq	<i>One of the oldest hotels in Australia and most haunted.</i>	Various

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<b>WINDSOR Colonial History</b>	<b>Proposed location</b>	<b>Story</b>	<b>Reference sources</b>
8. Howe House*	Thompson Square	The Coromandel settlers of Ebenezer arrive   Howe follows an inland route guided by Dharug navigators to the Hunter Valley.	Various
9. Thompson Square*	Andrew Thompson (?) Thompson Square	Frontier town with a convict magistrate. The story of the Scotsman Andrew Thompson.	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thompson-andrew-2728">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thompson-andrew-2728</a>
10 Grain, Corn and Boat Production	Windsor Wheel George St Mall	Grono's boats. River transport and boat building was a significant industry transporting produce and crops to Windsor or Sydney.	The Mosquito Fleet Jean Purtell.
11. Bolters and Bushrangers	George St. Mall	Bolter John Wilson. Bushrangers Convict bolters and famous Bushrangers: Captain Thunderbolt (most famous), William Pitt. William Underwood.	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/war-d-frederick-fred-4801">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/war-d-frederick-fred-4801</a>
12 Post Office*	George and Fitzgerald St.	Delivering mail down the river. The letter-carriers of Windsor: Cambridge senior, junior and grandson.	<a href="https://www.hawkesbury.org/home/windsor-post-office.html">https://www.hawkesbury.org/home/windsor-post-office.html</a>
13 John Tebbutt Observatories* The Peninsula	Palmer St	The beginning of European astronomy in Australia, and the identification of the Great Comet of 1861. (Note: Astronomy was a significant method of travel for Aust. Aboriginal culture)	<a href="https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/tebbutt-john-4696">https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/tebbutt-john-4696</a>

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<b>WINDSOR Dharug and Darkinjung</b>	<b>Proposed location</b>	<b>Story</b> Copyright permission GRANTED Story Map text and data Copyright © the Authors (Grace Karskens, Aunty Edna Watson, Leanne Watson and Jasmine Seymour).
Welcome to Country		(If this doesn't exist already)
1. Dharug River Fundamental	The Terrace	The Hawkesbury-Nepean region is among the longest occupied regions in Australia. Dyarubbin, meaning Yam River, sustained human habitation for 50 (?) thousand years.
2. Fundamentals Dharug and Darkinjung Nation	River Walk	Explain the geographic boundaries of the Dharug and Darkinjung Nations, language groups and significant bands of the Windsor and Richmond areas.
3. Family – Bands and Clans	River Walk	What clan was a child born into and what were their Rights to Country, clans (families) and bands traditionally were up to 50 people. It's common practice for Aboriginal families to identify with Country today.
4. Bulyayorang / Balga Ngu-rang (Windsor) Thompson Square	Thompson Square	Balga Ngu-rang (Thompson Square) was a significant camping location and local Dharug believe Corroboree ground. Provide details of the significant archaeological evidence or observation record about this site.
5. Rock Art, Petroglyphs and Grinding grooves	River Walk	Within the sandstone caves and cliffs that decorate the Hawkesbury are impressive and significant rock art and petroglyphs. Explain how they are created and their significance.
6. Dreaming, Gurungatty and landscape	River Walk	Introduce Gurungatty, the great eel ancestral being, and creator of Dyarubbin. Also depicted as a female being. Women's totems, dhimung, the small, brown tree creeper. Explain the intrinsic connection between country and spirit.
7. Burung (rock shelters), gunyas huts and camp fires	River Walk	Burung - the rock platforms provided shelter during rain, while larger huts and camps dotted the rivers. Intertribal corroborees occurred on large grassy lowlands. Significant corroborees of up to 600 people continued into the mid 1800s.
8. Feast on Country	River Walk	Discuss the ancient practice and significance of harvesting yams, long yam, wild potato and other tubers, using Guni or Gunayi (yam sticks) and use of grinding stones. Identify native greens, and explain food gathering practices such as fish traps.
9. Ngarangayn-bayi Coolaibarra Windsor Reach (looking east from Windsor Bridge toward pronounced turn at the river)	South Creek	Women's zone and Grandmother's camp. (explain why in more detail)

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WINDSOR</b> <b>Dharug and Darkinjung</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Proposed location</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Story</b> Copyright permission <b>GRANTED</b> Story Map text and data Copyright © the Authors (Grace Karskens, Aunty Edna Watson, Leanne Watson and Jasmine Seymour).</p>
<p>10. Dugga climbers (river flat forest)</p>	<p>Richmond</p>	<p><i>Dharug men and women were impressive tree climbers to catch game, climbing 50m up river flat trees. Detail this hunting method.</i></p>
<p>11. Significant Dharug/Darkinjung warriors worthy of recognition</p>		<p><i>Various significant leaders and warriors are written about in People of the River</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yarramundi</li> <li>2. Ma'rim (Miles) – became a resistant fighter was on Macquarie's Putty Road found the easiest way up to</li> <li>3.. Black Captain – Corrinji from Cattai</li> </ol> <p><i>(for discussion)</i></p>

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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**ITEM: 4**                      **HC - Update on Preparation of Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study - (80242, 95498, 124414)**

**Directorate:**              City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an update to the Heritage Committee regarding preparation of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study, which is an ongoing project
- Seek the formation of a working group to assist and advise Council on the completion of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Council has commenced preparation of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study which was assisted by a working group of the previous Heritage Committee.

In late 2021, Council was able to engage a full time Senior Heritage Officer to address and move heritage related projects forward.

This report provides an update in terms of progress to date on the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study, and recommends that a working group of the Heritage Committee be formed in order to assist and advise Council on the completion of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That a working group of the Heritage Committee be formed in order to assist and advise Council on the completion of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study.

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**BACKGROUND**

Council has commenced preparation of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study which was assisted by a working group of the previous Heritage Committee.

In late 2021, Council was able to engage a full time Senior Heritage Officer to address and move heritage related projects forward.

After several months of settling into the new heritage officer role at Council, and informally consulting with key stakeholders on the heritage management needs of the Hawkesbury local government area, in recent months, Council's Senior Heritage Officer has sought to progress the Hawkesbury Community Heritage Study Project, which originally commenced in 2019. The Senior Heritage Officer's assessment of the project included a review of the original project brief, a review of the accepted, amended fee proposal from the selected consultant, a stocktake of the project outputs thus far, and a review of the monies spent on the project to date and the amount of unspent funds remaining in the project. Council's Senior Heritage Officer also had a series of meetings with the consultants in order to better understand the detail on the objectives of the project and their progress with the completion of the project.

In broad terms, of the six costed stages of the proposed Study, funds have been fully spent on three of the phases. Phase 1: project inception, phase 2: documentation review and preparation of revised thematic history, phase 5: inspection and review of existing local heritage items and heritage conservation areas by

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the consultant. Incomplete work and unspent funds remain for Phase 3: Inspections of nominated potential heritage items; Phase 4: The completion of abbreviated heritage inventory sheets for the nominated potential heritage items; and Phase 6: The Hawkesbury Community Heritage Study Report.

Work on the project occurred throughout 2019 but had to be placed on hold in early 2020 when the main heritage consultant for the project returned to New Zealand to avoid the lockdown restrictions present at that time, with work recommenced at differing stages during the periods of lockdown. This has provided an opportunity to review what aspects of remaining work for the project, and how these matters align with Council's key heritage management needs, as previously documented by Council's Heritage Committee members and more recently by Council's Senior Heritage Officer, in consultation with community members and consultation with Council's consultant heritage advisor.

## **DISCUSSION**

Through the work associated with the Heritage Study to date, the need for further detailed assessment of the various Timber Slab Barns that are evident across the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

To that end, two major studies of timber Slab barns within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area were undertaken in May 1991 and March 2010.

May 1991 – Pitt Town Slab Barn Study prepared by Graham Edds and Associates and Alice Brandjes of Hawkesbury City Council

The study arose from concerns by the NSW Heritage Council in 1990 that surviving early building types in Pitt Town had not been properly studied, and in a (then) recent instance, one of these examples (No.4 Chatham Street, Pitt Town) had been approved for demolition by Council without sufficient information as to the heritage significance of the building. "To permit demolition without this information could result in the loss of what may subsequently be found to be a significant example of an early building type particular to the area".

The objectives of the study were:

- To prepare an inventory of slab barns in the locality of Pitt Town;
- To determine whether a typology of slab barns in the locality of Pitt Town exists;
- To identify and access the significance of surviving slab barns in the locality of Pitt Town; and
- To assess the significance of the slab barn situated at No.4 Chatham Street, Pitt Town relative to other surviving slab barns in the locality.

Twenty-four (24) slab barns were investigated, and heritage inventory sheets prepared for each the study items. Of the 24, 50% were found to be of "exceptional significance" by the authors of the report, which points to the items potentially being worthy of State or National Heritage listing.

A brief review of the items studied revealed that although the majority of the barns had been included as local heritage items within Schedule 5 - Environmental heritage of Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012, potentially not all of the slab barns in the study area have been heritage listed or properly included within Schedule 5. Also, it would appear that the potential State or National Listing of some or all of the studied items has not been pursued. Additionally, some of the barns, although locally heritage listed, do not appear to be properly maintained at present, and therefore, headed for potential demolition by neglect.

March 2010 – Hawkesbury City Council Slab Barn Study prepared by Graham Edds and Associates

This study found that there are at least 106 timber slab barns and timber slab outbuildings located on 91 individual sites throughout the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

The study contains 91 heritage inventory sheets with 70 of those containing detailed sketch plans of the timber slab buildings.

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The study also contains a number of important recommendations, including the following:

“Priority 6 Council commence the implementation of listing those items identified as of local significance on the Hawkesbury LEP and nominate those of State significance both individually and as a serial listing on the State Heritage Register.”

And specifically in relation to the timber slab barns remaining on the 25 properties associated with the earliest Hawkesbury land grants:

“Recommendation No.1 It is recommended, to assist with historic verification, that these barns be further investigated with detailed historic research and detailed physical assessment being commissioned.

Recommendation No.2 It is recommended that all of those slab barns located on the 1794-1796 promised land grants be recommended for listing as a serial listing at State level.

Recommended No.3 It is recommended that those barns nominated on the inventory sheet as worthy of state significance also be endorsed for listing at the State level on the State Heritage Register (SHR). These could also be considered for further detailed investigation both historically and physically.

Recommendation No.4 Following further detailed investigation identified above some of these barns considered worthy of inclusion on the SHR could also be further recognised At [a] higher level as a group or serial listing at the National significance level.

Recommendation No.5 It is recommended that those slab barns nominated on the inventory sheets as of local significance be recommended for inclusion within the Hawkesbury Council LEP schedule of heritage items and be included on the State Heritage Inventory.”

To date Council had not assigned resources or funding to implement these recommendations.

Recent flood events in the Hawkesbury River in 2020, 2021 and 2022, have highlighted the critical importance of implementing the abovementioned recommendations. In one recent example, a previously identified, exceptional, early timber slab barn in Freemans Reach, (potentially one of the earliest timber slab barns in Australia) was severely impacted by flood waters. Although identified in this 2010 study it had not yet received appropriate heritage protection (Local, State or National Level), and therefore the owners of the rural barn, although sympathetic to its preservation, could not obtain any State Heritage emergency funding towards the stabilisation and conservation of this heritage significant structure.

A brief was prepared in order to commission an updated study of timber slab barns within the Hawkesbury City Council area. The update study is to provide a definitive list of the location and current condition of all of the extant slab barns within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area, involving additional historical research, physical inspections, and the production of updated heritage inventory sheets for all the previously identified slab barns (106), where required. This is in addition to any other timber slab barns that have come to the attention of Council staff since the completion of the 1991 and 2010 studies e.g., Approximately <10 additional barns. The study is also to include a submission(s) for the group and/or individual listing of timber slab barns considered to be of State and or National heritage significance. Hawkesbury City Council is also seeking to have included within the update study, innovative strategies for incentivising the retention and conservation of timber slab barns that are of local heritage significance.

Given the above, it is recommended that a working group of the Heritage Committee be formed in order to assist and advise Council on the completion of the Hawkesbury Community Based Heritage Study.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

There are no Attachments to this report.

**oooO END OF REPORT Oooo**

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**ITEM: 5**                      **HC - Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022 Completion and 2022/2023 - (80242, 95498, 124414)**

**Directorate:**              City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Heritage Committee of the outcomes of the Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund Program for 2021/2022, and seek input and advice ahead of the 2022/2023 funding program.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Local Heritage Assistance Fund is funded each year by Council and Heritage NSW, with most of the program being funded by Council. The 2021/2022 program was open to minor maintenance/conservation works to all heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury local government area. Council received a total of 27 applications for the 2021/2022 Program (which is the highest number of applications ever received under the program). Council subsequently supported 25 of those applications on the grounds of eligibility with the grant application criteria.

The combined impact of COVID-19, long sustained periods of rainfall, repeated flood events, scarcity of available and suitable tradespeople, and noted increased costs of materials during the program year resulted in 7 of the approved applicants being unable to commence or complete their works, despite Heritage NSW granting Hawkesbury City Council an extension to the program due to the flooding and weather impacts. Despite these considerable challenges, 18 of the applicants managed to complete their projects within the extended program time frame. The total grant funds allocated to these applicants was \$27,679.50. The applicant's contribution to those repairs equalled a total of \$78,545. The combined monetary value of the works was \$106,224.53.

A summary table of the completed minor maintenance/conservation works under this program is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Heritage Committee:

1.     Notes the outcome of the Local Heritage Assistance Program for 2021/2022.
  2.     Provides advice to Council on the 2022/2023 Local Heritage Assistance Program.
- 

**BACKGROUND**

The Hawkesbury Community Strategic Plan 2022-2042 recognises the importance of conservation and promotion of the Hawkesbury's heritage and history for current and future generations.

The Hawkesbury Heritage Strategy 2021-2024 provides an effective framework for Council to achieve its commitment to conservation and management of unique and diverse heritage assets within the Hawkesbury.

In order to promote awareness and a positive attitude of the community to heritage and encourage and assist the conservation and restoration of the Hawkesbury's significant heritage, with the assistance of Heritage NSW, each year Council runs a Local Heritage Assistance Fund.

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The Local Heritage Assistance Fund program has traditionally had a different theme each year, although in recent years has been opened up to be more broader. The theme for the 2021/2022 program related to minor/maintenance conservation works to heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury local government area in accordance with the Heritage Strategy 2021-2024.

For the 2021/2022 program all owners and managers of locally listed items were advised in writing of the Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022, and encouraged to apply for funding. Application forms and guidelines on how to apply for funding assistance were made available on Council's website during the funding application period. Facebook posts were released, and a public notice on the Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022 was placed in the Hawkesbury Courier. As with previous years funding programs, the funding available for any one applicant/property was set at \$2,000. Funding was offered on a dollar-for-dollar basis (\$1 of private funding for \$1 of grant funding) to enable funded works to be undertaken. Typically, the applicant's contribution usually exceeds the value of money granted to them under the program. This has meant that the practical and monetary on-ground benefits of the scheme far exceed what could be expected by the money contributed by Council and Heritage NSW.

Council received a total of 27 applications for the 2021/2022 Program (which is the highest number of applications ever received under the program). Council subsequently supported 25 of those applications on the grounds of eligibility with the grant application criteria.

## **DISCUSSION**

The combined impact of COVID-19, long sustained periods of rainfall, repeated flood events, scarcity of available and suitable tradespeople, and noted increased costs of materials during the program year resulted in 7 of the approved applicants being unable to commence or complete their works.

This occurred despite Council staff successfully obtaining from NSW Heritage an extension to complete the works in early April 2022. Successful applicants had previously been advised that they would need to complete their part funded repair/restoration works by Monday 25 April 2022. With the extension, the applicants who had not yet completed their works were advised in late April 2022 that they had until the end of May 2022 to complete their works. Despite this, due to the reasons mentioned above, a number of the applicants were unable to commence/substantially complete their works by the revised completion date. All of these applicants were encouraged to re-apply for funding in the pending next Local Heritage Assistance Funding Round for 2022/2023.

Despite these considerable challenges, 18 of the applicants managed to complete their projects within the extended program time frame. The total grant funds allocated to these applicants was \$27,679.50. The applicant's contribution to those repairs equalled a total of \$78,545. The combined monetary value of the works, with GST included, was \$106,224.53.

A summary table of the completed repair/restoration works under this program is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Based on previous advice from the Heritage Committee, extensive advertising of the Local Heritage Assistance Fund program was undertaken, which played a significant contributing role to receiving a record number of applications.

Throughout the program, constant communication was maintained between Council staff and the successful applicants to monitor their progress towards their repair/restoration work objectives. When it became evident in March 2022 that the combined impact of COVID-19 (and associated lockdowns), long sustained periods of rainfall, repeated flood events, scarcity of available and suitable tradespeople, and noted increased costs of building materials, were having a detrimental impact on the completion rate of the successful applicants, Council officers approached Heritage NSW to obtain an extension on behalf of the unfinished projects. This extension was obtained by early April 2022 and conveyed to all of those applicants who had not yet completed their projects. Generally, the extension was critical to the program achieving a 72% completion rate at the end of the program despite the circumstances.

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There has also been further advertising and promotion of the program, such as through a recent edition of the Blue Mountains Life magazine. A copy of that article attached as Attachment 2 to this report.

Attachments 3 and 4 to this report include the Application Form and Guidelines for Applicants under the 2021/2022 program, and advice is sought from the Heritage Committee ahead of finalising preparations for the release of the 2022/2023 Local Heritage Assistance Fund.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- AT-1** Summary table of completed works LHAF 2021/2022 Program Repair/Restoration Works.
- AT-2** Blue Mountains Life Magazine Article – Preserving Our Past.
- AT-3** Application Form Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022.
- AT- 4** Guidelines for Applicants - Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022.

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**AT-1 Summary table of completed works LHAF 2021/2022 Program Repair/Restoration Works**

No.	Address of Grant Application, Name of the Heritage Item and Heritage Item No.:	Name of person who received the grant:	Type of person/organisation etc. who received the grant.	Brief description of works and heritage outcomes
1	888 Sackville Road, SACKVILLE NSW 2756, "Residence and Barn", Local Significance, 1373.	Shi (Ashton) Zhuang	Farmer	Repainting of the exterior of the historic dwelling on the property in a sympathetic colour scheme. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Helped to weather protect the architectural elements and maintain the integrity of this historic dwelling.
2	439 Cattai Road, CATTAL NSW 2756, "Ukamurra", Local Significance, 1327.	Mack Sun	Real Estate Agency	Soft removal works to preserve and repair the sandstone walls of this historic dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Maintained the structural and architectural integrity of this heritage item.
3	5 Putty Road, WILBERFORCE NSW 2756, "Primrose Cottage", Local Significance, 1394.	Linda and Iain McAuslan	Homeowner	Replacement of the decaying, unsafe, modern hardwood flooring of the front verandah with like for like hardwood timber flooring for this historic dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the liveability of the historic dwelling and its aesthetic appearance.
4	201-205 Windsor Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "Shop", Local Significance, 1115.	Abraham Nassif	Business Owner	Cleaning and re-painting of the front verandah awning to these heritage listed shops, maintaining the existing sympathetic external colour scheme. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance of the shops and their weatherproofing of their frontages.
5	1 Moses Street, WINDSOR NSW 2756, "St. Matthew's Anglican Church, rectory, cemetery and stables", State Significance, 100015.	Chris Jones	Religious Organisation	Preparation of structural engineering drawings for rectification works to the front timber fence to the manse, the sandstone boundary wall to the church /cemetery portion of the property, and for repairs to the historic brick walls of the original stable building at the rear of the manse. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Assisted with the planning/information gathering stage for important future planned repair works to this significant State Listed premises.
6	38 Eldon Street, PITT TOWN NSW 2756, "Royville", Local Significance, 1294.	Michael and Marianne Edwards	Homeowner	Reinstatement of timber mouldings to the timber verandah posts of this historic dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Assisted in re-instating the original appearance of this prominent, historic dwelling in Pitt Town.

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No.	Address of Grant Application, Name of the Heritage Item and Heritage Item No.:	Name of person who received the grant:	Type of person/organisation etc. who received the grant.	Brief description of works and heritage outcomes
7	130 Francis Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "Kialla", Local Significance, 136.	Jann & James Fahey	Investment Property Owner	Capping of the chimneys to prevent the ingress of wildlife which has previously caused harm to themselves and the fabric of this historic dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Helped to maintain the integrity of the building.
8	518 Tizzana Road, EBENEZER NSW 2756, "Tizzana Winery", Local Significance, 1343.	Peter Auld	Business owner	Repairs to four pairs of the timber weather shutters on the prominent street facing façade of this historic stone winery. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Helped to maintain the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of the winery.
9	22 March Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "House", Local Significance, 157.	Jonathan & Leah Watson	Homeowner	Re-roofing of the historic dwelling in appropriate galvanised material and reinstated the original appearance of the timber verandah ends of the dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this modest worker's cottage.
10	742 Tizzana Road, SACKVILLE NSW 2756, "House", Local Significance, 1377.	Mr G W Hayes & Mrs E I Hayes	Business Owner	Repairs to the original stained-glass windows of this historic Inter-War dwelling. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Helped to maintain the historical fabric/integrity of this significant dwelling.
11	9 Chapel St RICHMOND NSW 2753, "House", Local, 117.	Kathleen Graham	Homeowner	Assist with installation of improved stormwater drainage facilities for this modest dwelling by installing gutters, downpipes and stormwater pipes. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Helped to maintain the aesthetic appearance, integrity and weatherproofing of this modest dwelling.
12	Richmond Literary Institute Inc - 26 West Market Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "School of Arts", Local 184.	Rob Stalley (originally) Now being project managed by Sean Duff - 0417 228 381	Cultural Facility	Widening of main roof box gutter to prevent water ingress and other roofing related repairs. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Significantly improved the weatherproofing of this significant community building.
13	216 Charles Street, NORTH RICHMOND 2758, Known as 91 Bells Line of Road, NORTH RICHMOND, "House", 1410.	Richard Davies	Homeowner	Minor wall repairs and repainting of exterior of dwelling including the front deck. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this modest worker's cottage.

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No.	Address of Grant Application, Name of the Heritage Item and Heritage Item No.:	Name of person who received the grant:	Type of person/organisation etc. who received the grant.	Brief description of works and heritage outcomes
14	102 March Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "House", 164.	Stanley Little	Homeowner	Repairs and re-roofing of front first floor verandah. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this modest worker's cottage.
15	94 The Terrace, WINDSOR NSW 2756, "Lindfield House", Local, 1267.	Horst & Ruth Hauser	Homeowner	External repainting works. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this heritage item.
16	61 Francis Street RICHMOND NSW 2753, "Benson House", Local, 132.	Ann Gibson	Homeowner	External minor repairs to the front first floor timber balustrade and repainting works to the front first floor verandah. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this historic dwelling.
17	122 Lennox Street, RICHMOND NSW 2753, "House", Local, 152.	Keith Hore	Homeowner	External minor repairs and repainting of the exterior of the dwelling and front fence. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance and weatherproofing of this modest worker's cottage.
18	4 Little Church Street, WINDSOR NSW 2756, "The Bell Inn", known as 2-4 Little Church Street, WINDSOR, Local Significance, 1154.	Wendy Phillips	Homeowner	Cleaning and relaying at the end of the historic brick plinth at the end of the front verandah, Make good the height variance in the front verandah flagstones at the house entrance using a bolster and chisel. Re-lay narrow deep flagstone in front of front gate, removing concrete slag around step riser. Reconstruction of front gate riser and replace the existing three modern pavers in this location with hand - cut sandstone. <i>Heritage outcome:</i> Improved the aesthetic appearance, integrity, and liveability of this historic dwelling.
		<b>Totals:</b>	<b>Farm (1)</b> <b>Real Estate Agency (1)</b> <b>Homeowner (10)</b> <b>Investment Property Owner (1)</b> <b>Business Owner (3)</b> <b>Religious Organisation (1)</b> <b>Cultural Facility (1)</b> <b>Total (18)</b>	

**AT-2 Blue Mountains Life Magazine Article – Preserving Our Past**

PEOPLE



# Preserving OUR PAST

HAWKESBURY RESIDENTS JUST RECEIVED A FUNDING  
BOOST FOR LOCAL HERITAGE PROPERTIES.

Blue Mountainslife 27

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PEOPLE



A typical home which can benefit from Council's heritage grants.

The Hawkesbury region is well known for its heritage buildings.

The Hawkesbury is a treasure trove of heritage buildings, from Ebenezer Church (1809) to the numerous homes that litter the landscape, which date back to pioneer days.

So much so that many Sydneysiders come up for the weekend to visit, pumping millions into the local economy.

So when the Hawkesbury City Council revealed that close to \$200,000 will be spent on preserving and repairing heritage properties in the Hawkesbury area this year, it made many sit up and take notice.

The money is the combined investment of local heritage property owners and the Local Heritage Assistance Fund administered by Hawkesbury City Council.

Heritage properties in Cattai, Wilberforce, Ebenezer, Pitt Town, North Richmond, Sackville (including the Sackville Ski Gardens), Richmond (including the Richmond Literary Institute Inc./ Richmond School of Arts) and Windsor will share in a total of \$41096 in local heritage grants funded by Council and the NSW Government.

All grants are provided subject to ongoing progress reports and works being inspected

and completed. A requirement of the funding is that property owners match or exceed the funding. The funding available for any one property was up to \$2000.

The successful applicants are also showing their commitment to preserving heritage by going beyond the matching funding in some cases, with a total contribution by the 25 successful applicants being \$157,720.

Last year Council invited owners and managers of heritage-listed properties in the Hawkesbury to apply for funding to undertake minor maintenance/conservation work, the Mayor of Hawkesbury, Councillor Patrick Conolly explained.

"The increasing level of interest from heritage property owners is encouraging and it reflects the increased promotion of the program that was recommended by Council's Heritage Committee," the Mayor said.

"This funding exists to promote a positive attitude and awareness in the community about the importance of conservation and restoration of our significant local heritage."

Andrew Kearns, Manager Strategic Planning, told Blue Mountains Life magazine in detail the work that could be carried out under this program.



Wendy and Darren Phillips at Windsor.

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These buildings provide us with a tangible,  
physical link to our past.

"The key conservation principle underpinning this program is that support for sensitive, timely, effective maintenance ensures that heritage buildings retain their originality and heritage significance for longer periods," Mr Kearns said.

He added that work such as re-sealing/treating timber work, repairing windows (particularly stain glass windows), re-roofing in matching materials and repairing stone and brick work are just some of the work that can be undertaken.

He added that recently a homeowner "repainting the exterior walls, windows, doors, shutters, decorative verandah iron work for an 1860s early Victorian Villa in Windsor" used the program.

Another wanted to perform "repairs to the original stone verandah flooring of a former 1840s historic brick inn located in the Windsor Town Centre" which is now used as a residence. "Property owners must obtain a quote for the work from a suitably experienced tradesperson," Mr Kearns said.

"(They then) submit an application form during the period that applications are accepted (the next round of funding is anticipated to commence in July 2022) and if their proposal is accepted, they then form an agreement

with Council to undertake the work within that financial period."

Homeowners worried that the process would be too complicated can rest at ease. Council provides a free heritage advisory service by a heritage professional to assist owners of heritage properties with making conservation/development decisions on their heritage properties.

"Generally, people are drawn to live or own heritage properties because of their historic character," Mr Kearns said.

"So typically they are not seeking to remove or demolish the significant elements (e.g. architectural features) of these structures which contribute to that significance, and which attracted them to the property in the first place.

"Any adaptive re-use of buildings will involve some level of change. Council just seeks that heritage property owners undertake these changes sensitively, with respect for and to maintain the heritage significance of the item or important building elements that contribute to the significance of a conservation area.

"These buildings provide us with a tangible, physical link to our past. On a broader scale, the preservation of heritage-significant places, beyond buildings, can help us understand

and appreciate the history of our country; this includes the significant cultural and traditional activities of our First Nations People, as well as the trials, resourcefulness, and mistakes relating to our colonial past.

"They have scientific and cultural value and can tell us how things were historically made by studying these items in conjunction with information passed down from previous generations.

"They have an aesthetic and financial value which can make a significant contribution to the character, sense of community and prosperity of neighbourhoods, towns, and cities, particularly where the tourism of an area is strongly linked to its historic character.

"Furthermore, heritage places help support the retention and employment of specialist traditional trades (stonemasonry, carpentry, lime plasterers etc.) that are required to repair these places from time to time."

If you're a Hawkesbury local then the first place to start is to get in contact with the Council and see if your work qualifies for the grant.

Because as it has been shown, preserving our past is the best way for people to learn about our future. **BM**

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**AT-3 Application Form Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022**



## Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022

Local Heritage Listed Properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

This Form should be completed by applicants who wish to apply for funding for Minor Maintenance/Conservation Works for their heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

Please read the Guidelines for Applicants – Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022.

**Applications Due Monday, 4 October 2021.**

### 1. Applicant Details

Name	
Postal Address	
Email	
Telephone	

### 2. Property Ownership Details

Name	
Consent/Signature/s	
Contact Name (If the contact is not the owner)	

### 3. Property/Building Details

Name of Heritage listed Property/Building(if any)	
Legal Property Description (Lot and DP No)	
Street Address	

Current use of the Property/Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Threats to the Building Causing deterioration	<input type="checkbox"/> Moisture	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt or Corrosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

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#### 4 (a) Detailed Description of the Proposed Works

[illegible]

Attach at least one quote from an appropriately qualified, experienced and skilled tradesperson.

Estimated cost of proposed works	\$
Applicant's contribution	\$
Amount of funding sought	\$

Dollar for dollar grants are being offered under the Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022, with maximum funding available for any one applicant/property of \$2,000.

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**6. Funding Eligibility**

Please answer the following:

Is the subject property identified as a heritage item or an item included in a conservation area in Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the subject property not listed on the State Heritage Register and or currently not receiving or has not recently received funding from Heritage NSW. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the subject property received any funding assistance under Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund Programs over the past three years? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Capacity to commence early and complete the project on or before the 23 April 2022. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Visibility of the building to the public. ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Note**

*Applications seeking funding for minor interior maintenance/conservation works are generally not favoured.*

Attach at least one quote from an appropriately qualified, experienced and skilled tradesperson. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Include at least three clear photos/images (in jpg. format) showing the current conditions of the property/building. ☐ Yes ☐ No

**7. Applicant's declaration**

I confirm that all the information provided in this project application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature  Date

If you need assistance in completing this Form or for more information, please contact Council's Senior Strategic Land Use Planner on (02) 4560 4444.

**How to Submit Your Application**

Email the completed Application Form and other relevant information, to [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)  
or

Post the completed Application Form and other relevant information to 366 George Street, WINDSOR 2756 NSW before **Monday, 4 October 2021**.

**Privacy Notice**

Council is bound by the provisions of the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998, in the collection, storage and utilisation of personal information provided in this form. Accordingly, the personal information will only be utilised for the purposes for which it has been obtained and may be available for public access and/or disclosure under various NSW Government legislation.

**AT- 4 Guidelines for Applicants - Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022**



### **1. Background**

The Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022 is jointly funded by Hawkesbury City Council, and Heritage NSW. The Program recognises the importance of conserving, protecting and caring for heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

Effective maintenance/conservation of heritage buildings/properties is the key to ensuring longevity, and well-maintained heritage buildings/properties retain their originality and heritage significance for longer periods.

The main emphasis of the Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022 is to provide funding assistance for minor maintenance/conservation works to heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area.

### **2. Eligibility**

Owners or managers of local heritage listed properties within the Hawkesbury Local Government Area are eligible to apply for the Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022.

The property should be listed as a heritage item or located within a heritage conservation area identified in Schedule 5 Environmental Heritage of the Hawkesbury Local Environmental Plan 2012.

Properties that are listed on the State Heritage Register, and currently receiving funding or have received recent funding from Heritage NSW may not be supported.

Properties that have received funding from Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund during the last three years may not be supported.

Applications are required to be supported by appropriate property owners consent.

### **3. Priorities for Funding**

Funding Applications will be assessed on their merits, and priority will be given to works that are minor maintenance/conservation works, and to local heritage properties that have not received funding from Council's Local Heritage Assistance Fund during the last three years.

### **4. What are Minor Maintenance/Conservation Works?**

Minor improvements/conservation works to heritage listed properties that do not require formal development approval from Council include:

- Resealing/treating timber
- Replacing broken windows
- Re-roofing in matching materials and colours
- Replacing down pipes/gutters
- Repairing stone/brick works
- Repointing brickwork.

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General maintenance works including any works of a minor nature that do not require formal approval from Council are identified in Table 1 – Development/Work not requiring consent in Council's Development Control Plan 2002:

[hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/61337/Heritage-Conservation-Chapter-December-2013.pdf](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/61337/Heritage-Conservation-Chapter-December-2013.pdf)

All minor improvement/conservation works must be carried out by appropriately qualified, experienced and skilled tradespersons. The Heritage NSW website has a list of specialist tradespersons under the Conservation Products and Services Directory which can be used to help find specialist trades:

[heritage.nsw.gov.au/search-for-heritage/conservation-product-or-service](http://heritage.nsw.gov.au/search-for-heritage/conservation-product-or-service)

## 5. Available Funding

Funding is offered to successful applicants on a dollar for dollar basis (\$1 of grant funding for each \$1 of private funding). The maximum funding available for any one applicant/property is \$2,000 (including GST).

## 6. How to Make an Application

Before applying, applicants should have a good understanding of how to undertake minor improvements/conservation works to heritage buildings/properties.

Council's Heritage Advisor is available for free heritage conservation advice by appointment. An appointment may be booked by contacting Council's Development Services Support Officer on **(02) 4560 4444** or email [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

Heritage NSW has published a useful guide, *'How to carry out work on heritage buildings and sites'*:

[heritage.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/a-z-publications/g-i/How-to-carry-out-work-on-heritage-buildings-and-sites.pdf](http://heritage.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/a-z-publications/g-i/How-to-carry-out-work-on-heritage-buildings-and-sites.pdf)

Other sources of information include:

- Local Studies Collection - Hawkesbury Library
- Hawkesbury Regional Museum
- Old photographs, newspapers or oral history interviews.

Applicants should clearly describe what works are proposed to be undertaken to conserve the building/property.

The application should be supported by plans, photographs/images and documentation that describes:

- The building elements/components or features proposed to be managed or corrected
- Current condition of the building elements/components or features that need minor maintenance works
- The nature of works and proposed solutions to be carried out
- Methodology used in carrying out these works
- Contact details and qualifications of the tradespersons who will carry out the proposed works.

Applicants should prepare an application based on expert advice and discuss with experienced, skilled and specialised tradespersons who will be undertaking the works. Council Officers and Council's Heritage Advisor are also able to assist with direction on methods for conservation works and completion of the Application Form.

## 7. Completion of Application Form

Complete the Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022 Application Form and lodge it with Council, together with all required documentation (plans, sketches, photographs, quote and other relevant information referred to in the Checklist included in the Application Form).

Applicants must include a quote from a qualified, experienced and skilled tradesperson for the proposed works.

Please provide at least three quality photos/images in JPG format showing the current conditions of the building/property with the application. The photos/images need to clearly show the area or element(s) that need minor maintenance/conservation works.

Applicants are encouraged to view the following link to understand how to take quality photos and photo monitoring of Heritage Projects.

[heritage.nsw.gov.au/assets/heritage-projects-guide-to-photo-monitoring-180525.pdf](http://heritage.nsw.gov.au/assets/heritage-projects-guide-to-photo-monitoring-180525.pdf)

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Application Forms are available:

- Online: [hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](http://hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)
- Phone: Senior Strategic Land Use Planner  
**(02) 4560 4444**
- Email: [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

## 8. Applications Due Date

Applications are open until **Monday, 4 October 2021**.

## 9. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed by a panel comprised of Council's Heritage Advisor and Council Officers against the following criteria:

- Eligibility of the subject property
- Applicants ability to demonstrate technical and financial responsibility in relation to the project, and ability to complete the project by **23 April 2022**
- Degree to which the applicant is financially contributing to the project given the funding available
- Ability for the project to demonstrate heritage value to the community
- Whether the project is highly visible to the public
- Availability of funding under the Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022
- Consistency of the proposed works with these guidelines, and Table 1 – Development/Work not requiring consent in Council's Chapter 10 Heritage Conservation of the Hawkesbury Development Control Plan 2002
- Whether or not the property has received funding from previous state or local programs in the last three years.

Following assessment of the applications against these criteria, a report recommending approval of grants for the selected grant applications will be forwarded to Council for its consideration. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

## 10. Plain English Agreement

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a 'Plain English Agreement' with Council.

This agreement includes such matters as identification of the proposed works, funding arrangements, promotion agreements, and relevant deadlines. Details of successful projects will be included within Council's promotional material associated with the Program.

## 11. Timing of the Project

Successful applicants will have until **23 April 2022** to complete approved projects.

## 12. Claim for Payment

On completion of your project you will be requested to contact Council to arrange a joint site inspection by Council's Heritage Advisor and Council Officers to ensure that the completed work has been carried out in accordance with the signed 'Plain English Agreement'.

If the works are complete and satisfactory you will be advised to forward a Claim for Payment. The approved funding will be transferred into an account nominated by the applicant, or alternatively a cheque to the value of the approved funding will be forwarded to the applicant. For successful applicants, a Claim for Payment must be lodged with Council by **Friday 23 April 2022**.

## 13. Further Information

Further information about managing a heritage listed place can be viewed at:

[environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/conservation/index.html](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/Heritage/conservation/index.html)

For further information or queries in relation to the Hawkesbury Local Heritage Assistance Fund 2021/2022, please contact Council's Senior Strategic Land Use Planner on **(02) 4560 4444** or email [council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au)

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
**SECTION 1 - Reports for Determination**  
**Meeting Date: 28 July 2022**

**ITEM: 6**                      **HC - Update on Various Heritage Related Matters - (80242, 95498, 124414)**

**Directorate:**              City Planning

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**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:**

The purpose of this report is to update the Heritage Committee on other various heritage related matters that are currently being undertaken by Council.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

A table has been produced in this report to advise the Heritage Committee of the various heritage related matters that are currently being undertaken by Council and to provide an update of the progress on each matter.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Heritage Committee provides advice with respect to the various heritage related matters within the Table, including consideration of forming a Windsor Bridge Artefacts working group.

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**BACKGROUND**

There are a number of matters that had been referred to the Heritage Committee by Council, that are best considered by the provision of a summary summarising those matters.

The table below has been prepared in order to provide that update to the Heritage Committee, including the current status.

Topic Summary	Current Status
<b>Singleton's Mill State Heritage Listing</b>  Singletons Reserve, located at 154 Mill Road, Kurrajong is historically and archaeologically significant, due to the site containing the remnants of the water mills built between 1810 and 1816 by James and Benjamin Singleton.  The site has also revealed Aboriginal cultural archaeology and there is potential to find further evidence of Aboriginal cultural activity and the reason for the site's original name of 'Merroo' (muru) meaning 'pathway'  Of 13 known mills that were established throughout the Hawkesbury District, the majority of these sites have been demolished at different times in the past. Of the four known sites, only two are State Listed as heritage significant items, with the remainder having no formal conservation protection.  Singletons Reserve and the mill site within it is one such site.  To address this, a Draft Conservation Management Strategy was prepared, peer reviewed and submitted to the Hawkesbury Heritage Advisory Committee for comments on 23 February 2017. Comments received from the Committee were incorporated into the final draft document.	 Following submission of the application for State Heritage Listing, Heritage NSW requested Council to arrange a site meeting to further investigate the proposal. The site meeting was attended by Council staff, Heritage Council staff, local Aboriginal representatives and members of the Kurrajong-Comleroy Historical Society who have been researching the history of the site over the past decade.  Preliminary advice from the Heritage NSW officers following the site meeting was that they believed the site was worthy of consideration to be State Heritage Listed, including details of Aboriginal cultural heritage that were identified, and would recommend to the NSW Minister for Environment & Heritage that the site be State Heritage Listed.

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<p>The Draft Conservation Management Strategy was adopted by Council at its Ordinary Meeting dated 29 August 2017.</p> <p>The adopted Conservation Management Strategy recommended a number of items that will direct the management of the site including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Singletons Reserve being listed on Council's LEP and an application being submitted to list the mill site and associated areas of archaeological potential on the State Heritage Register (SHR).</i></li></ul> <p>An application for State Heritage Listing of the Archaeological Site of Singletons Watermill contained within Singletons Reserve located at 154 Mill Road, Kurrajong was prepared and submitted to Heritage NSW.</p>	<p>Council is awaiting formal advice from Heritage NSW of the decision to State Heritage List the site. It is anticipated that a determination and announcement will be made in the near future.</p>
<p><b>Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place Boundary Extension</b></p> <p>Council was notified on 31 March 2022, that the Minister for Environment and Heritage has assessed an extension to the area of land known as Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place for its special significance to Aboriginal culture and declared that the extended area meets the requirements of Aboriginal Place under section 84 of the <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>.</p> <p>The extension was notified in the Government Gazette of NSW, Number 119 – Planning and Heritage on Friday 18 March 2022.</p> <p>The declaration does not change the status of the land or affect ownership rights. However, under section 86(4) of the Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate the place unless authorized to do so under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit issued under section 90 of the Act.</p>	<p>A copy of the notification letter to Council and the Government Gazettal of the declaration is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.</p>
<p><b>Mile Marker Replica Installation – East Richmond</b></p> <p>It was previously brought to Council's attention that the timber historical mile marker pole that was located next to the footpath outside 54 Windsor Street, East Richmond had disappeared, and its whereabouts were unknown.</p> <p>Advice was previously sought and received from the Heritage Committee and Council's Heritage Advisor in terms of providing a replica and interpretation marking the place where the mile marker was previously located, including replacement of a replica timber mile marker pole.</p> <p>A decision was reached after careful consideration and extensive research that a replica mile marker would be manufactured and installed where the original mile marker had been located.</p> <p>A carpenter specializing in heritage construction was engaged to manufacture the replica mile marker from drawings supplied by Council's Heritage Advisor which had been based on photos of the original mile marker discovered</p>	<p>Manufacture of the replica mile marker has been undertaken and will be installed in the near future, along with the interpretative element.</p>

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<p>as part of the research undertaken.</p> <p>The replica mile marker once installed will have a stainless steel engraved/etched cap with wording interpreting the original mile marker.</p>	
<p><b>Macquarie Towns State Heritage Listing Proposal</b></p> <p>Since 25 November 2009, members of the then Heritage Advisory Committee have endeavoured to have the 5 historic Macquarie Towns of Wilberforce, Windsor, Pitt Town, Richmond and Castlereagh (with agreement from Penrith City Council in regard to Castlereagh) State Heritage listed to preserve the Conceptual Town Plans of these towns as laid out by Governor Lachlan Macquarie.</p> <p>The case for heritage listing of the Macquarie Towns was presented to a Council Briefing Session on 24 July 2018 by the late Professor Jack, with Heritage Advisory Committee Members also in attendance to support the case.</p> <p>A copy of the PowerPoint presentation and the accompanying dialogue that was provided as part of the Briefing Session has been included as Attachments 2 &amp; 3 to this report.</p> <p>The presentation was well received, and this subsequently led to a Council resolution to prepare an application for state heritage listing of the Macquarie Towns town plans.</p> <p>There remains a demonstrated willingness from Heritage Committee members to assist with preparation of the application, and nomination.</p>	<p>Prior to advancing preparation of an application for State heritage listing, Officers have discussed this proposal with Heritage NSW. Those officers have outlined the requirements for such an application which have identified that there are significant matters to address which will be outlined at the Committee Meeting. Further consideration of this matter is required from the Committee in order to advise Council in terms of next steps to prepare an application for State heritage listing of the 5 Macquarie Towns.</p>
<p><b>Proposed Windsor Bridge Artefacts Working Group</b></p> <p>As part of the Windsor Bridge Replacement Project, Transport for NSW through their various investigations located a significant number of artefacts from the site.</p> <p>There is a need to form a working group of the Heritage Committee in order to assist Council to determine the best way to approach management and use of these various artefacts.</p>	<p>It is requested that a separate working group of the Heritage Committee be formed to provide advice on the Windsor Bridge Artefacts</p>
<p><b>Interim Heritage Order – 3 New Street, Windsor</b></p> <p>In response to expressed community concerns regarding the imminent sale and likely demolition of the Inter- War dwelling at 3 New Street, Windsor to facilitate a medium density development on the subject site, a preliminary assessment was undertaken by Council staff.</p> <p>The preliminary assessment established a prima facie case for the issuing of an Interim Heritage Order for the property. The terms of the order required Council to undertake an independent heritage assessment of the property, and then, based upon the results of that assessment, consider whether to heritage list the property, or not, within six months of the date of issuing the order.</p>	<p>Council has formally considered the independent heritage assessment and resolved to proceed with preparing a planning proposal to include this item within the local listings of Council's Local Environmental Plan.</p> <p>As part of this process, advice had to be sought from the Hawkesbury Local Planning Panel. The Panel met on 21 July and unanimously provided support to the proposal to list the</p>

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The independent heritage assessment (included as Attachment 4) and which had also been made available to the current property owners supports the local heritage listing of the subject site.

#### Interim Heritage Orders

In July 2013, the then NSW Minister for Heritage provided authorisation for all councils in NSW to make Interim Heritage Orders under the NSW Heritage Act 1977. An Interim Heritage Order is a temporary heritage order (made up to one year) which provides time to assess the heritage significance, or values, of a potential heritage item. The definition of a potential heritage item is one not currently listed on a statutory Local Environmental Plan heritage schedule or the State Heritage Register. Interim Heritage Orders provide time for studies or inspections to take place, so that a decision can be made on whether a place should be formally considered for local or State heritage listing.

Importantly, an Interim Heritage Order does not stop development from proceeding. Council is the approval body under the Heritage Act for changes to the potential item during the period of an Interim Heritage Order. Council can approve all or parts of a development on the subject site but cannot authorise demolition of the potential heritage item. The terms of the Interim Heritage Order requires that Council undertake an independent heritage assessment of the property, and then, based upon the results of that assessment, resolve to either heritage list the property, or not, within six months of the date of issue of the Interim Heritage Order. If no resolution is made during that period, the Interim Heritage Order will lapse. However, if Council resolves to heritage list the property, the Interim Heritage Order remains in place for a further six months to allow the process associated with listing the subject site to occur.

Upon issuing the order, and in accordance with the provisions of the Heritage Act 1977, the purchasers of the subject site (now owners), the vendor, and occupier of the property were notified of the Interim Heritage Order. A Media Release was also issued by Council to advise the public of the issuing of the Interim Heritage Order, and the NSW Heritage Council was also notified. All community members who raised concerns with the pending sale and potential demolition of the dwelling were also notified of the Interim Heritage Order.

Considerable heritage advice has subsequently been provided to the new property owners from Council's consultant heritage advisor through Council's free heritage advisory service, additional informal on-site meetings with Council's Senior Heritage Officer, and through input into a recent pre-development application meeting. At this stage, the proposal seeks the retention of the Inter-War dwelling, along with the planned addition of two dwellings at the rear of the subject site. During these discussions the owners of the

item. As such the matter will proceed to the Department of Planning and Environment for processing.

However, it is also important to recognise that Interim Heritage Orders, whilst useful in certain instances are resource intensive and relatively costly to complete on a per item basis. Therefore, the preferred heritage management approach is to ensure potential heritage items are satisfactorily investigated on a wider basis through the Hawkesbury Community Heritage Study project, which is an ongoing project.

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subject site have indicated a commitment to retain and restore the Inter-War dwelling at 3 New Street, Windsor.	
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**ATTACHMENTS:**

- AT - 1** Notification letter to Council Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place Extension.
- AT - 2** Presentation supporting State Listing of the 5 Macquarie Towns - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.
- AT - 3** Accompanying dialogue supporting State Listing of the 5 Macquarie Towns.
- AT - 4** Independent Heritage Assessment - 3 New Street, Windsor - *(Distributed under separate cover)*.

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**AT - 1 Notification letter to Council Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place Extension**

**From:** [David Hoffman \(Heritage\)](#)  
**To:** [Hawkesbury City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Andrew Keams](#)  
**Subject:** Declaration of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place boundary extension  
**Date:** Thursday, 31 March 2022 9:34:46 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[HCC - Stakeholder letter of notification - Shaws Creek AP extension-22.pdf](#)

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Att Ms Elizabeth Richardson

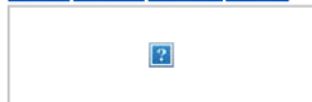
Dear Ms Richardson,

Please find attached notification of the declaration of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place boundary extension.

regards

**David Hoffman | Senior Heritage Officer**

Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet  
Lvl 6 10 Valentine Ave, Parramatta 2150 | Locked Bag 5020, Parramatta NSW 2124  
T: 02 9873 8582 | [david.hoffman@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:david.hoffman@environment.nsw.gov.au)  
[Website](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)



**Heritage NSW and coronavirus (COVID-19)**

Heritage NSW has taken steps to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of our staff, communities and customers. Whilst our offices remain open, we have put in place flexible working arrangements for our teams across NSW and continue to adapt our working arrangements as necessary. Face-to-face meetings and field work/site visits with our customers are subject to rules on gatherings and social distancing measures. We thank you for your patience and understanding at this time.  
I acknowledge and respect the traditional custodians and lands I work across, and I pay my respect to all Elders past and present

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This email is intended for the addressee(s) named and may contain confidential and/or privileged information.

If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and then delete it immediately.

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PLEASE CONSIDER THE ENVIRONMENT BEFORE PRINTING THIS EMAIL

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Reference: DOC22/222295

Ms Elizabeth Richardson  
General Manager  
Hawkesbury City Council  
PO Box 146  
Windsor NSW 2756

council@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au; cc andrew.keams@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

**Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place boundary extension**

Dear Ms Richardson

The NSW Government is committed to recognising and conserving Aboriginal cultural heritage. As part of this commitment, Heritage NSW in the Department of Premier and Cabinet, has assessed an extension to the area of land known as Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place for its special significance to Aboriginal culture.

I am pleased to advise that the Minister for Environment and Heritage, Hon. James Griffin, has declared the extended area meets the requirements of an Aboriginal Place under section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. This declaration has now been made and I attach a copy of the gazettal notice for your information.

A declaration of an Aboriginal Place does not change the status of the land or affect ownership rights. However, under section 86(4) of the Act, it is an offence to harm or desecrate the place unless authorised to do so under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit issued under section 90 of the Act.

Should you have any questions about this issue, please contact Mr David Hoffman, Senior Heritage Officer, Heritage NSW, on 9873 8582 or at david.hoffman@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Meredith".

**Mr Steven Meredith**  
**Director Heritage Programs**  
**Heritage NSW**

24/03/2022

Attachment: Gazettal notice

Level 6, 10 Valentine Ave Parramatta NSW 2150 ■ Locked Bag 5020 Parramatta NSW 2124  
P: 02 9873 8500 ■ E: heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au



## *Government Gazette*

of the State of

New South Wales

Number 119–Planning and Heritage  
Friday, 18 March 2022

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The New South Wales Government Gazette is the permanent public record of official NSW Government notices. It also contains local council, non-government and other notices.

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ISSN 2201-7534

By Authority  
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NSW Government Gazette No 119 of 18 March 2022

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
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**NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974**

**Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place boundary extension**

Pursuant to section 84 of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, I, the Minister for Environment and Heritage, being of the opinion that the place known as Shaws Creek is, and was, of special significance to Aboriginal culture, declare the lands described in Schedule "A" as an Aboriginal place, being an extension to the lands declared an Aboriginal Place no. 47 in Gazetteal No. 59 on 30 June 2014.

The value for which the Aboriginal Place is of special significance to Aboriginal culture includes, but is not limited to, the area having special significance to the Darug and other local Aboriginal peoples. The western part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place lies within Yellomundee Regional Park, a narrow strip of land bordering the Nepean River before it joins the Grose River and becomes the Hawkesbury River. The eastern part of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place is Shaws Island, a contact point between the west and east banks of the Nepean River.

Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place sits within the traditional lands of the Boorooberongal clan of the Darug. Traditional rock engravings link across its landscape and depict different art formations connecting to artefacts which are all physical and spiritual links to ancestors. It was once a traditional meeting place for the Aboriginal people of Western Sydney. The area contains numerous artefacts, rock art caves, engravings and tool workshops.

The place has a natural beauty where the elements of vegetation, rock formations and river created a highly aesthetic landscape; it was also a place that could sustain great numbers of people with ample water available from the river and having root vegetable harvests readily on hand, as well as animal foods.

Shaws Island is a major contact point between the western and eastern banks of the Nepean River. Located on the river's east bank rock platforms is a major tool workshop and remains of a fish trap. This area supplied tools to the whole of the Sydney region. Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place is a junction site for trading and ceremonial pathways along the Nepean River and through to the mountains. As a representation of a larger cultural precinct around the Nepean River – Castlereagh area, it holds strong spiritual values for both the local communities and for Aboriginal people across the country.

The regional park in which the Aboriginal Place sits was named after Yarramundi, a "clever man" and Chief of a Darug clan. Historically, it was also a site of confrontation, tragedy and loss as the Aboriginal camps at Shaws Creek suffered the vengeance of retaliation during the many conflicts that raged along the Hawkesbury and Nepean Rivers in the early days of settlement.

The intangible cultural heritage of Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place remains strong despite changes to the land (ownership, farming, mining) and river (flooding, silting etc). Stories of songlines through Shaws Creek are well known amongst the local community and the area is recognised as a meeting point for Aboriginal people from far away. These values highlight the living significance of the site to people both past and present.

[n2022-0484]

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The Darug people used the place then, and now, as an educational place and a resource rich place where children and young people could learn from Elders about traditional practices, such as fishing, collecting and using the readily available bush foods and natural medicines in the area. The area acted and still acts as a bush school room, where today's children also learn about their history and are taught traditional stories. Part of their story includes the frontier violence that took place across this site and across the region as colonists settled along the rivers. Its story tells of resistance as Aboriginal warriors fought to hold onto their lands and to find justice for their people. It is a story of resilience as Aboriginal people survived. The story of their leaders, their warriors, and their resilience should be told and recognised.

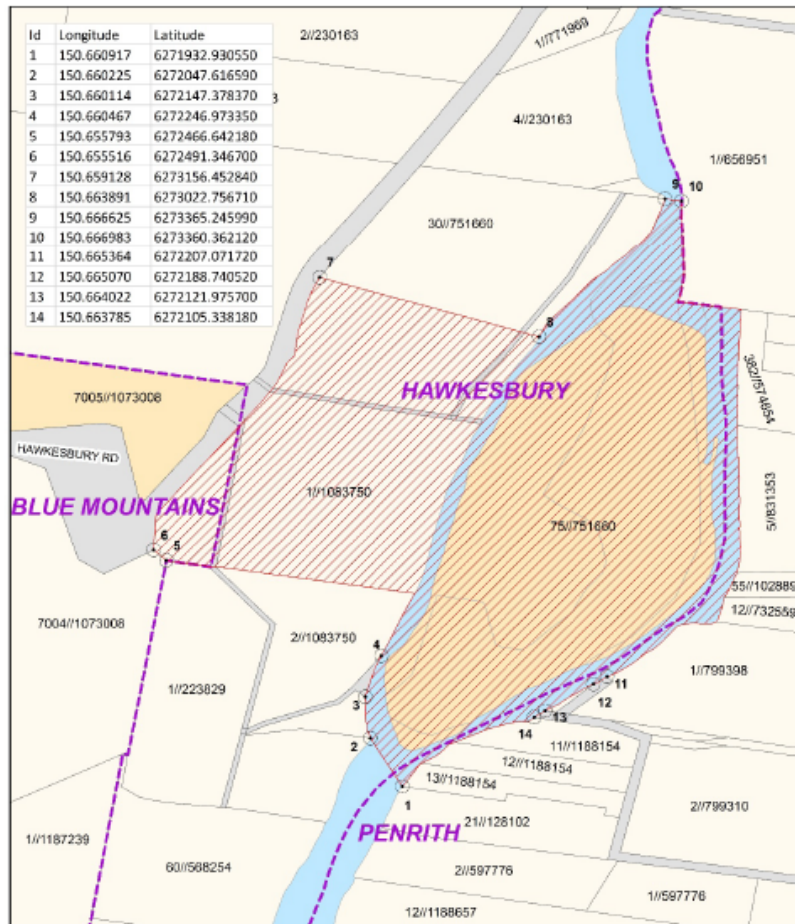
The Hon James Griffin MP  
**Minister for Environment and Heritage**

Sydney this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020

**SCHEDULE "A"**

All those pieces or parcels of land known as Lot 1 DP1083750, Part Lot 30 DP751660 (contained within the Yellomundee Regional Park), Lot 75 DP751660 (known as Shaws Island) and the Crown Waterways surrounding Lot 17 DP751660; in the Parish of Nepean, County of Cook, approximately 90.6 hectares, being the area shown by hatching in the diagram below.

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**Proposed Amendment to Aboriginal Place:**  
**Shaws Creek Aboriginal Place**  
**Yarramundi**

Scale: 1:10,000@A4  
 Datum/Projection: GCS GDA 1994  
 Date: 28/10/2019



- Proposed Boundary
- LGAs
- Crown Parcel
- Land Parcels
- Crown Waterway
- Roads

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**AT - 3 Accompanying dialogue supporting State Listing of the 5 Macquarie Towns**

**Macquarie Towns on the Upper Hawkesbury and Nepean:  
reasons for heritage listing of the town plans**

*Address to Hawkesbury City Council by Ian Jack, 24 July 2018*

I have been asked by your Heritage Advisory Committee to explain why state heritage listing should be sought for the plans of the five towns created in this area by Governor Macquarie.

First of all, we have to be quite clear about the scope of this proposal. We are NOT proposing that the whole of Windsor, Richmond, Wilberforce, Pitt Town or Castlereagh be listed; nor are we proposing the listing of the buildings, public and private, within these towns. We are aware that the whole town of Braidwood has been put on the State Heritage Register. We are also aware that the city of Broken Hill has been placed on the National Heritage Register. But we are NOT at the moment considering anything of the sort for the Hawkesbury-Nepean towns.

So what are we discussing? The kernel of it is the unique place which our five towns occupy in the creation of the Australian country town. The living evidence of that unique place is the siting and lay-out of each town, that is to say, the five town-plans as conceived and enunciated by Governor Macquarie in 1810.

The town-plans have allowed for a wide diversity of buildings over the past 200 years. They have not impeded the creation of new streets and laneways within the original grid, and they have allowed new urban areas to expand beyond the original bounds. These changes are natural and inevitable, but, despite all these modifications, the town-plans of the 1810s have remained historical entities in their own right. They are the visible evidence of planning decisions which changed Australia.

This is the plan of Macquarie's Wilberforce. **PP 2** When you look at this simple grid-plan which underlay all of the five towns, you might ask why the fuss? What is special about a rectangular urban space divided into fifteen sections?

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Well, it is special because, when Governor Macquarie took up office in 1810, there were only two towns in the colony. Neither of these towns was self-consciously planned. If Macquarie had asked them, both Sydney and Parramatta would have said, like Topsy in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, 'I s'pect I grewed. Don't think nobody never made me'.

This is what Parramatta looked like in 1796. **PP 3** It had indeed just grow'd. It was basically a single, rather wobbly street stretching along the south side of the Parramatta River from the wharf on the right to Government House on the left. By 1813, **PP 4** only one parallel street and one cross-street had appeared. Only in 1814, under Macquarie's influence, **PP 5** was this developed into a rough grid pattern and only now in 1814 was there a will to create a parallel, and much tidier, town in North Parramatta, similar to what had already been created on the Hawkesbury, but on a smaller scale.

What about Sydney itself? The first governor, Arthur Phillip, had had some extravagant ideas about the future of the foundation settlement at Sydney, but instead Sydney **PP 6** grew higgledy-piggledy along the Tank Stream and east towards Darling Harbour. The principal streets were long and narrow. Few of them ran in quite the same direction. It was only when Macquarie developed the area between Castlereagh Street and Macquarie Street, **PP 7** demarcated by Hunter Street and King Street, it was only then that some controlling intelligence became evident in Sydney planning, though you will note that there was no cross-street within Macquarie's new, desirable area. Martin Place came much much later.

Macquarie's planned changes to Sydney and Parramatta come years after the creation of the five Hawkesbury/Nepean towns in 1810. Macquarie's creation of new towns is to a large extent his own interpretation of long-standing regulations: all governors since Phillip had had the power to create towns but Macquarie was the first to take decisive action. The five along the Upper Hawkesbury and Lower Nepean were specifically sited on high land to give security for farmers whose crops grew on the flood plain. The sophisticated project of creating towns with residential allotments reserved for those whose farms were subject to periodic inundation was Macquarie's own initiative, carried out with a meticulous and humane attention to detail. The other three towns he founded in New South Wales (Liverpool, Bathurst and Campbelltown) did not have this specific constraint. Neither did the important planning of George Town in Tasmania nor the completion of the layout of Hobart by Meehan and George William Evans.

Although Liverpool was the first town to be proclaimed, our five towns, proclaimed one month later, were the first to be laid out. So their design is the inauguration of the country town. Although they are over 200 years old, Macquarie's street-plans are still extraordinarily legible today and have a strong case to be considered as heritage items in their own right.

I'll take the towns one by one to demonstrate this.

**WILBERFORCE** is the simplest example:

**PP 8** Wilberforce has an impeccably symmetrical grid, with a central square and a church adjacent, with the cemetery just outside the grid. This is a redrawing of the earliest surviving copy of the Macquarie plan, sent to England in 1820.

**PP 9** This is the overlay of Macquarie's plan on the present village of Wilberforce. The square, the church and the cemetery, shown in green, are still in their original positions and the residential streets are unchanged. Some growth has taken place outside the grid on the north-west and the south-west, and the residential building has almost all changed, but the Macquarie town is unmistakable. There is now a kink on Church Road **PP 10** and the southern section of Duke Road remains an inhospitable swamp, but it was like that in Macquarie's time.

**PP 11** Macquarie's **RICHMOND** is not identical to Wilberforce, although both towns have a central square. The site of Richmond is confined by the edge of the ridge on both the north and the west. In contrast to Wilberforce, Richmond had its church and cemetery placed, not in the centre of town but on the north-west corner, directly overlooking the flood-plain. The buildings along the north side of Francis Street, incidentally, were not within the Macquarie town but, as you can see in this early plan, **PP 12**, were originally farmhouses associated with their paddocks just below.

Richmond is not a perfect rectangle. A triangular section was lopped off the town to the south-west, because Macquarie was not willing to interfere with an important existing farm owned by the Luttrells, and soon to be owned by the Coxes. This missing triangle represents part of what we know as Hobartville. This is why still today Lennox Street ends at Bosworth Street. The part of Hobartville estate excluded in 1811 became urban

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sub-division within Richmond only in the last few decades. **PP 13** All this history is implicit in the town-plan.

**WINDSOR** is far and away the most complicated of the five towns. There are two main reasons. One is that at the north-east end there was already a government settlement and private residential development there, called Green Hills, with an important wharf adjacent to a civic square which Macquarie renamed Thompson Square. The second reason is the terrain: the high land is much narrower at the north-eastern end than to the south-west of St Matthew's church and McQuade Park. Windsor is the only town with two squares.

This is the street plan which James Meehan completed in 1812. It was signed by Macquarie himself **PP 14** (on the top left of this inverted image). The original is very faint and this is the best I can do to make it legible.

The plan was not fully realised at the time. There are four parallel streets shown on the right at the east end of Meehan's plan, that is the narrow part, while to the south-west, on the left, six long streets with nine cross streets were planned in a more conventional grid pattern since the ridge top was more ample.

In fact what emerged over the next few years was a slight reduction in Meehan's original street-plan. **PP 15** This very clear 1827 plan shows the two squares along with the church and cemetery reserve, but only two streets, George and Macquarie, at the narrow end, while on the left there were only five long streets and seven cross-streets. Today we call this 5 by 7 section South Windsor, mainly because the railway of the 1860s divided the Macquarie town into two parts. Macquarie planned generously to allow Windsor to realise its potential to be the principal town incorporating what was already the principal wharf on the Hawkesbury, necessary to supply Sydney with grain. It was to be a big town. If we look only at South Windsor, we can see that that part alone is larger than the original Wilberforce and Richmond.

Justifying Macquarie's expectations, Windsor has grown in the twentieth century, with new streets within the Macquarie town and outside the original grid an industrial zone and suburban sprawl, mainly to the south-west, **PP 16** as this overlay shows very clearly. But the original town-plan is highly visible.

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The fourth Hawkesbury town, **PITT TOWN**, has special, important features. When Macquarie planned Pitt Town in 1811, all the land between the river and the 1804 common had been allocated. **PP 17** Although no plan survives it is almost certain that the first Pitt Town was planned in a rectangle like Wilberforce and was to be built just inside the common, along Old Stock Route Road. But this, as this 1814 map demonstrates, was too far away from the flood-plain farms to be attractive to the farmers, so Macquarie, most unusually, scrapped the original plan, resumed two farms just above Pitt Town Lagoon and in 1815 laid out the new town on this irregularly shaped site. **PP 18**

The Pitt Town of 1815 is very pragmatic indeed, inside a rather restricted triangle. It is unique among the Macquarie towns in not having a rectangular area designated as a Great Square, but instead a triangular government reserve at the north-west end. Like the other towns, provision was made for a cemetery and a school/church.

As this overlay shows, **PP 19** Macquarie's Pitt Town is still very legible today. But it drowns in new residential development to the north and east, to an extent paralleled only in Liverpool and Campbelltown among the other Macquarie towns. Most of the new suburbia lies beyond this aerial photograph and was not there when it was taken ten years ago. Nonetheless, the genesis of Pitt Town remains visible. Its irregular plan is the most telling evidence of the way in which Macquarie's administration solved the considerable problems involved in recognising and rectifying a rare mistake. It would be good to see the government today similarly cancelling an entirely wrong decision.

The fifth Macquarie town in this region lies in Penrith's jurisdiction. Two officers from Penrith City attended the meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee when heritage listing was discussed, and we were assured that Penrith would be interested in discussing a joint proposal from Hawkesbury.

**PP 20 CASTLEREAGH** was planned as a neat rectangle of 18 sections on the high land above the earliest Nepean farms, which are now transformed by the Penrith Lakes Scheme. Disregard the pink section projecting to the south: that was private land. The part projecting from the north is the cemetery, the only surviving element of the town, although there was originally a church/school and a Great Square. Like Pitt Town in its 1810 location, it did not attract much local interest and never took off like the other four towns. It was a shade too far away from most of its potential clients on the Nepean

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flood-plain. **PP 21** In 1885 the boundaries were redrawn to include only the southern part of the town where some town allotments had been occupied. But in 1902 the whole town design was formally cancelled and Castlereagh town ceased to exist.

**PP 22** The only two streets to survive intact with their original names are Vane Street and Church Street, while the long street leading past the cemetery survives as East Wilchard Road and sections of two other long streets survive as separate parts of Church Lane.

Nonetheless, there is no difficulty in identifying the lost town of Castlereagh if one walks around and the cemetery is an idyllic wooded spot, much visited by descendants of old families. The plan of Castlereagh within its historical context is just as significant as the other four plans, despite the fact that it did not endure.

So every one of the five town-plans has its own individual features, but they share a common significance. This was discussed in in 2010 by your Heritage Advisory Committee in detail in 2010 and representatives of the Committee explored the implications with officers of what is now the Heritage Division of the State Office of Environment and Heritage. These discussions were both constructive and encouraging, so the Committee proceeded with the proposal. The proposal was, however, shelved at that time by the then City Council. But it has not gone away and we now present the case with no less conviction.

To qualify for state heritage listing, an item needs to meet at least one of seven criteria. I believe that as a group, our five towns meet all the criteria.

- (a) They have very high historical significance as the first plans for country towns in Australia, their elevated sites reflecting the special needs of a population dependent on floodplain agriculture.
- (b) They have impelling associative significance because of Governor Macquarie's personal role; and the surveyors who designed them were James Meehan and George William Evans. Both Meehan and Evans have a deserved place in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.
- (c) They demonstrate a high degree of creative achievement in the intelligent design of the first Australian country towns, their basic grid-plan modified in all cases to suit the needs of the terrain and the people.

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- (d) They all have a special association with the farmers on the flood plain for whose need they were conceived; with the exception of Castlereagh, they continue to be focal points for those living in the area.
- (e) The plans have research potential in revealing the pragmatic intentions of the governor and his advisers in beginning to change the face of rural Australia in the light of his experience abroad, not least in Edinburgh.
- (f) They are rare, not just because they are the first, but because they constitute a unique regional grouping among Macquarie's nine towns. They are to be judged in the context of the four other Macquarie towns [*Liverpool, Campbelltown, Bathurst and Newcastle*] in New South Wales and their successors under later governors.
- (g) And finally the Hawkesbury/Nepean towns are also representative of the importance of bringing intelligent and well-informed government planning to bear on the establishment of future rural centres.

Our towns are the genesis of all Australian country development over the next century and a half, as country towns became the essential service point, the focal point, for farmers and graziers. Our town-plans deserve recognition at the highest level.

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# Heritage Committee Meeting

## End of Business Paper

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