

Engineering report says chimney can stay

The former Ross River meat works chimney will continue to stand tall as a sentinel to Townsville's past.

An independent engineering report commissioned by council and the developer, Lancini Group, has shown the 19th century chimney can be saved.

A structural analysis of the smoke stack found it was in good condition and, with strengthening work, could be safely retained beside a residential development.

Engineering experts Base iGi were engaged to investigate the chimney's condition and whether it could be incorporated in a joint venture apartment project proposed by the Lancini Group and Macquarie Bank on the former meatworks site.

Planning Committee chairman, Cr David Crisafulli, said the report provided the green light to save a symbol of the city's heritage.

"The report's finding is great news for the community and for the future of an important part of the city's history," Cr Crisafulli said.

"The developers have

acknowledged both the community's concerns over the future of the chimney and this council's desire to protect it as a monument to the past."

Further investigations by the developer and council will now take place to determine the scope and cost of the restoration and funding arrangements for the work.

Lancini Group managing director, Laurence Lancini, said he was pleased with the ultimate outcome.

"While we were always eager to have the chimney incorporated into our project design, we removed it when the initial safety issues were flagged a couple of years ago," Mr Lancini said.

"Now we look forward to the day when all restoration works are completed and we are able to hand over the parcel of land on which the chimney sits as well as the bike path strip along the top of the riverbank to council for the benefit of all members of the community."

Heritage Committee chairman, Cr Ray Gartrell, said the report's finding was a big win for the local community.

"The chimney was built in 1891 and is the last remaining landmark of an operation that was part of the lives of many families in the city," Cr Gartrell said.

The Base iGi report has recommended restoration work on the chimney include re-pointing of the chimney's brick work and reinstatement of an earthing system for protection against lightning strikes.



The historic 19th century meat works chimney will stay. IMAGE COURTESY OF CITYLIBRARIES' LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION.

Scheduled works

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION OF WORK
Asphalt resurfacing	October – Cranbrook, Heatley, Vincent, Currajong and West End November – West End, Garbutt, Belgian Gardens and Pallarenda
Road reconstruction	Marron Cr, Mundingburra Hamish Ave, Rasmussen Amber Ave, Rasmussen
Shared pathways – footpaths and bikeways	Albert St, Cranbrook Elizabeth St, Aitkenvale Tippett St, Gulliver Bamford Ln, Kirwan
Kerb and channel replacement	Halifax St, Garbutt Mackley St, Garbutt Hugh St (Nix St to Montgomery St), Garbutt Dalrymple Rd (No. 14 to Hartley St), Garbutt Landsborough St (Mitchell St to Cook St), North Ward Francis St, West End Hamish Ave, Rasmussen Amber Ave, Rasmussen Leeds St, Gulliver
Drainage improvements	Weir School, Kirwan – new footpath drain Martello Dr, Kirwan – replacement of collapsed drain Redwood Ave, Kirwan – replacement of collapsed drain Fifth Ave/Sixth St, South Townsville – new invert channel Green St, West End – new drain at SES Headquarters
Cul-de-sac construction	Farrar St, Mundingburra Lynam St, Belgian Gardens
Roundabout improvements	Freshwater Dr/Estuary Pde, Douglas

Roadworks start rolling at North Shore

The machinery is rolling and the earthworks have begun on a new vital roadway for the Northern Beaches.

North Shore Boulevard will give residents in the rapidly growing area an alternative access between Mount Low and the Bruce Highway.

Construction of the \$42 million project will be carried out by Seymour Whyte, with completion scheduled to occur by the end of 2010.

Infrastructure Committee chairman, Cr Brian Hewett, said building the road remained one of council's top priorities.

"While the traffic situation has certainly improved since the overpass at the Mt Low Parkway was completed by Main Roads, we're mindful of the need to cater for future needs as well," Cr Hewett said.

"The Northern Beaches continues to expand rapidly, so we need to be ahead of the game in order to meet the infrastructure demands associated with that growth."

The council fast-tracked the project last year as a response to the rapidly growing number of property developments in the Northern Beaches.



Construction crews have started work on a vital new road for the Northern Beaches.