



**HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
REPORT  
THURSDAY 25 January 2018 AT 3.00PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## Advisory Committee Members >>

Councillor Kurt Rehbein	Committee Chair, Townsville City Council
Councillor Les Walker	Townsville City Council
Ray Holyoak	National Trust of Queensland, Townsville Branch
Dr Shelley Greer	James Cook University Australia
Leigh Preston	Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships
John Rains	Department of Environment and Science
Carly Grieg	Department of Environment and Science
Roger MacCallum	Australian Institute of Architects
Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde OAM	Individual member
Geoff Hansen	Individual member
Sharyn Denyer	Individual member
Sandi Robb	Individual member

### Non-members present:

Ted Brandi	Meeting Facilitator, Townsville City Council
Annette Burns	Townsville City Council
Eber Butron	Townsville City Council
Jeff Kerr	Townsville City Council
Lesley Cameron	Townsville City Council
Paul Johnston	Townsville City Council
Katie Pittock	Townsville City Council

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Townsville City Council would like to acknowledge the Bindal and Wulgurukaba peoples as Traditional Owners of the land on which our Council operates. We pay respect to Elders past, present and future and value the traditions, culture and aspirations of the first Australians of this land. We acknowledge and hold in great significance the valuable contribution that Traditional Owners have made and continue to make within the Townsville Community.

## Goals and Objectives of Townsville City Council >>

### Corporate Plan >>

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#### Goal 1 - A Prosperous City

Deliver a strong and innovative economy for Townsville with sustainable growth and support for local jobs and businesses.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 1.1 Support local businesses, major industries, local innovation and employment growth.
- 1.2 Promote our economic and geographic strengths and market Townsville as a vibrant destination for commerce, education, research, tourism, entertainment and lifestyle.
- 1.3 Plan, support, provide and advocate for infrastructure and investment that supports innovation, residential and economic growth.
- 1.4 Maximize opportunities for economic growth by building and maintaining effective partnerships.

#### Goal 2 - A City for People

Enhance people's experience of Townsville as a liveable and vibrant city by providing services that support the growth of an inclusive, knowledgeable, active, safe and healthy community.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 2.1 Provide services and local infrastructure that meet community expectations, support growth and provide for the needs of our community.
- 2.2 Improve the liveability of Townsville and encourage active and healthy lifestyles by providing accessible public facilities and community infrastructure.
- 2.3 Improve the vibrancy of Townsville by supporting the community's access to, and participation in, a range of artistic, cultural and entertainment activities.
- 2.4 Enhance community knowledge of and access to council services to improve community wellbeing, health and safety.

#### Goal 3 - A Clean and Green City

Create a sustainable future for Townsville through the protection, maintenance and enhancement of our unique, natural and built environment.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 3.1 Plan, design and deliver sustainable development and support this by actively managing the natural environment and increasing green infrastructure, at both a city, suburb and place level.
- 3.2 Develop and implement long term solutions for the management of water and waste that are socially, financially and environmentally sound.

#### Goal 4 - A Simpler, Faster, Better Council

Transform the Townsville City Council into a simpler, faster and better council that is easy to work with, and for, and gains community trust by being transparent and managing its resources.

Objectives that identify our strategic intent:

- 4.1 Provide customer-focused services that meet the expectations of our community in a dynamic and adaptive manner.
- 4.2 Ensure that council's plans, services, decisions and priorities reflect the needs and expectations of the community.
- 4.3 Be a valued and committed employer who provides a productive, inclusive and respectful environment for staff and the community.
- 4.4 Improve financial sustainability and provide value and accountability to the community for the expenditure of public funds.
- 4.5 Ensure that public funds are expended efficiently and that council expenditure represents value for money whilst supporting the local economy.

## Heritage Advisory Committee

### Purpose of the Heritage Advisory Committee

The Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC), and associated Museum and Historical Working Group will bring together organisations, both public and non-governmental, with the skills, knowledge and expertise in the field of history of the Townsville Local Government Authority and good heritage conservation practice generally. The Townsville City Council HAC serves as a means of providing community engagement, feedback, and project development to council, in-keeping with the goals of the Townsville City Council Corporate Plan and Operational Plan regarding heritage matters.

The key objectives of the committee are to:

- Encourage public interest in, and understanding of, Townsville's cultural heritage.
- Promote and support projects and events relating to Townsville's cultural heritage.
- Provide advice to council with regard to the conservation of the cultural heritage of the Townsville region.
- Encourage the appropriate management of places of cultural heritage significance.
- Advise council on potential compliance issues concerning maintenance of local heritage buildings.
- Provide suggestions in response to requests to name landmarks, infrastructure and locales.

### Terms of Reference

The terms of reference describes the purpose and structure of the committee. It defines the scope of the committee detailing the committee's authority, composition and objectives, providing the framework for the committee's operations. The terms of reference also identifies the duties and responsibilities of members and the chair, the terms of membership, roles and responsibilities, conflict of interest, meeting information and conduct requirements.

### Heritage Advisory Committee Member interaction with media:

Media (TV or newspaper agencies) may be in attendance at meetings and may wish to speak with committee members. It is important to be aware that as a member of Heritage Advisory Committee you are representing and speaking on behalf of your organisation. We would advise that you seek confirmation as to your organisation's media policies, and inform the Heritage Research Officer if you have any issues / concerns.

#### 5.8.6 Audio or video recording of a meeting – as per Townsville City Council, Code of Meeting Practice

Only authorised persons may make an audio or video recording of a meeting in accordance with Section 35 of Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011.

A person is authorised to make an audio or video recording of the meeting if the Chairperson consents to the recording being made. A record of the Chairperson's consent made in the minutes of the meeting (or the report of a committee meeting) is "written consent" for the purposes of Section 35 of Local Law No. 1 (Administration) 2011.

**REPORT**                    **HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DATE**                    **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**ITEMS**                    **1 to 13**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Kurt Rehbein	Committee Chair, Townsville City Council (TCC)
Eber Butron	Director, Planning & Community Engagement, TCC
Carly Greig	Sr Environmental Officer, Dept. of Environment and Science
Ray Holyoak	National Trust of Queensland, Townsville Branch
Dr Shelley Greer	James Cook University
Geoff Hansen	
Sharyn Denyer	
Dr. Dorothy Gibson Wilde OAM	

Non-Voting Council Staff Present:

Ted Brandi	Heritage Officer, Meeting Facilitator
Bronwyn Bignoux	Coordinator Land Use
Jeffrey Kerr	Senior Urban Design Officer
Katie Pittock	Planning Support Officer, Minutes

**GUESTS**

Nil

**APOLOGIES**

Roger MacCallum	Australian Institute of Architects
Lesley Cameron	General Manager Planning
Paul Johnston	Team Manager Planning Services
Annette Burns	Coordinator Learning and Information
Councilor Les Walker	Deputy Mayor, City of Townsville
Sandi Robb	
John Rains	Department of Environment and Science
Leigh Preston	Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

**NOT PRESENT**

See "Apologies"

## **Opening of meeting**

The Chair, Cr Kurt Rehbein opened the meeting at 3.00pm.

## **Apologies and Leave of Absence**

Apologies were noted, as above. It is generally understood that all TCC members listed will not be required or expected to attend each meeting, though all are welcome. Absences of these members from meetings will not be treated as 'apologies' in the traditional sense.

## **Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 September 2017 to be a true and correct record.

SG: Recommendation for Young Historian Award – that it be widened in scope to become a 'Young Heritage Practitioner' (or similar) award, inclusive of all heritage disciplines.

TB: Discussions are ongoing for the exact form of the award; there will be a meeting with Townsville history teachers on the 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 which will help guide the process.

Cr KR: Intent of the award is to encourage school age children to use local museums. Broadening of award will be taken back to Museums and Heritage Working Group for consideration.

## **Business Arising from the Minutes**

### **Action Register – Update on outstanding items (HAC Meeting Facilitator)**

TB: The letter to lobby the State Government on the reinstatement of a Heritage Officer at the Townsville branch of the Department of Environment and Science has been sent.

TB: The Pioneers Walk project is proceeding. Research is currently being conducted and the site and staff are ready for installation.

TB: Young Historian Award – the project as discussed is progressing and will be rolled out in the next financial year.

## **HAC member actions**

Nil.

## **Agenda Items**

### **Item 1. Update on "The Hive" Development Application**

Background>>

Note: RH stepped out of the meeting during this item due to a conflict of interest.

Cr KR: All Councillors had a conflict of interest on the application as the developer had donated to the Team Jenny Hill election campaign. Subsequently the application was referred to the CEO for decision.

Eber Butron (EB): The application was approved by the CEO for a mixed use site up to 16 storeys with an amended condition to include an archaeological survey and \$1 million bond prior to demolition to ensure a suitably designed building replaces the hotel.

Discussion>>

A general discussion ensued where various members expressed a wish to have the development application(s) for The Hive – and indeed DAs lodged with council for all heritage-listed properties – be circulated to the Committee.

EB replied that the Heritage Advisory Committee will not have Development Applications referred to them, in part due to tight timeframes for decisions, because there are internal assessment processes already in place (in other words, DA assessment is an operational matter and therefore beyond the Committee's remit), and also because it could be perceived as conferring preferential treatment on one group over others. EB pointed out that there are several other Advisory Committees that provide suggestions to council, many (if not all) of which have an interest in development activity in Townsville. These committees do not have Development Applications referred to them, either, and it would be impractical to do so.

EB further noted that a primary purpose of the Committee is to provide advice that looks forward (such as general heritage policy, or assisting council to identify places of heritage significance that are not currently recognized), rather than retrospective advice about heritage matters after established procedures – such as a council decision relating to The Hive development, in this instance – have either reached an advanced stage or been completed.

## **Item 2. Condition of Heritage Sites in East Flinders Street**

Dr Dorothy Gibson-Wilde OAM (DGW) advised the Committee that she feels there are issues with the condition of heritage buildings in Flinders Street East. There are also unsympathetic alterations that have been made to buildings. She felt that consideration ought to be given to the tall buildings planned at the location where The Hive development is to be located (as they would, in her opinion, be very intrusive), and that closer attention needs to be made to alterations of Flinders Street - for example 'Pie House' and the Queens Building.

DGW was asked if there was a particular course of action she would recommend, given that the examples she cited are listed on the Queensland Heritage Register and as such, alterations are regulated and compliance is enforced by the state government.

Dr Shelley Greer (SG) clarified that many buildings along Flinders Street East are not state listed and could be at risk of going the same way as the Criterion Hotel. She went on to say that funds have previously been available for heritage properties, and that rather than funds, expertise should be offered to encourage positive development.

Cr Rehbein suggested that SG's remarks be discussed in greater detail at the next HAC meeting.

DGW recommended that a letter be sent to the owners of the Queensland Insurance Building to acknowledge the sympathetic treatment it received in restoration.

### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION:**

That council consider sending a letter of appreciation to the owners of the Queensland Building, in recognition of their sympathetic maintenance of the building.

**Motioned by DGW Seconded by RH  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Item 3. 60 Park Street, Pimlico**

Background>>

60 Park Street was a pre-war brick building which was removed from the heritage list in Townsville City Plan 2005, and which has recently been demolished, according to Ray Holyoak (RH).

Discussion>>

Cr Rehbein said this example flags the need for the Committee to be proactive in identifying places for preservation. The Committee was reminded that if they know of places not currently on Schedule 7 of Townsville City Plan (such as converted World War II era barracks mentioned by RH), they should let council know about such places so they can possibly be added to Schedule 7 through the planning scheme amendment process. Several members spoke of the importance to consider values beyond the architectural (such as social or archaeological). Dr Greer (SG) acknowledged that very little work had been done in Queensland to reinforce the importance of social values of places in determining heritage significance.

Ted Brandi (TB) concluded discussion of this item by advising the Committee that 60 Park Street had been removed from Schedule 5 of Townsville City Plan 2005 in approximately 2006, at a time when council allowed property owners to request removal of their properties from the local heritage register, but that a more rigorous procedure had come into force with the adoption of the current planning scheme.

**Item 4. Willmet Street lookout**

Background>>

RH told the Committee that the Willmet Street lookout has been a lookout since the 1880s from what looks to be a Brisbane design. There are mounts on the site that could have been from anti-aircraft installations.

Currently the site is very overgrown and unkempt.

Discussion>>

A brief discussion noted the layers of history in evidence at the site, the purported benefit of installing a shelter and either actual or virtual interpretive information about the site, but that as a first step, the site should be tidied.

Action: Cr Rehbein to lodge a request with TCC Maintenance Services.

**Item 5. Sister Kenny Memorial – The Strand**

Background>>

Cr KR: The disposition of the Sister Kenny Memorial plaque was also raised by the Museums and Historical Working Group. The original plaque is held by Council operations staff and a new sign was been erected nearby on The Strand. The sign commemorates the work done by Sister Kenny in helping polio patients.



Discussion>>

After locating the sign and assessing the options, it is not practical or advisable to put the original sign back at this time. The sign contains a term now considered potentially offensive, and refers to a playground which no longer exists. The current sign in place is adequate and contains more information about Sister Kenny's life and work.

## **Item 6. North Yards Redevelopment**

Background>>

Jeffrey Kerr (JK) presented a PowerPoint slideshow outlining the results of early master planning for The North Yards Site, which is situated within the Townsville City Waterfront Priority Development Area. So far an Options Report and market sounding report have been completed. JK noted that the site needs a new purpose, but it generally takes about 10 years to build momentum.

The site covers 4.5ha and was established as a rail workshop around 1880. The yards were a key driver to Townsville's development.

In works to date, the site has been vacant since 1990 however Council took ownership in 2015, immediately engaging in remedial works to remove asbestos and termites and install fencing, etc.

An expression of interest put out on the site by Council did not attract any interest from industry.

The site has many issues including contamination and flooding as well as the constraints that the heritage listing entails. This necessitates that Council demonstrates and guides utilization and development of the site to make it a viable option for industry development in the future.

Council will be applying to the State for approval to develop North Yards to facilitate the renovation and viability of the site.

At the core of the project is to make public a space which has ever been available to the public previously.

The next step is to apply for the development application which will go on public notice.

Discussion>>

Various members raised examples of how similar sites had been treated elsewhere in Australia. Sharyn Denyer (SD) noted an example in Launceston, where buildings had been revitalized by placing pods inside the larger structure.

Dr Greer (SG) raised the issue about how a site-wide Inventory of Artefacts and Features report was compiled by John Edgar. SG urged that the site be further studied, and that archival recording be undertaken before any removal takes place – in particular of the communication systems.

Dorothy Gibson-Wilde (DGW) highlighted the importance of trains to the significance of the site.

Geoff Hansen (GH) wondered about how well adjoining developments were performing economically, to which JK replied that as they are private developments, he did not have access to such information.

**Item 7. Archaeological Zoning Plan**

Held over.

**Item 8. Increased frequency of HAC meetings**

Background>>

Committee members have reiterated a wish for meetings to occur more frequently. However, it was noted that there are not sufficient TCC resources to meet more often than quarterly, given the Committee's administrative and governance requirements.

Action>>

Cr KR to investigate alternatives for informal meetings to possibly occur between regular quarterly meetings.

**Item 9. Committee (or sub-Committee) consideration / assessment of Development Applications for heritage places**

Item Discussed - Refer to 'Hive' – Item 1.

**Item 10. Pioneers Walk – nominees for future consideration**

Held over.

**Item 11. Acknowledgement of former HAC Members**

SG: Council should acknowledge those who served on the Heritage Advisory Committee in the past.

Cr KR: Letters to be drafted and forwarded to the Mayor for signing and sending.

A preliminary list has been compiled, as follows:

1. John Weir
2. Helen Lucas
3. Linda Venn
4. Peter McLeod
5. Michael Quinlan

Members to please advise TB if there are additional names.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION:**

That Council draft and send letters of thanks to former members of the Heritage Advisory Committee listed above.

**MOTIONED by Dr Shelley Greer  
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Item 12. Report of MHWG meeting**

Held over.

**Item 13. General Business**

Cr KR: Are there items that can the committee can get started on?

TB: Identifying properties that should be listed in Pimlico and Magnetic Island may be a place to start.

SD: It might be beneficial if social meetings between formal meetings can be held.

**Next meeting – TBC**

**Agenda items due – TBC (must use link below)**

<https://fs6.formsite.com/townsvillecc/form252/index.html>

**Venue – Council Chambers**

Meeting closed 4.52pm.

**COUNCILLOR K REHBEIN  
CHAIR**