

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COUNCIL

MINUTES

The 133rd Meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council) was held on Level 10, 81 – 95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide on Thursday 16 February 2023.

Statement of Acknowledgement

The Chairperson acknowledged that the land that the Council members meet on today is the traditional lands for Kaurna people and that the Council respect their spiritual relationship with their country. The Chairperson also acknowledged the Kaurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

Ms Jan Ferguson acknowledged she was meeting remotely on the traditional lands for the Adnyamathanha people and that she respects their spiritual relationship with their country.

Heritage Council: Chair: Mr Keith Conlon OAM Members: Ms Jan Ferguson OAM, Mr Stephen Schrapel, Ms Eleanor Walters, Mr Marcus Rolfe, Mr Gavin Leydon, Mrs Deborah Lindsay and Mr Simon Weidenhofer.

Secretariat: Mr David Hanna, Executive Officer, Heritage South Australia, Department for Environment and Water (DEW) and Ms Beverley Voigt, Manager, Heritage South Australia (DEW).

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Mr Conlon welcomed all to the 133rd meeting of the South Australian Heritage Council (the Council).

Apologies from Mrs Kate McDougall.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Agenda

The agenda was adopted without any additions.

Declarations of conflict of interest

Mr Stephen Schrapel asked the Council to note that his workplace is engaged by City of Adelaide in relation to the Park Lands management plan. He noted it is not a conflict of interest but wanted the Council to be aware of it in its discussions with the Lord Mayor.

Mr Marcus Rolfe declared a conflict of interest in relation to Rosary School Hall, Prospect item, as his place of work, URPS is a consultant for the development. It was noted that Mr Rolfe would depart the meeting for this matter.

Mr Marcus Rolfe noted that URPS worked for Frank Schiripa, Semaphore Carousel.

3 PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Council considered the minutes of the 8 December 2022 meeting and approved them subject to the deletion of the word "Council" on page 3, which was not required.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Approved** the minutes of the 8 December 2022 meeting as per above.

4. ACTION ITEMS

The Council noted the status of action items and the following was noted:

- The Council discussed the National nomination of the Overland Telegraph and the work involved in preparing it. It was noted there are already three State listings associated with it being Beltana, the Peake and Strangways.
- Agreed to remove the two items from the action list as per the recommendations of Ms Voigt.

RESOLUTION

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the status of the action list.

5. IN CAMERA DISCUSSION

The Council had an in-camera discussion pursuant to section 7 (6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

This text was approved for release at Council's 14 August 2025 meeting.

5.1A – Heritage Budget 2023/24

Ms Voigt noted that the Government has committed to an additional \$1m each year for the next ten years for Heritage. This doubles the current budget of Heritage SA.

This funding will result in key deliverables including:

- \$250,000 per annum for a Heritage Conservation Grants program for the community
- A Policy Officer to lead on a legislative amendment process

- Addressing the back log of heritage assessments (1 Full Time Equivalent for 10 years)
- Better heritage information for decision making (1 Full Time Equivalent for 10 years)
- A fit for purpose digital heritage register.

There is also, within this annual funding allocation, an additional operational budget for the Council. This allows the Council to deliver a broader range of programs that has been previously restricted due to lack of funding.

There will be some commitments that will need to be funded from this new allocation including engagement with First Nations within the listing process.

It was noted that in June 2023 the Council will consider and discuss its 12 month work program and this funding will enable the Council to broaden its remit to include other community and education type programs.

Ms Voigt invited the Council to discuss ideas of expenditure relating to a small increase in operational budget for the Council. The following is a summary of discussion:

- A regional visit by Council to look at the World Heritage Area bid in the Flinders Ranges. Council discussed the possibility of two meetings - a metropolitan meeting and a regional meeting.
- Review of the Conservation Grants process. It was suggested a sub-committee be established to review the Guidelines.
- A thematic approach to funding.
- The split between operational and administration expenditure. It is currently about 75% administration (such as employment, Register administration), and 25% for on ground / built conservation works.
- Sitting fees for Council members. Agreed that is too low. Council agreed it would raise with the Minister at its 30 March meeting.
- Public information / education.
- Heritage Trades. It was noted this is very resource intensive and may be beyond the Council's budget capacity. It was noted if any work is done in this space, the Council could only act as a catalyst to encourage others.
- Heritage Tourism workshops and the role of Tourism Industry Council of South Australia.

Council discussed the nomination process, particularly whether the Council ought to consider offering the nominator or owner the opportunity to speak to Council at time of Provisional Entry consideration. Agreed it would discuss again at a future meeting.

Action: Discuss nomination consultation process at 1 June 2023 meeting.

Action: Establish a sub-committee to review Heritage Conservation Grant Guidelines.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted and Discussed** the additional funding provided to heritage over the next

ten years.

5.1B Council self-evaluation exercise

Ms Voigt asked Council members to provide their completed self-evaluation form to Mr David Hanna.

The Council considered the Maturity Survey as a group and assigned a Score to six different areas.

The scoring system being 1 as lowest and 5 being highest. A score of 1 = Initial, 2 = Defined, 3 = Implemented, 4 = Managed, 5 = Optimised.

Membership and Capability

Council agreed it would have scored a 4, but for the fact that the sitting fees are not commensurate with the responsibilities of Council.

Score: 3

Role and Responsibility

Council is reactive to nominations due to resourcing.

Ms Ferguson noted that she and Ms Peggy Brock did some analysis of the listing process.

Score: 4.5

Professional practices

Score: 4.5

Council agreed that it would benefit from a better understanding of the strategic agenda for the year ahead.

Performance and Accountability Score

Score: 4.5

Ministerial and Statutory Relationships Score

Council sees benefit in DEW Executive attending meetings in relation to Strategic meetings.

Score: 4.5

Governance and Reporting

Council can't deliver many of its own programs. Priorities are dictated by available resources.

Council does not have its own independent website.

Not even a logo.

Score: 4.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Discussed** and evaluated its performance.
- **Noted** that the results would be discussed at its June 2023 meeting.

5.1C – Meeting with the Lord Mayor, Hon Dr Jane Lomax Smith, City of Adelaide

Mr Conlon welcomed the Lord Mayor to the meeting and thanked her for attending.

Each Council member introduced themselves to the Lord Mayor.

The Lord Mayor discussed her priorities for heritage conservation and the following are some of the key points:

- The Lord Mayor congratulated the Council on its work promoting heritage through digital messaging.
- Legislation is a powerful tool to support
- Adelaide Park Lands
- Will meet with the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, Federal Minister with responsibilities for National Heritage Listings.
- Discussed State and Local Heritage protection.
- Importance of heritage in North Adelaide and South Adelaide.
- Review of Planning legislation in regards to protection of heritage precincts.
- Increasing residential occupancy levels of existing buildings.
- Adaptive reuse – important to use our current buildings given their embodied energy given the climate crisis the world is facing.
- Tourism conservation.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** and **Thanked** the Lord Mayor for her attendance and insightful discussion.

6 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PROVISIONAL ENTRY

6.1 Rosary School Hall, Prospect

Mr Marcus Rolfe departed the meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Mr Keith Conlon welcomed the public gallery to the meeting.

It was noted that on 28 October 2022, Heritage South Australia received a public nomination for Rosary School Hall, 9-19 Gladstone Road, Prospect. The nominator suggested that Rosary School Hall meets criteria (a), (d), (f) and (g) of s16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* for listing as a State Heritage Place in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Mr Conlon welcomed Ms Anna Graves and Ms Denise Schumann. Ms Schumann spoke in favour of the nomination. Mr Conlon also welcomed Ms Liz Little, Grieve Gillette Andersen Architects, who spoke against the listing on behalf of Catholic Education.

Mr Conlon noted that it is not usual practice for people to address the Council when a place is considered for Provisional entry in the South Australian Heritage Register. On this occasion, Mr Conlon had granted the request to speak as there may be additional information, further to the written nomination, that could assist Council in its deliberations.

Ms Denise Schumann

The following is a summary of the points raised by Ms Schumann:

- Attending this meeting in good faith and good will. Understand that development approval has been given.
- Has a personal interest in the building as her mother attended the school.
- The building does demonstrate aspects of the State's history.
- The building is not just a Hall – it was the Rosary Church School. It is a rare example of a school building that demonstrates Catholic belief practices and how they change against the backdrop of the Great War.
- The Great War fundamentally altered existence in human society.
- Discussed the issue of Church and State – the key tenant of separation.
- The School was built in 1918 and the association with Robert William Spence.
- Spence was the First Dominican Archbishop of South Australia.
- Through Trove, there is a list of people that donated money to the building of the Rosary Church School.
- It is the product of defeat of Referendum in 1916. We get the emergence of a distinct Catholic identify in SA. This is an important philosophy by Spence. It talks about Church Schools. Separation of Catholics and Protestants.
- In 1898 Sir Robert William Spence went to Adelaide as prior (until 1901) of the first house of the Dominican friars in Australia.
- The Rosary Church School is a product of his mission.
- The Rosary Church School remains beautifully intact. It is a class of a cultural place. It represents faith-based schooling in World War 1.
- The Rosary Church School consists of blue stone elegance, and changes shape as required. Mass on weekends.

Ms Elizabeth Little

The following is a summary of the points raised by Ms Little:

- Grieve Gillette Anderson (GGA) Architects have been working with the school on a number of projects.
- There was no Heritage Listing at any level on the School Hall when they started to work with the school.
- Numerous options were explored for the development, however ultimately the retention of the building was not feasible in delivering the optimum outcome for the School's requirements to deliver teaching and student facilities to a suitable level of amenity.
- GGA do not hold (and never have held) the belief that the building meets any of the criteria for State heritage listing.

Mr Chris Burns, Heritage South Australia

The following is a summary of the points raised by Mr Burns:

- Susan Hennessy, Principal of Rosary School Prospect, representing the owners, the Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc., agreed in writing not to demolish the Hall prior to the Council meeting in February 2023. As such Mr Conlon determined that the place did not need to be provisionally listed under s17(2)(b).
- On 5 December 2022, Mr Chris Burns and Dr Louise Bird undertook a site visit of the Rosary Hall.
- An agenda paper assessment considering the potential significance of Rosary Hall recommends that the place does not meet any of the s16 criteria for listing as a State Heritage Place.
- In 1989, Historical Consultants Pty Ltd completed the 'Heritage Survey of the Corporation of the City of Prospect.' Subsequently in 1996, Weidenhofer Architects completed the 'City of Prospect Heritage Survey Review.' While both surveys mentioned the Rosary School site on Gladstone Road, neither survey recommended the Rosary School Hall for local or State heritage listing.
- The original school building on the northern side of the Hall was demolished in 1960's.
- Rosary School Hall is an extension of a demolished building and is considered to demonstrate low integrity.
- Conscription was defeated in two referendums and Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes believed the 'Catholic vote' was partly responsible for the defeat of both referendums.
- The defeat of conscription led to some resurgence of simmering anti-Catholic sentiment in South Australia. Some members of the Prospect community believed the Prospect Catholic Parish should have donated money to the war effort rather than spending it on a new building.
- While Rosary Hall has tangential associations with the referenda on conscription, the place does not demonstrate clear or strong associations with the theme, as is required by the Council's *Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria*.
- Furthermore the referenda on conscription is considered to be of national rather than state significance.

- Other places better reflect the work of Robert William Spence, notably St Francis Xavier's Cathedral.
- There is no specific cultural group that the School Hall is particularly important to. It is important to some in the school community but there are other members of the community that see benefit in removing the building for better education outcomes.
- Many different Catholic orders have built Church Schools so it is not unique in that regard.

Council deliberation

It was noted that Ms. Jan Ferguson had to depart the meeting at this point so she was not able to participate in the discussion or vote.

Council discussed the association of the Church School with the various elements as described in the nomination and Mr Denise Schumann.

Mr Conlon noted that the focus of deliberations would be on criteria a), d), f) and g) given that was what the place was nominated as meeting. It was noted that Council agreed it was evident the place did not meet criteria b), c) and e) and therefore they would not be discussed any further.

Council discussed the arrival of the Dominicans in South Australia and the Archbishop's devotion to the Montaigne Principle. In terms of planning, the place is not unusual.

Ms Graves pointed out the distinction between different groups of South Australian Dominicans within the broader Dominican order.

Mr Conlon led Council through discussions on each of the nominated criteria.

Council discussed and agreed the Rosary School Hall did not meet criterion a) by unanimous decision.

Council discussed and agreed the Rosary School Hall did not meeting criterion d) by unanimous decision. Council noted it was an example of a class of place but not an outstanding example.

Council discussed and agreed the Rosary School Hall did not meet criterion f) by unanimous decision.

Council discussed and agreed the Rosary School Hall did not meet criterion g) by unanimous decision. It was noted that there is an association with the architects however there are several other better examples of their work.

In closing, Mr Conlon noted that it was unfortunate this place was not considered for Local Heritage. Its demonstration at the State level is not evident.

Mr Conlon thanked all for attending.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Rejected** the nomination for State-listing of the **ROSARY SCHOOL HALL, 9-19 GLADSTONE ROAD, PROSPECT** (CT 6045/447 D81921 A701 Hundred of Yatala), as it does not meet any of the s16 criteria in the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

6.2 Semaphore Carousel

Mr Marcus Rolfe returned to the meeting.

Mr Conlon welcomed Mr Frank Schirrippa, owner of the Carousel, to the meeting.

Dr Louise Bird, Heritage SA, noted that on 8 August 2022, a member of the public nominated the Semaphore Carousel, Esplanade, Semaphore, for listing as a State Heritage Place in the South Australian Heritage Register as they believe it meets criteria (b), (f) and (g) under s16 criteria of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

A Summary of State Heritage Place and a Heritage Assessment Report had been prepared for Council's consideration to determine whether the Semaphore Carousel should be provisionally entered as a State Heritage Place in the Register.

Dr Louise Bird and Ms Kirsty Nield undertook a full site visit on 2 November 2022. The Heritage Assessment report, prepared by Dr Louise Bird and Mr Chris Burns, recommended that the Semaphore Carousel meets s16 criteria (a) and (b).

The Semaphore Carousel is owned by Frank Schirrippa and is operated by Rotary Club of Henley Beach. It is located on land owned by the Crown and under the Custodianship of the City of Port Adelaide Enfield and leased to Mr Schirrippa.

The Assessment Report notes that four of the horses and associated mechanisms and two carriages have been removed to accommodate disability access and to enable people in wheelchairs to ride the carousel.

Two of the horses are being stored by Mr Schirrippa, while two horses were taken by the person employed to remove them. Mr Schirrippa has attempted to have the two horses returned to him but without success.

It is recommended that if the Council decides to State Heritage list the Semaphore Carousel that the four horses (with associated mechanisms if still in existence) are assessed for listing as State Heritage Objects and are added to the Assessment List as priority 1 assessments.

The Carousel was originally built at Henley Beach in 1928. It is a rare example of a remaining in Carousel. It was made in SA and it is still operational.

The carriages remain within the carousel enclosure and are identified in the elements of significance. While a part of the fabric of the proposed State Heritage Place, historic images of the carousel dated 1936 indicate that the carriages may not be original fabric.

It was recommended that the carriages are not considered for listing as State Heritage Objects as they would be unlikely to meet the threshold for listing as an object that is intrinsically related to the place. However, as they remain onsite the carriages should be considered to be a part of the fabric of the Place.

Mr Conlon thanked Dr Bird for her remarks.

Council discussed the assessment report.

Council agreed by unanimous vote that it met criterion a)

Council agreed by unanimous vote that it met criterion b).

Council discussed and agreed that it did not meet any other criteria for listing under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

Council discussed the draft Summary of State Heritage Place and approved it without amendment.

Council agreed with the recommendation to include in the Assessment List the four horses no longer on site with the Semaphore Carousel. It was agreed they would be added as a priority 1 assessment.

It was noted that Baxter's Carousel located at Glenelg (Magic Mountain and now the Beach House) is the only other carousel known to date from the heyday of carousels in South Australia. Originally at St Kilda (Victoria), it was licensed in South Australia in 1918. Since then, it has been primarily located at Glenelg, however as it is a transportable carousel, during the 1950s it was temporarily relocated each year to Wayville for the Royal Adelaide Show.

Baxter's Carousel is considered to be likely to meet the same criteria and threshold for listing as a State Heritage Place as the Semaphore Carousel and it was therefore recommended for adding to the assessment list. Council agreed.

The Council thanked Heritage SA for a comprehensive assessment report.

Mr Conlon thanked Mr Frank Schirripa for attending and congratulated him on being the owner of this newly registered State Heritage Place.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Provisionally entered** the Semaphore Carousel, Karna Country, Esplanade, Semaphore (CR 6230/172 A103 DP42723 Hundred of Port Adelaide) in the South Australian Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, as it is deemed to fulfil criteria (a) and (b) for State heritage listing under section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*:

- a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history
 - b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance
-
- **Approved** the Summary of State Heritage Place for the Semaphore Carousel, Kaurna Country, Esplanade, Semaphore (CR 6230/172 A103 DP42723 Hundred of Port Adelaide).
 - **Approved** the addition of the four horses removed from the Semaphore Carousel to the Assessment List as a priority 1 assessment.
 - **Approved** the addition of Baxter's Carousel, Glenelg to the Assessment List as a priority 2 assessment.

ITEMS FOR NOTING

7.1 Chairperson's Report

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the report provided by the Chairperson.

7.2 DEW Report

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the DEW Report.

7.3 Correspondence

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:

- **Noted** the correspondence sent and received since the last meeting.

7.4 Delegations Report

Noted.

RESOLUTION:

The South Australian Heritage Council:


- **Noted** the delegations report.

10 Any Other Business

Nil.

CLOSE OF MEETING

Mr Conlon closed the meeting at 1:15pm.



Mr Keith Conlon OAM
Chair

Date: 30 March 2023