

From: "Julian Brophy" [REDACTED]
Sent: Tue, 31 Oct 2023 12:50:40 +1100
To: "Shaun Robinson" <Shaun.Robinson@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Wingecarribee Shire Council" <mail@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Administrator Office" <AdministratorOffice@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Lisa Miscamble" <Lisa.Miscamble@wsc.nsw.gov.au>; "Sarah Farnese" <Sarah.Farnese@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Attention Manager Assets - Charlotte Project
Attachments: Submission Charlotte statute project - 31102023.pdf
Categories: Melanie

Dear Shaun,

Please find the attached submission in respect of the above.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Regards,

Julian Brophy.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Mr Shaun Robinson,
Manager Assets,
Wingecarribee Shire Council,
68 Elizabeth Street,
Moss Vale NSW 2577
Via email – Shaun.Robinson@wsc.nsw.gov.au

31 October 2023

Dear Mr Robinson,

Re: Charlotte Project.

I write to object to the proposed monument on a number of grounds and to question the process which has been undertaken to date.

1 – Inappropriateness

There is currently no recognition of First Nations People in the area and specifically in Berrima, despite 60,000 plus years of unbroken connection to the land.

That Wingecarribee Shire Council is proposing another commemoration of colonial history with its inherent privilege, ahead of acknowledging the continuous cultural heritage of the first inhabitants of this land including their tens of thousands of years of storytelling traditions, is frankly deeply concerning in 2023.

Have the region's First Nations People been consulted as to this statute and its appropriateness or otherwise?

Further, can Council please detail how it has undertaken considerations of the impact of the perpetuation of white colonial privilege through such projects on publicly owned council property, what policy framework underpins this approach and what it is doing to equal the imbalance when it comes to recognition of First Nations People in Berrima and the Shire?

I refer Council to the City of Sydney which is undertaking a significant review of statuary erected on the basis of celebration of colonial privilege, to determine its suitability in respect of First Nation's history.

2 – Impact on local heritage item and state heritage items

I have written previously to Council about the profound impact that ad hoc proposals such as this planned statue – as well as other overdevelopment and inappropriate development – is having on the heritage fabric of Market Place.

Market Place Berrima, including the immediate surrounding street curtilages with eleven (11) NSW State Heritage listed items facing the park, is one of the most significant heritage

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precincts in NSW. It is a largely undeveloped centre of a regional town which reflects early colonial settlement which is rare at a state and national level.

Market Place is first and foremost, a significant Georgian design feature of perhaps the last remaining, intact Georgian village on the Australian mainland. It is not a park or recreation ground in the traditional sense – rather the town centre of the village as it was designed in 1831 and which has survived to today mostly intact.

Critically, Market Place's heritage significance is intrinsically connected to the heritage fabric of the surrounding streetscape along its four street boundaries, Jellore, Bryan and Argyle Streets as well as Market Place. Of particular note is the interconnectedness of Market Place with the unformed street curtilages of Jellore, Bryan and Argyle Streets with their unsealed road edges, lack of formed guttering and with an overall sensibility of country lanes.

This is enhanced by the no less than 11 NSW State Heritage Listed items which surround Market Place on three streets and all of which face into Market Place and at various points, can be viewed across it. These eleven heritage items account for 68.75% or more than two thirds of all the NSW State Heritage listed items in Berrima. The inventory of NSW State Heritage listed items can be seen in the extract from NSW Heritage's [online database and search](#) function.

Statuary in Market Place was previously rejected by the community and Council during a recent master planning process undertaken ahead of the expansion of the children's play area. This process saw draft plans shared with the community and feedback sought on them, the outcome of which was a resounding 'No' to the insertion of statuary in Market Place. A position I understand was also supported at the time by the Berrima Residents Association.


Much of the objection to the placement of statuary at that time was based on the impact that it would have on Market Place as a heritage item, as well as being completely contrary to the Berrima Village DCP which states clearly:

(a) New recreation and community facilities shall only be permitted where they are consistent with a Conservation Management Plan that has been endorsed by the NSW Heritage Branch.

This proposal is not just for a statue, but I understand a large sandstone plinth as well as at least 5 other sandstone plinths surrounding the statue with additional landscaping.

This will profoundly impact the simple Georgian design of Market Place and irreversibly impact the location's heritage fabric.

Market Place has a long tradition – starting with the 1890 planting of the Henry Parkes Oak and the subsequent 1897 planting of the trees to mark the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, as well as many others - of commemorating in a subdued and dignified manner events and people through planting of trees with appropriately small plaques.



This has been an approach which has respected the heritage of Market Place as well as its preserving its Georgian design and integrity.

The current proposal for a statue is entirely contrary to this approach that has worked for the best part of two centuries, and if it proceeded it would establish a regrettable precedent in this very important part of Berrima.

3 - Lack of proper process

The Council has rushed this proposal without proper community consultation, completely at odds with the master planning of Market Place only a few years ago which ironically saw proposals for similar statuary rejected by both Council and the Community.

Residents have been provided with less than 5 days to respond to a letter which is lacking in any detail, imagery of the proposed statute and additional landscaping including multiple sandstone plinths, or a map showing the exact location.

Nor has any heritage impact statement been provided to residents to review.

Why has this proposal been pushed through with unseemly haste, in a process which is completely at odds with that required under the Local Environment Plan and its mandatory provisions?

As Market Place is an item of local heritage, Wingecarribee Shire Councils is required, legislatively, to follow the provisions of the LEP which are mandatory and not discretionary.

Clause 5.10, paragraph 2 (a) of the of the LEP states that development consent is required for:

(a) demolishing or moving any of the following or altering the exterior of any of the following (including, in the case of a building, making changes to its detail, fabric, finish or appearance)

Given there is not a duly democratically elected Council in place in Wingecarribee Shire, the only appropriate decision is for Council to withdraw this application and properly lodge a development application with all attendant opportunities for proper community consultation to take place, as well as liaison with state agencies including NSW Heritage.

I reiterate my complete opposition to this proposal.

Yours' sincerely,

Julian Brophy.