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Sent: Saturday, 12 December 2020 5:46 PM

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Subject: Submission on Objective 23 Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

Objective 23

Celebrate, conserve and reuse cultural heritage.

“The region’s heritage is part of its identity and character and could generate greater economic value, particularly through cultural tourism. Cultural heritage values **must** be embraced as the region grows and changes...Incorporating and celebrating cultural heritage elements in the planning stage through to the design and development of places will embed cultural awareness, enrich connectedness, and build respect for the Illawarra Shoalhaven’s cultural history.

Respectfully combining history and heritage with modern design creates places with shared values and a clear sense of place and identity.”

Strategy 23.1 identity, conserve and enhance cultural heritage values in local strategic planning and local plans by:

- Engaging with the community early (including Traditional Owners) in the planning process to understand heritage values
- Undertaking heritage studies early to inform conservation and value add opportunities
- Applying adaptive reuse and heritage interpretation to create distinctive local places
- Managing and monitoring the cumulative impact of development on the heritage values and character of places.

I am a resident of the Shoalhaven City Council, a NSW Heritage Adviser, National Trust member and member of ICOMOS and have been active in the Berry & District Historical Society for more than a decade. Unfortunately the Shoalhaven City Council’s recent performance in terms of protecting the heritage of Berry leaves a lot to be desired for the following reasons:-

- The Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) has totally ignored the importance of the historical farmhouse of the Stewart family - Mananga in the northern entrance to the town - by allowing developments to go ahead without DAs and just fining owner. This farmhouse should have been included in the Pulman Street Conservation Area, as is the Constable’s Cottage, which is often overlooked as belonging to this Conservation Area because it is on the opposite side of the road. This area was the second town site of Berry known as Broughton Creek Village.

- The curtilage of Mananga property is about to be turned into a function centre with all its associated problems, destruction of heritage, noise, parking and impacts on neighbours.
- The Bangalee Motel DA has also been approved in this important historical area of Berry, despite many objections to it. The land was once part of the Mananga property, but the motel was built before there were any Heritage Acts.
- Berry started as a private town and is historically very important because it is one of few original private towns in Australia.
- It is an important C19th cultural landscape because it encompasses agricultural land which was primarily concerned with dairy farming.
- At the present time there is no Heritage Adviser or full-time staff member working on heritage in Council. A sign that the Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) is serious about heritage would be for it to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced person to a permanent position of Heritage Officer in the Council and also appoint a Heritage Adviser.
- The last Shoalhaven City Council Heritage Study was conducted in 1995-1998.
- The SCC should hold regular heritage audits and conduct another Heritage Study.
- More educational material regarding heritage should be made available from the SCC. I tried to encourage the SCC to adopt two heritage leaflets from the Upper Hunter Shire Council called “Understanding Heritage Listing” and “Heritage and Your Development”, but they were not interested in such items.
- The introduction of medium density housing to Berry will mean the destruction of the historic nature of Berry’s housing blocks.
- There is already a huge parking problem in Berry caused by the expansion of Berry with Huntingdale Park. During the week there is no parking to be had at the Shopping centre behind IGA. No provision has been made for parking, let alone disabled parking for elderly residents, of which there are many.
- This type of ribbon development on the boundary of Berry - Huntingdale Park and its extension - has impacted the cultural landscape of Berry, and the proposed Hitchcock’s Lane development will have an impact on the historic agricultural station of Graham Park. It is hoped that this ribbon development will not continue on all the way to Bomaderry.
- Previous threats to Berry’s cultural landscape this year have been the Wire Lane, Beach Road & Mt Hay Planning proposals.
- Berry and its environs are now under constant threat by some development or other, whether it is a new estate, tourist or visitor accommodation development or proposed function centres. If we are to retain the heritage value of towns like Berry and Milton,

these sorts of developments must not even be allowed to be proposed in the first instance. The latest DA for Mananga proposing a function centre is trying to find a loophole in the existing legislation, researched by ex-Council staff who have now become consultants.

- If the Department of Planning is concerned about preserving these heritage towns, then a much greater effort needs to take place to protect them and educate the public about heritage, as very few people really understand the nature of heritage. I was once told that the town's war memorial was the only heritage item in town.

Regards

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