

Bulimba District Historical Society inc

1.1 SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS

HMAS MORETON UNIT RELOCATION PROJECT

HMAS Moreton, Bulimba, Queensland

17 May 2017

Bulimba District Historical Society inc
PO Box 634
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1.1 Supplementary Submission on HMAS Moreton Relocation Project – May 2017

1. The Bulimba District Historical Society inc (the Society) has made a previous submission dated 26 April 2017 to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works (PWC) in relation to the HMAS Moreton Unit Relocation Project, Bulimba, Queensland (the Project) stating:

“To date, it appears Defence has not:

- a) undertaken appropriate research to determine the cultural and heritage significance of the Precinct and Defence facilities contained within this Precinct;
- b) conformed to the requirements identified by Defence;
- c) given enough consideration to recognition of culture and heritage and how this can be preserved within the Bulimba community; and
- d) appropriately addressed community concerns raised about links between the Precinct, neighbouring properties, emerging communities and development sites along the river.”

2. The concerns expressed in the April 2017 submission have been reinforced by consultation that the Society has participated in and reading submissions to the PWC.
3. The government owned HMAS *Moreton* site, Bulimba, Queensland (formerly Bulimba Barracks), comprising both the Project site and Disposal site, is part of an overall precinct that is important to the heritage of Bulimba and was a vital cog in the Australian-American forces during World War II. This heritage must be protected as part of any redevelopment within both the Project site and Disposal site.
4. In evidence given before the PWC at a public hearing on Friday, 5 May 2017:

Ms Keay stated:

“There is nothing about heritage in the risk register”

Brig. Beutel stated:

“there is no referral required at all under the EPBC Act, the heritage risks are minor and the mitigation measures will be stipulated within a construction environmental management plan”

and

“in relation to heritage—Indigenous and non-Indigenous or European heritage—are very true, but for 80 per cent of the Bulimba barracks it is more focused on the area to be disposed of as opposed to the retained site for that.”

and Lt Col. Pollard stated that:

“At the point in time when we did the initial environmental review, there was uncertainty around a couple of items on the site and whether there was significance associated with them.” and this uncertainty included “the stone wall which separates the site from the river” and “an existing warehouse”.

and

“There is no master plan. No master planning activity has been conducted on our site in terms of zoning for specific uses”

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5. The Society's April 2017 submission provided details of the EPBC Act requirements related to the Project site and under this Act and Defence protocols a Heritage Assessment needs to be undertaken and any reasonable assessment will lead to a decision needing to be made about Commonwealth Heritage listing for the Precinct and this cannot be ignored and completed as part of any future disposal of an adjacent site.
6. The Society is not sure of the basis or justification for Brig. Beutel's statement that "*there is no referral required at all under the EPBC Act*" and we believe that as a decision-maker Defence should outline its reasons for such a decision.
7. If Brig. Beutel's statement about 80% of the heritage issues relate to the Disposal site than logically 20% of the Indigenous and non-Indigenous or European heritage issues relate to the Project site.
8. At a meeting on Saturday 8 April, 2017 between representatives of the Society and representatives of the Project team we specifically asked if aspects of heritage significance have been identified on the Project site and the Society was advised that only minor issues have been identified and any issues will be managed as part of the Construction and Environmental Management Plan.
9. A report commissioned by Defence from Jacobs dated 27 November 2014 identifies "*Stone wall along the entire riverbank of Bulimba Barracks*" (including the Project site) as "*requiring more research and investigation*" and based on a statement from Lt Col. Pollard "*an existing warehouse*" also falls into this category.
10. The Society notes Defence has not identified heritage on the risk register associated with this Project but given the uncertainty raised in the statement by Lt Col. Pollard and "*minimal risk*" raised by Brig. Beutel it appears there potential risk.
11. It is clear from Defence evidence that there is uncertainty about heritage issues related to the Project site and therefore an assessment that these are "*minor and the mitigation measures will be stipulated within a construction environmental management plan*" is a subjective statement not supported by evidence.
12. Lt Col. Pollard stated "*There is no master plan*" while in Department of Defence, Supplementary Submission to the PWC dated 21 April on Page F-6 it details "*The site is Commonwealth land that sits within a Neighbourhood District Plan and the Bulimba Barracks Masterplan area*", a planning instrument that recognises the heritage on the site.
13. The Society believes in relation to the Project site:
 - Defence are required to undertake a heritage assessment and heritage management plan and to date this has not been done.
 - The Project team have not been transparent about heritage issues on the Project site even though the Society has been fully supportive of the Project and shown a willingness to engage about heritage issues.
 - Representatives of Project are uncertain about the heritage values of the Project site and this uncertainty will not be resolved unless a full heritage assessment is undertaken.
 - A valid Construction and Environmental Management Plan cannot be documented without understanding the heritage aspects of the site.

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14. We therefore request that in line with our previous submission related to the HMAS Moreton Unit Relocation Project, HMAS Moreton, Bulimba, Queensland, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works:
1. *Request Defence prepare a Heritage Management Plan for the Defence land that forms part of the Bulimba Barracks Precinct including the area included in the Project that complies with Legislation and Defence requirements including:*
 - *the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act);*
 - *Native Title Act 1993 (Cth); and*
 - *Defence Estate Quality Management System.*
 2. *Ensure Heritage investigations and consultation should be undertaken in such a manner and detail to satisfy statutory responsibilities and duties of care, under relevant legislation and consider the community relationship with the heritage.*
 3. *Ensure engagement with the original owners and custodians of the region of present-day Brisbane, Queensland, in any cultural and heritage assessment and development work plans including the boat ramp.*
 4. *Ensure engagement with the Chinese community to ensure special consideration is given to the cultural and heritage connection of this site to the Chinese involvement in assisting the defence of Australia during World War Two.*
 5. *Examine if any complete cultural and heritage assessment will result in the Precinct meeting one or more of the nine Commonwealth Heritage List criteria and need to be considered if advice should be referred to the Federal Minister for the Environment and the Australian Heritage Council.*
 6. *Request this project consider its cultural and heritage responsibilities are not limited to the specific area of the Project but need to recognise its linkage and consider an Easement area for a pedestrian and bicycle corridor link to the broader Bulimba Barracks Precinct and neighbouring properties along the river including to the east, Taylor Street Park and 153 Taylor Street, Bulimba (this site originally formed part of the Bulimba Barracks at the time of the Second World War site) and to the west, Byron Street Precinct and Apollo Road ferry.*