

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Legislation Committee**  
Answers to questions on notice  
**Environment portfolio**

**Question No:** 32  
**Hearing:** Additional Estimates  
**Outcome:** Outcome 1  
**Programme:** Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)  
**Topic:** Parramatta Female Factory Precinct - National Heritage List  
**Hansard Page:** N/A  
**Question Date:** 23 February 2016  
**Question Type:** Written

**Senator Rhiannon asked:**

1. The nomination of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct to the National Heritage List has been not been included on the National Heritage Council's assessment work plan ("priority assessment list" ) twice since 2013. This renders the nomination now ineligible for further consideration unless it is re-nominated.

In August last year, with Parramatta's Council split over the proposal to build about 4,000 apartments in the heritage precinct site – the Minister announced the site would be assessed "for the National heritage Listing:

- a) Was the nomination actively assessed for inclusion on the Heritage Council's work plan, or has it just dropped off the list due to the process of not being considered two sessions in a row?
- b) If it wasn't actively considered:
  - i) Why not – especially given the urgency with which this site needs to be protected from high-rise development?
  - ii) What is the process by which this is allowed to happen (non-consideration)?
- c) If it was actively considered:
  - i) May I please have a copy of any advice or assessment that determined the site should not be considered or included.
- d) Given the importance of this historical site and recognising the local council is split on allowing development of the site – why has the site not been assessed as a matter of priority?
- e) Please provide a copy of advice that determined why the site should not be considered this round, especially given the contentious proposal to develop the site?
- f) What is the criteria that determines inclusion or no inclusion on the Council's priority assessment list?
- g) What advice has been provided to the nomination's proponents?
- h) What input has the NSW Government, or any developers' interests, had into this process. Please provide copies of that advice?

**Answer:**

1(a) – (h)

The Parramatta Female Factory Precinct is currently being assessed by the Australian Heritage Council for possible inclusion on the National Heritage List following the Minister for the Environment's decision to include the place on the 2015-16 Finalised Priority Assessment List for National Heritage List assessments.

The Minister had previously identified benevolent institutions as places of particular interest for consideration for the 2015-16 assessment period. The Parramatta Female Factory was ranked first for possible inclusion on the National Heritage List in a commissioned thematic study of benevolent and other care institutions.

The Finalised Priority Assessment List for National Heritage List assessments is available on the Department of the Environment's website at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/priority-assessment>.