



Dear Friends of the Berrima Gaol Historic Site,

Following recent discussions with Blue Sox, WSC and DPHI (Regional Assessment team) please note the following activities are underway:

SEARS technical document - progressing

1. **Conservation Management Plan (CMP)** --- A draft has been completed and some circulation has commenced with key process owners (not all stakeholders).

- Blue Sox (BS) has met with the NSW Heritage Council. They have reviewed the CMP and have expressed comfort thus far understanding the adaptive reuse needs. The CMP is 300-400 pages.

- Public access to CMP will be in the next couple of weeks: the Blue Sox website is likely to be the primary vehicle

2. Many studies are underway:

- **Landscape & Architectural design** is yet to be finalised. Expect public access to the proposed design most likely in Nov sometime.
- **Connecting with Country** processes underway with the first site discovery session taking place shortly. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) site walk was carried out with indigenous representatives.
- **Storm Water and Sewage** is being assessed in their high-level design work. Blue Sox have suggested meeting with Council engineers to support their assessment. As per our last correspondence- both flood and testing/monitoring of the groundwater activities along the southern side of the Gaol is underway.
- **A Sustainability** consultant has been engaged to develop sustainability targets to meet legislation requirements.
- **Environmental Studies** are well advanced. Initial aquatic report has been undertaken, paying particular attention to the corridor and aquatic life. incl water rats and platypus. Bushfire modelling is underway.

These technical, cultural and environmental processes are part of the pre-planning phase. They form an important context for the concept designs.

3. Blue Sox is hoping to hold 'drop in' consultation sessions for communities across the Southern Highlands to view the concept- designs and project information, over the coming months. Blue Sox advises the sessions will be open to all and held in Berrima itself as well as various other Southern Highlands communities. BGCG will keep you informed as we hear more about these community sessions.

Blue Sox will then lodge their application for a State Design Review.

4. WSC Strategic Manager attended our meeting. WSC hold an observer status. However, they have appointed a NSW Heritage advisor to support WSC. Our contact has been very supportive of BGCG input in the stakeholder communication process.

5. DPHI (State Planning) considers the SEARS as comprehensive and are happy with Blue Sox acknowledgement and response to the key issues Bob and I raised at the meeting.

The aim of the **BGCG** is to canvas the broader local community to understand their views of the redevelopment of Berrima Gaol and provide a communication channel between the developer and the community. At this stage BGCG is primarily focused on information gathering and understanding the timing of the key development action points and permission milestones on which we, in consultation with the community, can comment and potentially influence a positive outcome.

If you know of anyone who might be interested in receiving correspondence from the BGCG please ask them to send us an email so they can be added to our mailing list.

Please let us know if you would like to know more about the BGCG.

Cheers,

Bob & Duncan

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