



media_camera

David Armstrong was the only Ku-ring-gai councillor to vote against the council's recommendation to heritage list 75 potential items

NORTH SHORE

Residents angry after Ku-ring-gai Council identifies 75 items for potential heritage listing

Peter Theodosiou, North Shore Times

May 5, 2015 2:33pm

KU-RING-GAI Council's decision to consider 75 properties for heritage listing has some residents crying foul.

Nine out of the 10 councillors voted in favour of the motion to go forward with placing these heritage-significant items on public exhibition, before a report is prepared for the NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

The properties, in Wahroonga, Turramurra, Lindfield, East Lindfield and Pymble were originally part of a group of 92 items, which were considered for listing in 2013 but got deferred.



media_camera

Killara's Greengate Hotel is a heritage item



media_camera

Pymble's Ku-ring-gai Town Hall is also on the list

Reports dating back to 1987 had outlined their heritage significance.

Wahroonga's Matt Sexton was among a handful of residents to voice their objection to the council's process of notifying affected households.

His Wahroonga Ave house was one of those listed and he said the decision would impact negatively on his family.

"The issue was the process itself ... we weren't notified that our house, specifically, was subject to this heritage proposal.

"Everybody in the room at the council meeting felt the same thing," he said. "When we went to make a change to our laundry ... that's how we found out that it was subject to a proposal."



media_camera

Pymble's Lanosa house which is linked to the infamous opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge by protester Francis de Groot riding on a horse named Mick.(Source: KMC — Mr John Cottee)



media_camera

Cr Armstrong was the Labor candidate at the last state election

Mr Sexton's home was built in 1929 but he pointed out that 80 per cent of the structure was under 20 years old.

Should the items be heritage listed, residents would need council's permission to make "structural" alterations.

"It will impact on the value. I think it's important that there's a heritage area with guidelines to building in the context of the heritage area," Mr Sexton said. "To pick out individual houses is punitive on those people involved."



media_camera

Ku-ring-gai council request a house at 6 Caithness Street, Killara, to receive an Interim Heritage Order to stop the current owner from making changes to it.

Cr David Armstrong voted against the motion because he said it was unfair to put restrictions on residents.

“The house could have been built five years ago. To say that it looks as though it’s heritage, that’s a good enough reason for it to make the grade,” Cr Armstrong said.

“I just stood up for them because it’s a major investment of their life and to be able to come on and tell them that they can’t do this or that is not right.”

Chair of the council’s heritage committee, Cr Cheryl Szatow, said the decision to forward these items was important.

“These properties are no less important than previous ones that have been heritage listed,” she said. “We’ve had a number of independent consultants working on these over time on top of council staff.



media_camera

Ku-ring-gai Councillor, Cheryl Szatow (right)

“People talk about our heritage as being Gallipoli. Aborigines talk about their heritage as being the land. The heritage of Ku-ring-gai is the wonderful buildings.”

- Heritage items of local significance are assessed against seven criteria including historical, aesthetic, social and rarity
- The council has the responsibility to ensure that work on the heritage house is appropriate and does not reduce the significance of the place
- Most non-structural works to the interior, including replacing kitchen and bathroom cupboards, does not require approval. Structural alterations to the interior such as removing walls, opening rooms up, removal of stairs or fireplaces does require approval