

PCU51289

Submission to Independent Panel on the proposed Sutherland Shire LEP

I wish to lodge my strong objection to the proposed removal of 5 Evelyn Street Sylvania from the Heritage Schedule of Sutherland Shire LEP by way of the proposed LEP under review.

As the former Director of the NSW Heritage Office and member of Sutherland Council's Heritage Committee I have been actively involved in the conservation and management of the Shire's heritage from the earliest days of its first heritage study.

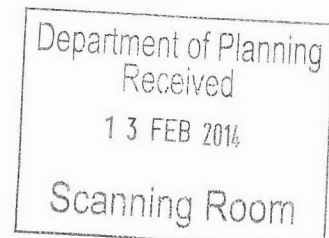
I have been pleased to see Council has consistently increased its involvement and support for heritage and heritage owners, recognising, that it is a critical component of what makes the Shire unique and adds to the quality of life and local amenity of its residents and have held them up as the template for other council's to follow.

Given the impressive track record to date I was extremely disappointed to learn that Council intends to remove one of our most significant buildings and ultimately demolish it for economic gain. In addition they have done this by stealth with no consultation or notification to the community that they have undertaken this action and the long term consequences for the building.

The cottage at 5 Evelyn Street is one of the most significant built heritage items remaining in the Shire and the only remaining physical evidence of the Holt Estate.

The house was part of the Thomas Holt Estate and was a workers house on Holt's original farm. It is at 5 Evelyn Street, Sylvania, and located near the site of Holt's mansion, Sutherland House, which was burnt down in 1918. Thomas Holt was a wealthy businessman and politician, who once owned most of the Shire. He was also Treasurer of NSW.

The original core of the building has been dated to around 1868-72 and historical evidence proves its existence in the 1870s. The only other building left in the Shire of this period is Fernleigh.



It is clearly more than locally significant and may prove on further investigation to be of State heritage significance.

As the regulatory manager of our heritage and in this case an owner of the property Council has, consistent with good management practices, an obligation to conserve this important part of the Shire's heritage.

It also has an obligation to lead by example and if 5 Evelyn Street is demolished it will set a dangerous precedent for the cumulative destruction of our Shire's heritage that current residents and future generations will not forget or forgive.

Council must seriously look at alternatives that allow the retention of the cottage while providing for some sympathetic development opportunities.

I seek the support of the Independent Panel in ensuring that this significant part of the Shire's heritage which is owned by council is retained on the Heritage Schedule of the LEP.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Reece McDougall', with a stylized, cursive script.

Reece McDougall

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