

4 November 2015

Department of Planning and Environment
Housing Land Release
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

RE: GREATER MACARTHUR LAND RELEASE

The National Trust expresses its deep concern at the impacts of planned development on heritage properties, vegetation and landscapes in the Greater Macarthur Land Release area.

The acknowledgement of heritage in the document 'Macarthur Land Release Investigation Land Use and Infrastructure Analysis' is inadequate, noting only State Heritage Register listed items. Items listed on Campbelltown Council's Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule are treated as isolated buildings with no adequate or appropriate curtilages. They are:

- Brookdale Site
- Glenlorne Group
- Humewood Forest
- Hume Monument
- Kilbride Nursing Home
- Meadowvale
- Mt Gilead Group

In 1998-2000 the Heritage Council of NSW funded the study '*Colonial Cultural Landscapes of the Cumberland Plain and Camden*' which was undertaken by the National Trust. The consultants identified a sequence of early estates and estate remnants along Appin Road as being of State significance and, when combined with Camden Park Estate, Glenlee and Menangle are arguably one of Australia's most important colonial landscapes.

The Study found that:

'The Mount Gilead estate is of exceptional importance as a cultural landscape on account of the nationally rare surviving features within it, its intactness as an estate, its collective value as part of a continuum of notable colonial properties along Appin Road... '

The study highlighted the importance of the windmill tower, and the visual connections with important vistas to and from Menangle and Camden Park.

Beulah and Meadowvale cannot be treated in isolation from one another. They have an important shared visual connection to an octagonal summerhouse on the crest of the rise between the two properties. Views out from the summerhouse are over a rural landscape that requires exceptionally sensitive management to retain and interpret its historical importance.



Sydney's water supply, the Upper Nepean Scheme –Water Supply Canal, also runs through this area and there are tracts of important native vegetation that require better protection than indicated. It is not acceptable for the land right up to the boundaries of the Water Supply Canal to be marked as 'unencumbered'.

In the 'Preliminary Strategy and Action Plan' a bus route is shown as cutting a swathe through the important cultural landscape that comprises Mt Gilead, Beulah, and Meadowvale and part of the State Heritage Register listed item Beulah is marked for dense development. This is an unacceptable level of ill-considered planning for such a significant landscape.

Although it is difficult to determine from the documentation presented, it appears that there is a potential for the link road from Spring Farm to Gilead to negatively impact on the views from Glenlee and Camden Park. This must be clarified and the road designed to avoid visual impact on heritage items.

Further south any development around St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park will also require sensitive management.

The density of development proposed implies the necessity to provide accessible open recreational space. With careful planning these areas could be sited to allow for more generous buffer zones around important heritage sites.

Yours sincerely

Graham Quint
Director - Advocacy