

**PETER WATTS, HOWARD TANNER and COLLEEN MORRIS**

Attention: NSW Government, Department of Planning and Environment

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: GREATER MACARTHUR LAND RELEASE:  
IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE MENANGLE PARK AND MOUNT  
GILEAD LAND RELEASE**

We are fully aware of the need to provide additional housing for Sydney along the major transport corridors.

Much of this area south of Campbelltown has been the subject of detailed earlier studies by the Department of Planning and Environment, the Heritage Council of NSW and the Camden Park Trust. All of these sought to protect the Nepean River valley landscape through the extension of Campbelltown's Scenic Hills south beyond Mount Annan to the east of the river. This is an area of special landscape character with key areas of remnant vegetation and also historic properties of great significance. Camden Park, arguably Australia's most significant colonial estate, and its vistas across a rural setting, will be severely affected if the planning as presently proposed is not reviewed and substantially modified.

Other key historic and natural elements in this landscape are:

- remnant areas of pre-settlement and indigenous forest
- Sydney water supply canal (Upper Nepean Scheme-Water Supply Canal)
- Camden Park estate
- Mt Gilead estate
- Glenlee
- Beulah
- Meadowvale

In providing adequate open space and recreational areas it seems entirely possible to place this along the hill tops and western slopes to the east of the Nepean River and to avoid suburban intrusions into this belt. This open space would also be designed to protect the Sydney water supply canal from adverse impacts. In addition the environs of historic houses and their curtilage deserve specific protection.

The mapping to date appears general and non-specific, and in developing the project it is essential that key existing features are clearly mapped and protected. For example Mt Gilead and its landmark mill do not appear as considerations, and part of Beulah is shown for dense development. These matters require high level and detailed consideration and resolution before the Menangle Park and Mt Gilead proposal progresses into reality.

**As an extremely rare surviving colonial landscape this area is of exceptional national significance and we intend to draw the attention of the Prime Minister to the importance of a well-resolved outcome for this special area.**

Yours faithfully,



**Peter Watts AM**

14 Rayner Street, Lilyfield, NSW, 2040

Peter Watts' appointments have included:

- Director, Historic Houses Trust of NSW
- Chairman, National Art School
- Trustee, The Bundanon Trust
- Trustee, Official Establishments Trust
- Chairman, The Johnston Collection
- Chairman, Australian Garden History Society
- Member, Civil and Administrative Tribunal of NSW
- Member, Council of Australasian Museum Directors



**Howard Tanner AM LFRAIA**

32 Henry Street, Queens Park, NSW, 2023

Howard Tanner's appointments have included:

- Chairman of the Heritage Council of NSW
- RAIA National President
- Member of the Australian Heritage Council
- Chairman of Sydney CBD Heritage Review Committee
- Chairman of the Australian Garden History Society
- Vice-President of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)



**Colleen Morris**

33-35 Ilka St, Lilyfield, NSW, 2040

Colleen Morris's appointments have included:

- National Chair of the Australian Garden History Society
- Councillor, Royal Australian Historical Society
- Deputy-Chair Landscape Conservation Committee, National Trust of Australia (NSW)

1 November, 2015

cc.

Mr Malcolm Turnbull MP  
Federal Member for Wentworth,  
Prime Minister of Australia,  
[www.pm.gov.au/contact](http://www.pm.gov.au/contact)

Ms. Lucy Turnbull AO