

Ms Ann Prendergast
General Manager
Wingecarribee Shire Council
PO Box 141
MOSS VALE NSW 2577

Attention: Ms Ellie Varga.

Dear Ms Prendergast

RE: Request for comment on Heritage Impact Statement for Historic Cricket Pitch- DA 14/0650 - 11 Edward Street Bowral.

The Heritage Division of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) received your email of 19 November 2015 requesting review of the Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) and developer response for the development application for the above property. The property, formerly part of the Anglican Church glebe paddock, is the subject site of a development application for a ten unit hospice.

Attached to your email was the following documentation:

- *'Cricket Pitch Assessment of Heritage Significance Lot 5 DP1188597 Church Street Bowral'* by Chris & Charlotte Webb PTY LTD, dated November 2015;
- Letter to Wingecarribee Shire Council from Accomplished Development Services dated 16 November 2015.

It is noted that in June 2015, the Heritage Council of NSW received a request from a member of the local community for an Interim Heritage Order for the concrete cricket pitch at 11 Edward Street Bowral. A preliminary assessment by the Heritage Division suggested that the cricket pitch, dating from 1892, may be of local heritage significance for its historic, associational, research, rarity and representative values.

As a result of these findings Wingecarribee Shire Council asked the developer to commission a heritage assessment of the cricket pitch. It is understood that an assessment has been submitted to Council and OEH is now responding to Council's request for comment on the report and the developer's proposed response.

Based on a review of the above documentation the following advice is provided:

- The Webb assessment states the historic cricket pitch is important for its Historic and Associative Significance at a local level.
- The Heritage Division also argues that the cricket pitch may also meet the threshold for 'rarity' as a brief search of the NSW heritage database for places with the name "cricket" found just 18 places in NSW that appear to have a heritage listing or some recognised significance for their associations with the game of cricket.

Of all these sites, only two LEP-listed Clarence Valley pitches are immediately comparable to Bowral as historic concrete cricket pitches located in paddocks and listed primarily because of their role in demonstrating the historic popularity of cricket in the local district. This brief analysis suggests that the Bowral concrete cricket pitch is rare, not only within Wingecarribee but within the state.

- Despite this acknowledged significance, the Webb assessment recommends that the cricket pitch may be demolished to make way for the hospice building, recommending that it be recorded “fully”, however a preference is expressed that some of it be kept in-situ with appropriate interpretation.
- Based on the above, the Heritage Division recommends that Wingecarribee Shire Council consider adding the historic cricket pitch to the heritage schedule of its LEP and request the developer to reconsider plans for the hospice so that the construction of the building does not require the destruction of all or most of the locally significant historic cricket pitch.

If you have further inquiries regarding this matter please contact Bronwyn Hanna, Listings, Metropolitan Region, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage on (02) 9873 8585 or bronwyn.hanna@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski
Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division

23/11/2015