
8.4 Draft Community Heritage Study - Revised Timeline for Independent Peer Review

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an updated timeline on the Independent Peer Review of the draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council note the revised proposed timeline for public exhibition of the peer-reviewed draft Study in accordance with Council's Resolutions dated 13 December 2023 and 21 February 2024.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

A detailed report was provided to Council on 21 February 2024 in relation to the appointment of a consultant to undertake an independent peer review of the draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study 2021-2023.

That report outlined the methodology of the independent peer review and proposed a timeline for public exhibition of the peer reviewed draft Study. That report also outlined the Local Planning Panel's advice to endorse the proposed timeline for public exhibition in accordance with Council resolution dated 13 December 2023.

REPORT

The Council report of 21 February 2024 provided a detailed outline of the independent peer review of the draft Community Heritage Study, including methodology for operationalising the peer review, defining its scope, proposed timeline, deliverables and recommendation.

The Local Planning Panel's advice of 24 January 2024 was as follows:

The Panel endorses the proposed timeline for public exhibition of the peer-reviewed draft Study in accordance with Council resolution dated 13 December 2023.

Council resolved the following at the Council Meeting of 21 February 2024:

THAT Council:

- 1. Note the update on the appointment of the Consultant to undertake the independent Peer Review of the draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study 2021-23.*
- 2. The proposed timeline for public exhibition of the peer-reviewed draft Study in accordance with Council's Resolution dated 13 December 2023 be the subject of a further report to the March 2024 meeting noting the delegation in place.*

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3. Allocate \$22,000 at the next quarterly budget review to fund the heritage peer review.

This report responds to Item 2 of Council resolution of 21 February 2024 to provide a revised **proposed timeline** for public exhibition of the peer reviewed draft Study, utilising delegations provided to the General Manager as resolved by Council on 13 December 2023.

It is noted that on 13 December 2023, Council resolved to provide delegations (Item 5 below) to the General Manager in relation to the public exhibition of the peer reviewed draft Heritage Study, as follows:

THAT:

1. Council receive and note the report and Council Officer's play no further role in the matter.
2. Council support the option for peer review of the Community Heritage Study and all submissions received in response to the public consultation process with the view to the final Heritage Study and Planning Proposal being submitted to the NSW Department Planning Department for Gateway determination no later 30 June 2024.
3. The cost for the independent peer review of the Community Heritage Study and exhibition of same by a suitably qualified heritage contractor reporting directly to the General Manager be considered as part of the December budget quarterly review.
4. In relation to point 2, it will be necessary for the General Manager to prepare a timeline for public exhibition of the final draft study for consideration by both the Planning Panel and Council.
5. The General Manager be delegated authority to place the draft Community Heritage Study, post peer review on public exhibition.

REVISED TIMELINE TO PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The following revised proposed timeline is recommended for adoption, utilising all delegations provided to the General Manager in preceding Council resolutions. The peer-reviewed draft Study will proceed directly from the Local Planning Panel to public exhibition for 28 days. Following public exhibition, a further report would be prepared for the Local Planning Panel and Council to consider the draft Study for adoption through the Gateway Determination process.

The revised proposed timeline utilises all delegations provided to the General Manager on 13 December 2023 and responds to the 21 February 2024 Council resolution requesting a **further report to March 2024 Council meeting noting the delegations in place.**

Timeframe	Milestone
22 January 2024	Peer Review initiated with independent consultant
15 May 2024	Peer Review Finalised
15 May 2024	Consultant presents peer review outcomes to LPP
29 May 2024	Extraordinary Local Planning Panel (LPP) considers peer reviewed draft Heritage Study
30 May 2024	General Manager places peer-reviewed draft Study on public exhibition for 28 days
30 June 2024	Public exhibition concludes
17 or 31 July 2024	Extraordinary LPP considers outcomes of public exhibition and makes recommendations to proceed to Gateway Determination

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Timeframe	Milestone
7 August 2024	Council considers outcomes of peer review and LPP advice and considers proceeding to Gateway Determination

The revised timeline proposes to commence public exhibition on 30 May 2024 under delegations provided to the General Manager, rather than 19 June 2024 via a further Council resolution. The nature of LPP and Council meetings, making provision for planned extraordinary meetings and time for professional officers to prepare reports on the public exhibition outcomes, means the final milestone of 7 August 2024 remains unchanged.

Submission of the peer-reviewed Heritage Study for Gateway Determination on 8 August 2024, subject to Council resolution on 7 August 2024, is the ultimate milestone.

It has been consistently noted in previous reports to Council on 13 December 2023 and 21 February 2024 that the timeframes involving the draft Heritage Study independent peer review and pathway to Gateway Determination are very ambitious, given the known complexity of heritage matters.

Nonetheless, the revised proposed timelines of this Report are reliant on all milestones being completed on time. No further options or contingencies are known at this time.

COMMUNICATION AND CONSULTATION

Community Engagement

A community update on the independent peer review of the draft Heritage Study has been provided to the community on various platforms, including via Council's e-news, emails, letters, a media release and Council reports.

Internal Communication and Consultation

N/A

External Communication and Consultation

A community update on the independent peer review of the draft Heritage Study has been provided to the community on various platforms, including via Council's e-news, emails, letters, a media release and Council Agenda Reports.

SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT

Environment

There are no environmental issues in relation to this report.

Social

There are no social issues in relation to this report.

Broader Economic Implications

There are no broader economic implications in relation to this report.

Culture

There are no cultural issues in relation to this report.

Governance

There are no governance issues in relation to this report.

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COUNCIL BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Budget implications were resolved at the Council Meeting of 21 February 2024 to allocate \$22,000 for the independent peer review. The consultant has been appointed and all procurement processes have been completed. No further budget implications are proposed or expected.

RELATED COUNCIL POLICY

N/A

CONCLUSION

The revised timeline for public exhibition of the peer-reviewed draft Study is recommended for adoption by Council.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil