

Camden Residents' Action Group

Incorporated

Camden – Still a Country Town

Website: <http://www.crag.org.au/>

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Heritage Council of NSW
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Parramatta NSW 2124
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8 August 2017

Dear Heritage Council,

Re: Varro Ville Homestead (SHR No. 00737) curtilage

We reference the resolution of the Heritage Council meeting of 5 July 2017 to give notice of intention to list a revision and extension to the curtilage of Varro Ville Homestead located in the Scenic Hills between Camden and Campbelltown.

This letter is to wholeheartedly support the curtilage extension.

The Scenic Hills area, fast becoming a green island surrounded by urbanisation, is a continual target for developers despite its importance as a visual backdrop and environmental asset to the people of NSW and as a wildlife corridor connecting Western Sydney Parklands through to and beyond the Mount Annan Botanical Gardens.

The latest proposal by the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (CMCT) to develop a cemetery is incompatible with the open space and rural character of the Hills and the area surrounding Varro Ville homestead. The community is repeatedly called to battle against would-be developers of the Scenic Hills although their ecological, environmental and scenic importance is acknowledged and recognised in planning instruments. For instance development in the Scenic Hills contradicts the Greater Sydney Commission Draft South

West District Plan which includes protecting the area's 'majestic and largely pastoral landscape rich with Aboriginal and European cultural significance' through statutory controls¹.

The Varro Ville Homestead on 8 acres is state listed but the Statements of Significance refer to elements and agricultural features in the surrounding landscape intrinsic to its importance that absolutely need to be protected by capture within its curtilage. We believe that private land owners should be urged to appreciate the value of environmental protection of this iconic landscape.

It is our view that it is in the interests of the residents of south west Sydney, the people of NSW and future generations that the curtilage of Varro Ville be extended as far as possible.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenda Davis".

Glenda Davis

President

Camden Residents' Action Group Inc

Ph: 0415 617 368

¹ Greater Sydney Commission SW District Draft Plan November 2016 pp. 9, 130