

Camden Residents' Action Group (Crag) Inc

Public Address: ORD 011 Business Paper 25 October 2016ⁱ

Camden Residents' Action Group, which was formed in 1973, would like to welcome the new Council and looks forward to forming a collegial and consultative working relationship with them.

We would like to support Councillor Cindy Cagney's motion of recommendation at Item 11 that a Heritage Protection Sub-Committee be established as a 355 committee of Camden Council, and that it be comprised of a variety of representatives including from the community and independent heritage experts.

Many of the current Councillors in their recent election campaigns expressed an appreciation for Camden's history, heritage, and rural vistas and the importance of their conservation whilst managing the very fast growth and economic development throughout the municipality. A 355 committee would facilitate that aim, as well as providing an important voice for the community in an area that it is very passionate about.

Councillors would be well aware that unfortunately the previous Council term saw an unprecedented divergence between the views of a voting majority on Council and

- the residential community's views about Camden's long history;
- the business community's views on the economic competitive advantages of the old town's heritage;
- the views of independent leading experts on Camden's heritage significance.

This divergence of views resulted in some contentious outcomes for heritage based on what the community saw as a lack of understanding of our heritage, and a lack of consultation with Camden's long standing community. A 355 Committee would promote a respectful and trusting relationship between the community and Council and be a win-win situation for both.

An example of the case in point for the establishment of the Committee is the DA for 7 Park Street carried over tonight from the last term of Council. It is assumed that new Councillors will have visited the site and imagined for themselves how day surgery activities on a narrow residential lot would affect the amenity of residents and the community's use of the iconic cultural and social hubs of St John's Church, its glebe lands and Macarthur Park, especially through associated traffic, uncontrolled parking and attendant noise.

The Report to Council, probably following the previous Council's decision to review heritage protections, concentrates on how the proposed new "building" would sit with other heritage buildings in Park Street. By taking this approach various objections are dismissed in terms of legalistic zoning "uses" without addressing the elephant in the room of degradation of "sense of place" and heritage significance as addressed in the heritage protections of Section B3 of the DCP.

No reference is made in the Report to how community uses within the fabric of the neighbourhood represent Camden's renowned social and cultural history.

Indeed the report states "The proposed Medical Centre is adjacent to single dwellings, which are prohibited in the B4 zone". There is no mention of impingement on the rights of residents to quietly enjoy their properties, as have generations of Camden's families within the town or the rights of the community and visitors to appreciate an intact piece of our early Australian history.

There are many more practical sites for day surgery activities outside the small heritage conservation area, but there is only one unique Macarthur town.

A 355 Committee could provide the holistic understanding and deeper insight needed for input into Reports, and for any decisions that impact on the heritage value of our historically unique area. The community sincerely hopes Councillors will support the recommendation.

ⁱ **ORD 11**

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF MOTION - HERITAGE PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

FROM: Cr Cagney

TRIM #: 16/300825

"I, Councillor Cindy Cagney, hereby give notice of my intention to move the following at the Council Meeting of 25 October 2016:

That a Heritage Protection Sub-Committee be established as a 355 committee of Camden Council, and that the committee be made up of: Councillor representatives, Community representatives, Independent Heritage experts and representatives from local Historical Groups and other appropriate organisations.

That a report outlining possible frameworks for the committee, as well as information relating to the functions of similar committees in other Local Government Areas, be prepared for Council's deliberation."

RECOMMENDED

That:

- i. a Heritage Protection Sub-Committee be established as a 355 committee of Camden Council, and that the committee be made up of: Councillor representatives, Community representatives, Independent Heritage experts and representatives from local Historical Groups and other appropriate organisations;**
- ii. a report outlining possible frameworks for the committee, as well as information relating to the functions of similar committees in other Local Government Areas, be prepared for Council's deliberation.**