

General Manager,
Ku-ring-gai Council,
Locked Bag 1056,
Pymble NSW 2073

15 May 2015

Dear Mr McKee,

**Reference No S10099:
Middle Harbour Road, Lindfield - Potential Heritage Conservation Area Review**

FOKE fully supports the recommendations of the report by Perumal Murphy Alessi (PMA) on the Potential Heritage Conservation Area Review of the Middle Harbour Road precinct in Lindfield in terms of protecting a highly significant area of late 19th and early 20th century housing and garden stock within Ku-ring-gai.

As part of Council's Strategic Plan with regard to Places, Spaces and Infrastructure, Council has a stated objective of delivering "Strategies, Plans and Processes to effectively protect and preserve Ku-ring-gai's heritage assets." As such Council is responsible for the identification and management of Ku-ring-gai's local environmental heritage, and ensuring that gaps in existing listings are corrected.

The Middle Harbour Road Precinct is one such gap. Middle Harbour Road has historically been classified as a Heritage Conservation Listing due to its high proportion of intact building examples from the Federation and Interwar years.

The current omission of this area as a Heritage Conservation Area within the latest LEPs requires immediate rectification in order to preserve an area which the PMA study rightfully states "*is of local historic and aesthetic significance as a good and largely intact residential precinct characterised by streetscapes of good, high quality examples of single detached houses primarily from the Federation and Inter-war period with some good examples of mid to late 20th century dwellings.*"

Furthermore the report continues to state its significance as "*the built context is enhanced by the street proportions and character, street plantings and garden settings including remnant and planted native trees, creek line and neighbouring reserve areas.*"

As the Middle Harbour Road precinct is part of the Dering's Clanville Estate it remains historically important as an example of this period of development, not just to Ku-ring-gai but also to Sydney. As Clanville Road and Chelmsford Avenue, also part of this earlier Estate, are included as a Heritage Conservation Area, though with a lesser number of significant housing examples from the era, Middle Harbour Road should undoubtedly be also included within this HCA.

Though the report states that though some redevelopment has occurred, to date the area retains its early subdivision and streetscape pattern of heritage significance. In order to protect the Middle Harbour Road precinct from further encroachment on its heritage value to Ku-ring-gai, and in accordance with Council's stated heritage protection strategies, it is essential that this area be listed as a Heritage Conservation Area without further delay.

One of the most significant aspects of this report is the extremely high percentage of homes which the report by PMA states are contributing to the overall significance of the area. Approximately 90% are deemed of contributing significance.

FOKE not only supports the listing of this important area as a Heritage Conservation Area, but also encourages Council to act immediately in order to limit any further degradation of the significance of the area while meeting Council's responsibility of managing and protection Ku-ring-gai's local environmental heritage.

Yours Sincerely,

Kathy Cowley,
President

cc Mayor and Councillors