

The General Manager
Ku-ring-gai Council
Attention: Rathna Rana
rrana@krq.nsw.gov.au
krq@krq.nsw.gov.au

22 November, 2022

Dear Rathna

RE: Planning Proposal Headfort House 95 Stanhope Road Killara

We write in full support of the Planning Proposal to heritage list Headfort House, 95 Stanhope Road Killara.

We have read the Planning Proposal put forward by Ku-ring-gai Council, the heritage study prepared by GML in 2017 and the heritage assessment review by Claudine Loffi, Specialist Heritage Planner, Ku-ring-gai Council.

We believe Headfort House and its immediate curtilage should be listed as local heritage item on Ku-ring-gai's Local Environmental Plan (2015) and that any planning proposal for 95 Stanhope Road Killara include this local heritage listing.

We understand that the assessment review concluded that "'Headfort House" building, interiors and grounds' satisfied six criteria of local heritage significance for listing as a heritage item on Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan.

Three criteria were recommended by GML Heritage in the 2017 study of Headfort House based on historic, association and social significance, with the addition of aesthetic, rarity and representative significance following additional information that council has sourced.

We understand only one of seven potential criteria of local heritage significance needs to be satisfied to meet the Heritage Council listing threshold.

We understand that Headfort House is locally significant as:

1. A largely intact Inter-War School building in its original setting dating from 1917 -1921
2. A good example of Old English Inter War style architecture which was adapted during and following World War 1.
3. A building that has significant associations with important people including Reverend Robert Thompson Wade who was the founder and headmaster of Headfort School from 1917 -1928.
4. Prime Minister John Gorton was a student of the school.
5. The site was the state's first training base for the Australian Army for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War 1.
6. The site was used as a tuberculosis hospital for the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary for a number of years. Since that time the site has continued providing health care through Lourdes Hospital and for the last few years since the 1980's as a Retirement Village and Nursing Home.

2016 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED
2009 NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE AWARDS HIGHLY COMMENDED
2008 NSW GOVERNMENT HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS AWARD
2000 FOKE, WINNER, NSW HERITAGE OFFICE CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION AWARD
"HERITAGE WATCH OVER OUR PLACE OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE -KU-RING-GAI"
KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL COUNCIL (NSW) METRO PRIDE AWARDS.

7. The surviving building has for the last 75 years contributed to social and community welfare in a variety of uses from schooling children, to World War 11 training, to hospitals, nursing home care and retirement housing.
8. The site has an important association with significant changes in the role of women in Australian society and military during the mid-twentieth century.

We fully support the objective of Ku-ring-gai Council's planning proposal that “ *is to enable formal recognition and protection of the significance of Headfort House and associated curtilage through its listing as a local heritage item under the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015. A statutory heritage listing of this potential heritage item will ensure any future redevelopment and modification proposals are assessed against heritage provisions in the KLEP 2015. The listing will, importantly, provide the required mechanisms to enable the ongoing conservation of the item and its value in this location.*”

We attach a copy of the article written by Carolyn Darby of the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society “ Lourdes Retirement Village – A History of the Site”, The Historian, Volume 44.1, pages 86-91,93 which documents the history of the site known today as Lourdes Retirement Village.

We look forward to Council listing Headfort House as a local heritage item under the KLEP 2015.

We thank council for the opportunity to support the Planning Proposal.

Yours faithfully

Kathy Cowley

Kathy Cowley
PRESIDENT

Cc Mayor and Councillors Ku-ring-gai Council
Cc the Hon Jonathan O'Dea MP Member for Davidson
Cc The Hon Alister Henskens SC MP Member for Ku-ring-gai
Cc The Hon Paul Fletcher MP Member for Bradfield