

Associate Director of Environmental Impact Assessment
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13 October 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: ADDENDUM REF KILLARA STATION UPGRADE

I would like to thank the project team for contacting Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc (FOKE) again regarding the Killara Station Upgrade proposals and the Addendum REF.

I provided comments to the amendments at the 15th September online meeting with the project team regarding concerns about the bulk and visual impact of the proposed deflection walls on the heritage item.

Following the discussion about the amended plans at our meeting this week, the committee have asked me to write to the team with respect to Addendum REF and its adverse impacts on the heritage listed Killara Station.

FOKE finds it extraordinary that TfNSW failed to include any consideration of safety in its original engineering design of the station upgrade to achieve compliance with *Australian Standard 5100 Bridge Design*.

We are concerned had the plans been executed correctly, safety measures could have been incorporated into the design sympathetic to the heritage values of the site.

FOKE wishes to express its deep concern regarding the recent proposed amendment to Killara Railway Station because it will destroy Killara Railway Station's heritage values as identified in the Heritage Act Section 170 [State Heritage Inventory](#) in regard to:

- a) The proposed deflection walls will detrimentally visually impact the heritage item both from the garden/landscape setting and the aesthetic qualities of the heritage item and will permanently and adversely impact the heritage railway garden precinct.
- b) Destroying the historical, aesthetic and social significance of Killara Railway Station's Gardens. Killara Railway Gardens were renowned for winning prestigious Railway Stations Gardens Competitions in the 20th Century as well as photographs of the gardens being on the cover of many Sydney metropolitan railway timetables. To this day Killara Railway Gardens remain one of the most important and intact railway gardens in the Sydney metropolitan region.
- c) Potentially adversely impact on the State Heritage listed Gordon Railway Station whose aesthetic values are linked to the view lines seen from its overhead bridge towards Killara Railway Station.

- d) We wish to reiterate the history of the gardens and whether Killara Railway Gardens were designed by renowned gardener Professor E.G. Waterhouse, particularly as his brother Dr Gustavas Athol Waterhouse lived in close proximity to Killara Railway Station and Professor E.G. Waterhouse was involved in the garden design of Gordon Railway Station.

FOKE has a long history of protecting the heritage values of Ku-ring-gai's railway stations including:

- Ensuring the design and construction of the new lifts and access arrangements at Gordon Railway Station were sympathetic to the State Heritage values of the station in 2004.
- Preserving and replanting the heritage camellia hedge mature specimens of *Camellia hiemalis* Kanjiro (Hiryu), planted by the renowned gardener Professor Waterhouse E.G. Waterhouse during the 1950s. FOKE's work is acknowledged and commemorated by a plaque at Gordon Station:

These mature specimens of Camellia hiemalis Kanjiro Hiryu were originally planted here in the 1930s-1940s to the landscape design of eminent camellia expert and linguistics professor, E.G. Waterhouse.

Sydney Trains partnered with the local community and the Ku-ring-gai Council to save and replant this historical camellia hedge and salvage and reinstate the significant stone edge during the New Canopy works on Platform 1 in 2018.

- Running guided heritage walks highlighting Ku-ring-gai's railway heritage. FOKE's National Trust Heritage Festival walk 'Butterflies, Camellias & Blue Gums Walk' (13 May, 2018) highlighted the relationship between Killara Railway Station and its landscaped gardens and Dr Gustavas Athol Waterhouse (1877–1950) the brother of Professor E.G. Waterhouse and whose home and garden 'Allowrie' (1905) in nearby Stanhope Road was a pioneer butterfly garden. Sadly the garden no longer exists but his brother Professor E.G. Waterhouse's nearby Gordon home and garden remains one of Sydney's most significant heritage houses and gardens.

As such FOKE calls on NSW Transport to defer to the NSW Heritage Council for advice on protecting these important and significant heritage values of Killara Railway Station.

Yours faithfully

Kathy Cowley

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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