

12 April 2021

**Subject: Response to concerns raised by various members of the Castlecrag community in relation to Item 15.13 listed on Council Agenda 12 April 2021**

**Item 15.13: Outcome of Public Exhibition and Adoption of the Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management and Landscape Plan**

Following are responses to the concerns raised by various members of the Castlecrag community in relation to Item 15.13 listed on tonight's Council Agenda.

As there were similar themes, I have grouped them accordingly.

**Re-categorisation of Haven land**

Under the *Griffin Reserves Plan of Management 2016*, the site had multiple categories as follows:

- Area of Cultural Significant
- Natural Area – Watercourse
- Natural Area – Bushland
- General Community Use

Overall, the categories have remained the same and have no impact on the future development of a stage and storeroom.

It appears the main concern is that there are two distinct 'General Community Use' areas separated by the creek 'Natural Area – Watercourse' on the plan and that this may impact on the future development of a new stage.

The category 'Natural Area – Watercourse' was already assigned to the creek area in the *Griffin Reserve Plan of Management 2016* when the DA was approved in 2017. However, it was not mapped in the *Griffin Reserve Plan of Management 2016*.

The current DA for the new stage upholds creek protection in its design considerations as the creek site is assessed as Integrated Development under the *EP&A Act 1979*. Should any alternative stage design be considered, the same creek protections would apply.

**Plan of Management (POM)**

The categorisation of the site reflects the results of the Public Hearing and the community submissions which did not support a change to the multiple categories of the site, as listed in the *Griffin Reserves Plan of Management 2016*. As mentioned earlier, **there is no change to the categorisation of the site. It is just that they are now mapped on the Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management.**

The *Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management* works in concert with the *Griffin Reserves Plan of Management 2016*, which is the primary management document for the collective Griffin Reserves. The Haven is a site of significance within the Griffin Reserves. There are elements to the Haven that are unique and therefore a stand-alone Plan of Management recognises the importance of the site and its requirements.

The *Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management* includes the consideration raised by some community submissions to seek 'reasonable and viable alternative designs for the stage reconstruction'. Section 6 - Figure 5 of the *Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management* provides for a new performance space being created by the following means:

- Implementing the Landscape Plan- to create low key level sandstone terraces within the bushland setting, and
- Building the stage replacement/storeroom, accessible ramps, terrace and associated works in accord with DA 2016/283, or
- By modifying the DA 2016/ 283

### **Landscape Plan**

**The Landscape Plan is considered interim improvement works to provide better access and use of the site by the community, and does not impede the development of a stage.**

The plan provides the following details:

- the objectives of the plan
- the proposed actions
- a legend explaining the plan graphics

It is consistent with other Landscape Plans and Park Master Plans presented to and approved by Council. The estimate for the proposed work is \$70K as mentioned on page 157 of the Council Agenda.

Both the *Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management* and the Landscape Plan were placed on public exhibition from 1 October – 23 November 2020 and feedback was received as recorded in the Community Consultation Summary at Attachment 4.

### **Heritage Near Me Activation Grant**

The 2017 grant from Heritage NSW was for the Heritage Near Me Activation Program. The maximum grant available was \$100k which Council received. However the total estimate for the stage replacement works was \$1.3M (2017 estimates by a QS) therefore Council's grant application focussed on the use of the grant for the western terrace restoration and access work.

Heritage NSW have recently provided approval for Council to use \$70K of the grant on the implementation of the Landscape Plan. Subject to Council adoption of the Landscape Plan, these funds can be expended by December 2021.

In respect to using the funds to 'investigate other design alternatives for the stage', this is not consistent with the Grant Guidelines.

**Given the delay in expending the grant funds since 2017, any further delays or deferrals will result in the requirement to return all funds.**

The Department have indicated that information in regards to proposed plans, must be provided by 1 May 2021 in order for the reduced funding to be retained.

Subject to Council adoption of the Landscape Plan, it is intended that Officers will work with local community groups to integrate their advice and suggestions regarding activities and events that their group might organise and host at The Haven Amphitheatre in the future.

In response to the submission from the CPA, the following amendments can be made to the *Haven Amphitheatre Plan of Management* without the requirement to re-exhibit as they do not alter the intent of the document.

- Include the prior ownership of the Haven site by Marion Mahony Griffin and her Deed of Gift under Section 2.1 Land Ownership
- The removal of the word 'alternately' from Figure 5-A City that is liveable- middle column. This clarifies that the Landscape Plan can be implemented without compromising a future stage replacement.

Regards

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