

6 June 2022

Molly Porter Strategic Planner
Georges River Council
PO Box 205
Hurstville BC NSW 1481

By email: mporter@georgesriver.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Porter,

Re: Planning Proposal for Glenlee, 80 Boronia Parade LUGARNO (public exhibition SF22/1780)

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) wishes to express its strong support for the Georges River Council Planning Proposal to list the whole of the site at No. 80 Boronia Parade Lugarno (Lot 1 DP10359) (also known as "Glenlee") as a local heritage item in Schedule 5 Environmental heritage of the Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021. We note that the Planning Proposal does not seek to amend the zoning, FSR, height nor any other LEP provisions relating to the Site.

As you are aware, the National Trust listed the *Lugarno Early Settler Cultural Landscape* (80 Boronia Parade and 3A Brewer Place, Lugarno) on the National Trust (NSW) Register in April 2020. Located on the eastern edge of the Lugarno Peninsula, on the foreshores of Boggywell Creek (Lime Kiln Bay) and opposite Lime Kiln Head (Oatley Park), the listing records that the site:

- *Has historic significance for its association with the early settler families, the Heinrich, Matthei and Chislett families and the strong surviving evidence of their occupation and works.*
- *The Cultural Landscape has historic significance for its evidence of the use of Georges River as a transport route in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century for local residents and businesses and the survival of the wharves, boatshed and the MV Edelweiss (movable heritage).*
- *The Cultural Landscape has historic significance because of the presence of rare Aboriginal rock engravings on the Matthei property.*
- *The Heinrich Reserve and large areas of remnant native vegetation on the Matthei property have natural heritage significance.*
- *The Cultural Landscape has aesthetic significance for its scenic character and views to and from the Georges River and Lime Kiln Bay.*
- *Both the Heinrich Reserve and the Matthei property have research potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Lugarno's cultural and natural history.*

The National Trust has long felt that the fact that the Glenlee property was not listed on the Hurstville LEP 2012 was an anomaly, and this is made apparent when it is considered that on the northern side of the site, two items identified in Schedule 5 of the Hurstville LEP 2012 were listed, including item I61, "The Hermitage" at 1 Bayside Drive, and "Woodcliffe" at 12 Woodcliff Parade.



The *Hurstville Heritage Inventory* identifies “The Hermitage” as one of the oldest houses in Lugarno. It is a sandstone house completed in 1892 and has heritage significance because it is “associated with The Chislett family, a local family of flower growers who transported their goods to Como by launch and from there into the city by train to be sold at Searls in King Street and Miss Birmingham’s in Oxford Street.”

“Woodcliffe” is the oldest remaining house in Lugarno, and the first house to be built of brick in Lugarno. The *Hurstville Heritage Inventory* identifies that Adolph Heinrich purchased the property on 4th May, 1900, and that:

“the property was developed with the aid of friends and employees... a road from Forest Road down to the house was built. A workshop, stables and boatshed were build, and later an orchard and garden with rockeries and stone paths. Some of these are now in the Bayside Drive Reserve, and beside some stone steps the inscription 'Adolph Heinrich 1900' may be seen.”

“Glenlee”, the historic home on the subject site of this proposal, was built in 1910 after the property was purchased by the Matthei family. Together with “Woodcliffe” and “The Hermitage”, it forms a key element of the historic significance of the site and in itself contributes to the significance of these other two listed heritage items.

Conclusion

The “Glenlee” property is the only one of the three above mentioned properties with the majority of its original land, setting, structures and river connection intact. It is of historic, social, environmental and cultural significance. This site is unique, and Council’s rigorous assessment has properly considered and identified the values that it has.

While heritage listing is in many instances equated with protecting the past, the listing of Glenlee on the *Georges River Local Environmental Plan 2021* will be a key move towards protecting the future of this unique and special place.

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) fully support this proposal, and congratulate Georges River Council on the actions it has taken to date on this matter, including making an Interim Heritage Order on the site, and supporting the State Listing of Lot 1 DP 10359 Boronia Parade, Lugarno.

Yours sincerely,

David Burdon
Director, Conservation