
Sent: 3/07/2020 2:40:41 PM
Subject: Submission for DA2020/0484

ATT: Lashta Haidari

RE: DA2020/0484

I have been unable to make a [second] submission even though it was indicated that submissions could be placed up until today. In fact there is one submission dated yesterday.

Please accept the following submission and I look forward to Council's responses.

Thanking you

Beth Robertson

Submission 2

FRENCHS FOREST BUSHLAND CEMETERY

Development Application

Application Number: DA2020/0484

Beth Robertson

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12 Poate Place

Davidson

NSW 2085

Re: Preservation of heritage items on the Frenchs Forest Bushland Cemetery site

This list of **movable and static items** are of heritage and historic value to the community and must be retained throughout the major development works at the cemetery. The following are noted in the supplementary documents and not significant for the present DA application for the building of the new chapel, refurbishment of the present chapel and the proposed utilities block.

The **Manager's house** [*Contamination Assessment*, p.15, 6.1 and *Geotechnical Report*, p.5] Preservation of the sandstone around the site should be retained.

Eucalyptus Avenue trees [REF: *Master Plan*, p.27] These should be preserved as they are as an historic aspect of the site as they were planted by locals on Arbor Day in 1939. No other plantings should be introduced along this laneway as indicated in the *suggested* photographs section of the DA application.

The avenue of **historically significant Cyprus trees** along the eastern border of Catholic Lawn should be retained as they are remnants of early plantings. These evergreens were chosen for their superstitious and symbolic virtues relating to burial ground planning when the cemetery was gazetted.

Grevillea Caleyi [*Biodiversity Report*, p.51] was found in the central bush area in the 1990s [Ryde TAFE Horticultural studies group report] There is no mention in the application about the possible contamination of this endangered plant. [Ref: *Master Plan*, pp.10, 28, and *Contamination Assessment*, Threatened species, p.64, *Arborist Report*, p.8, 5.3.3] The above TAFE report should be considered.

Brush tailed rock wallaby was recorded as not being in or near the cemetery. Views of this wallaby are almost daily at dawn or dusk and this is a significant mascot for the cemetery. [*Biodiversity Report*, p.63] and the *Powerful Owl* is native to the adjacent Garigal National Park with frequent sightings by locals. [*Biodiversity Report*, p.70]

The 1940s-1950s dam remnants located on Kanooka Way were not mentioned in any of the DA documents. This is an important local relic as it was the water supply for the area in the 1940s and 1950s. Preservation of this historic site is paramount. [Ref; *Master Plan*, p.15, and *Contamination Assessment*, p.12 and *Geotechnical Report*, p.5]. Will this be preserved?

Historic bush track- The track from the eastern border of the vault section, up to Bush Memorial Garden F is a significant historic landmark and still has remains of the staircase and track. It does pass through the Aboriginal section of the cemetery, but as it was a significant thoroughfare up until 1990, it should be recognised and appropriately preserved, albeit not for public use. [*Contamination Assessment*, p.66]

Why is the walkway to be called the **CASCADES walkway** along Kandooka Way as this detracts from the historic area in the Garigal National Park named the Cascades. [Ref: *Master Plan*, p.14]

The **Cascades Walkway** will cover some of the area where over 700 [many unnamed] pre-term and stillborn babies were buried until early 1980s. Has this been considered?

Contamination Assessment p.10- 4.3.1 details **human interaction** on the site. There was no mention of local walkers and exercising school students. There are community well used bush tracks offering access to the cemetery adjacent to **General Lawn** and the above ground crypts from Kambora Avenue. There are two other entry points of importance, one from Ashworth Avenue the other from Hakea Avenue. Are these to be preserved or upgraded?

The **sandstone plinth** [With *Advance Australia Fair*] at the front gate on Kanooka Way must be preserved for its beauty and relevance to the bushland character of the cemetery.

The **sandstone sign** with the cemetery name near to Kanooka Way gate must be retained in a prominent location as it is of heritage value and recognisable to locals.

The **multiple interpretive signage** in the form of sandstone rocks with photographs and text must be preserved as they add interest and interpret the history of the cemetery for walkers and visitors.

The white/ sandstone stairs and flowerpots on the Dianella/ Kanooka/ Callistemon and Eucalyptus streets adjoining the Catholic Lawn and General monumental are historically significant and should be preserved and in some cases restored appropriately.

The original brick fence facing Hakea Avenue is of heritage significance and should be preserved.

Internally the **Honour Board** in the board room must be preserved as a true record of the trust members and managers since the inception of the cemetery.

The large **tree log** with the cemetery name is of heritage value and should be retained.

Beth Robertson