

22 September 2014

Mr Saman Liyanaarachchi  
Project Manager  
Roads and Maritime Services  
90 Crown Street  
Wollongong NSW 2500

Dear Saman

**Interpretation Plan for G2B H11 "Glen Devon" for the proposed ancillary facilities,  
Princes Highway Upgrade Foxground and Berry Bypass**  
Project no. 17911

This letter considers the requirement to undertake further interpretative works associated with G2B H11 "Glen Devon" in accordance with the Conditions of Approval (CoA) received by Roads and Maritime Services (Roads and Maritime) on 22 July 2013 (Application# MP10\_0240). Specifically, the requirement to interpret G2B H11 was outlined in CoA B17 which stated that the proponent should "*provide for the preparation and implementation of a heritage interpretation plan*".

Biosis believes that G2B H11 does not warrant further heritage interpretation. This letter acts as a statement to this effect and a justification for this position.

### **Project Background**

Roads and Maritime is proposing to relocate G2B H11 from its current location at 76 North Street, Berry to an alternative location within Berry. Biosis has been engaged to consider the need to develop a separate heritage interpretation plan for G2B H11 based on the results of the following reports:

- Navin Officer Heritage Consultants. 2013. *'Glen Devon' Cultural Heritage Assessment Documentary and Physical Investigation Supplementary Investigation*. Report prepared for Roads and Maritime Services.<sup>1</sup>
- Biosis. 2014. *Foxground and Berry Bypass: Archaeological Investigation Report*. Report prepared for Roads and Maritime Services.

During the exhibition of the environmental assessment submissions were received by government agencies and the local community which raised the possibility that G2B H11 could date to the 1870s and have a greater degree of significance. As a result NOHC were commissioned to undertake a further assessment of G2B H11 which identified that G2B H11 is an Edwardian style cottage most likely erected prior to 1894 by Mrs Mabel Dawson after she purchased freehold title to the land and found that the item was of local heritage significance. As a result NOHC recommended that G2B H11 be subject to archival recording and archaeological salvage, however repositioning of the item was not a requirement, although Roads and Maritime has opted to undertake this.

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<sup>1</sup> NOHC 2013

Biosis has undertaken archival recordings and archaeological investigations at G2B H11. The archaeological investigations did not identify any archaeological structures or deposits of significance.<sup>2</sup>

## Methodology

This report has been prepared through a review of the aforementioned documents in order to ascertain the applicability of further interpretation in accordance with the following policies and procedures:

- Australia ICOMOS. 2013. *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*.
- NSW Heritage Office. 2005. *Heritage Information Series: Interpreting Heritage Places and Items Guidelines*.
- Australia ICOMOS. 2013. *Practice Note: Interpretation*.

This letter summarises the following information in order to justify Biosis' position that no further interpretation is required for G2B H11; specifically, a discussion of the key attributes of the heritage item, its significance and a discussion of the purposes of interpretation and their applicability to G2B H11.

## Statement of Significance

The following statement of significance was formulated by NOHC 2013:

*Glen Devon was constructed at the turn of the Twentieth Century (between 1890 and 1915); it is locally important in terms of the pattern of land settlement, acquisition and transferral. Furthermore, during its early history it was occupied by Mrs Mabel Dawson, an individual of local importance in the context of cattle breeding. The house is also representative of local Edwardian bungalows and the housing associated with the transition from the Berry Estate to the Berry Township. The house, and more particularly the grounds, displays the potential to assist in answering research questions relating to site chronology, phases of use and the lives of its occupants.*

The Glen Devon house (G2B H11) and its grounds are of local importance against NSW Heritage Office criteria a, b, e and g.<sup>3</sup>

## Potential for Interpretation

The purpose of interpretation is to enable the understanding of the significance of a heritage item, where its significance is not obvious or difficult to appreciate.<sup>4</sup> Interpretation enhances understanding and enjoyment of heritage items by appealing to different audiences, different levels of experience and knowledge and different learning styles. Interpretation strengthens and sustains the relationships between the community and its heritage and may provide economic and social benefits for the community.<sup>5</sup>

Article 9 of the *Burra Charter* states that "*the physical location of a place is part of its cultural significance. A building, work or other element of a place should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival*". Biosis acknowledges that the relocation of G2B H11 is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival. The significance of G2B H11 relates to its historical context, much of which is connected to its physical location. The relocation of the heritage item will have a detrimental effect on the appreciation of the heritage item's visual and sensory setting, as well as the retention of spiritual and other cultural relationships that contribute to its cultural significance.

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<sup>2</sup> NOHC 2013; Biosis 2014.

<sup>3</sup> NSW Heritage Office 2001. *Assessing heritage significance*. A NSW Heritage Manual Update.

<sup>4</sup> NSW Heritage Office 2005. p.4

<sup>5</sup> *ibid*

The relocation of the heritage item will remove much of its cultural significance, beyond its aesthetic appeal as an Edwardian bungalow. This characteristic is readily apparent and does not require explanation and would not enhance the appreciation of the heritage item's significance. Biosis does not believe that further interpretation of G2B H11 is required as the aim of interpretation is to convey significance. Any interpretation of G2B H11 would not conform to best practices associated with the interpretation of a heritage item.<sup>6</sup>

Should you have any questions regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 4229 5222.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Beben', written over a horizontal line.

**Alexander Beben**  
Senior Archaeologist

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<sup>6</sup> NSW Heritage Office 2005. p.12