

SAVE DULLY ACTION GROUP

Media release



Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Help save our Dully icons

Residents of an inner-western Sydney suburb today launched a campaign to help protect some of their local landmarks which are under threat due to the NSW Government's urban renewal plans.

The Save Dully Action Group published an initial list of some of the much-loved icons which have been placed in proposed high-rise development zones but currently have no formal heritage protection.

These icons include three churches – including a Greek church – a former maternity hospital and a 1920s Californian Bungalow which was the former home of a State MP and mayor.

The group also called on local residents to research and nominate further icons.

"These local landmarks add so much the 120-year-old character and fabric of our suburb, but sadly are now under threat from high-rise development," said Save Dully spokesperson Jessica D'Arienzo.

"They are currently not on any local or State heritage lists, which to some extent is not surprising given it was never contemplated that they could be redeveloped.

"The fact that these icons are under threat illustrates the excessive impact of these plans on our suburb's rich, interesting and unique history.

"We are now calling on residents and past residents to put forward the stories of other local icons – otherwise their contribution to our suburb could be lost forever."

The initial list of proposed icons includes:

- Dulwich Hill Baptist Church on Macarthur Parade – a 1925 building designed by architect Walter Leslie, who also designed a Greek Orthodox Cathedral at Paddington only recently placed on the State heritage list. It is currently in a proposed four-storey unit block zone.
- The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Unmercenaries in Hercules St – a pretty Greek church with a blue-topped tower hand-built by the local Greek population. This church represents the only Sydney diocese of the breakaway Church of the Genuine Orthodox Christians of Greece and is an important marker to the suburb's multicultural pedigree. It is in an eight-storey zone.
- A grand and prominent Federation home on the corner of The Parade and Terrace Rd – which was used as a private maternity hospital known as Nurse Gee's in the 1920s and 1930s. This home is currently proposed to be in a five-storey zone.

- A stunning Californian Bungalow – one of a set of four – which was the home of John Thomas Ness, the area’s State MP from 1922-1930 and 1930-1938. The home is located in a proposed four-storey zone in Macarthur Parade.
- The Dulwich Hill Uniting Church – now predominantly used by local Pacific Islander communities – in Constitution Rd which was opened by Mr Ness in 1929. It is located in an eight-storey zone.

Each of these local landmarks were mentioned in the group’s suburb impact report presented to the Department in February 2016.

Ms D’Arienzo said that, in addition to these individual icons, many other streets in Dulwich Hill presented high-quality historic residential streetscapes – often relatively unchanged over a period of 100 years – yet were threatened with comprehensive redevelopment by the urban renewal plans.

“It is clear that the NSW Government has to do far more to protect the heritage and character of our suburb before any revised plans are placed on public exhibition,” she said.

“We have expressed our deep concern to the Department of Planning and Environment that the heritage review it is currently completing – and which we have not seen – is limited to some but not all of our potentially affected streets.

“This review also needs to consider the overall character, diversity and amenity of the suburb, including its later 20th century history accommodating migrant families.”

Dulwich Hill is one of 11 precincts proposed for redevelopment as part of the NSW Government’s Sydenham to Bankstown urban renewal corridor. Draft plans were released in October last year, with revised plans due to be released later this year.

Residents can learn more about these icons, and nominate further icons, at www.savedully.com

To contact Jessica, please call 0428 410 748

NOTE: The Save Dully Action Group has been formed in response to the Sydenham to Bankstown urban renewal investigation. Already it has assembled more than 200 residents on a mailing list and is meeting regularly.