

Peter Fagan - address to Council in support of Motion 19/19 - from Cr Said - Apply for National Heritage Listing and Grant Program

Thank you Mayor Neilson, thank you Councillors, and I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today.

Councillors Said and Da Rocha - than you for proposing and seconding this motion.

The motion will initiate a comprehensive and compelling application for National Heritage listing of Yarra Bay and Frenchmans Bay.

At Save Yarra Bay Coalition, we are in no doubt that these places qualify for admission to the list.

And we reject the cynical insinuation of Chris Lamont from the Sydney Business Chamber that "the heritage listing process was being abused to exclude necessary and important considerations around a new cruise ship terminal."

The Guidelines for the Assessment of Places for the National Heritage List provides nine national heritage criteria, one or more of which must be met by the place proposed.

We believe Yarra Bay meets five of these criteria:

a - importance in the course and pattern of Australia's cultural history

b - uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of both Australia's natural and cultural history

e - importance in exhibiting aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group

g - strong and special association with a community or cultural group for social, cultural and spiritual reasons

i - importance as part of Indigenous tradition

Council's case, Save Yarra Bay's case, our community's case is indeed a strong one.

To make our case as strong as possible, and to ensure the success of the application, I recommend Council employ a heritage consultant to support the excellent work of council staff and the Randwick and District Heritage Society.

In my professional work I have made use of the work of heritage consultants; and I know of consultants who have the requisite experience and expertise - and what is most important - a record of success.

Councillors, appraisal of the heritage of Yarra Bay and Frenchmans Bay is not without pitfalls. For example, there is scope for conflict between those who take pride in European discovery and settlement, and those first peoples who mourn the invasion of their vast and bountiful island home.

But these bays are literally the birthplace of this most important national issue. This is the place where those vastly different points of view were first expressed through action and reaction to specific events in our shared history.

To work through this national issue, we must preserve the integrity and authenticity of this special place, where it first arose.

And Yarra Bay is a pristine place and a vital public recreational space. It truly is.

Councillors we must strenuously resist attempts to force us to share Yarra Bay with a gargantuan cruise ship terminal - to allow our bays to be irreversibly degraded to build a most un-Australian monument:

- to the greed and ambition of the foreign-owned cruise industry
- to the alarming and destructive contemporary phenomenon of "over-tourism"
- to the crass commercialism of the Berejiklian government, masquerading as "jobs and growth"

National Heritage listing is a vital next step in our journey in defence of Yarra Bay and Frenchmans Bay, and I commend the motion to Council.