



HISTORIC HOUSES

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

FEEDBACK RE: RICHMOND BRIDGE DUPLICATION ROUTE INVESTIGATION / NORTH RICHMOND NORTHERN BYPASS OPTION

The Historic Houses Association of Australia Ltd. (HHA) is a registered charity and volunteer organisation that supports owners and promotes public interest in historic houses and properties throughout Australia. HHA has a growing network of house member properties including the 1804 to 1870 built “Durham Bowes” at 22 Inalls Lane Richmond. HHA is currently conserving and managing the state significant 1913 Arts and Crafts house “Tulkiyan” at Gordon, NSW, on behalf of Kuringai Council. Designed by prominent architect B J Waterhouse for the Donaldson family, “Tulkiyan” retains a rich and rare collection of original household and garden items and is preserved as a public house museum.

The North Richmond northern bypass option for the Richmond Bridge duplication project will have a serious impact on “Durham Bowes”, also known as “Dights Farm”, at 22 Inalls Lane Richmond. The option proposes to widen Inalls Lane and divert the road through the sites of the 1802 land grants of Bowman and Dight which are of historic and archaeological significance. The Lane was originally marked out by Surveyor James Meehan as part of Governor Macquarie’s public works and constructed by William Cox in 1820 so any proposals to ‘improve’ Inalls Lane need to be carefully considered against both its historic and archaeological significance.

Nearby “Hobartville” shares this cultural landscape. Both these significant properties have been protected by the state government for 40 years with the cultural landscape protected through planning legislation.

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HHA strongly advocates against the North Richmond northern bypass option. To reduce traffic congestion between Richmond and North Richmond and build for future growth HHA recommends selecting one of the four other options for the Richmond Bridge duplication route, an option that does not adversely impact significant heritage properties and landscapes. "Durham Bowes" (Dights Farm), a rare survivor dating to the first quarter century of the settlement of Australia, has incredible heritage and historic significance to the Hawkesbury and early Colonial Australia.

"Durham Bowes" is an early Colonial Georgian homestead built from 1804 to 1870. Distinguished early settlers, John and Hannah Dight moved into the still existing two roomed sandstock brick cottage, built c.1804, after their Richmond lowlands home was destroyed by flood in 1806. In 1812 John Dight contracted two of the best builders in the colony to erect a dwelling house of two storeys. The contract was witnessed by esteemed convict midwife and noted early colonial figure Margaret Catchpole who worked for the Dight family at the house. The Dights' second daughter Elizabeth married explorer Hamilton Hume in 1825 following his epic discovery of an overland route to Port Phillip.

The 1812 and 1820s two storey additions are sandstock brick with mud/shell mortar and plaster and the veranda has tapered hardwood octagonal columns on Marulan stone flagging. Internal joinery includes an 1812 built in cupboard and cedar

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chimney pieces. Hardwood flooring with handmade nails survive. Unusual features include a mock chimney on the west to achieve Georgian symmetry and nine pane horizontally sliding sash windows in the upper storey. A two-storey brick link section between the 1804 cottage and 1812 addition was constructed in the 1870s and the homestead is largely unaltered since then.

“Hobartville” Richmond is significant at a national level as an intact colonial homestead group with an association with the Cox family. William Cox Jnr, son of William Cox of nearby “Clarendon”, who built the first road over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst in 1815, purchased Hobartville in 1816. By 1828 he had built a fine two storey sandstock brick Georgian mansion. The farm complex has operated as a successful Hereford cattle and thoroughbred horse stud and includes 19th century stables, summer house, cottages and outbuildings including an earlier 1816 kitchen block cottage built by Edward Luttrell. “Hobartville’s” original grant boundaries determined the extent of the 1810 grid layout of Richmond township.

HHA has several concerns with the North Richmond northern bypass option and poses the following questions:

Will the proposed widening of Inalls Lane and the route mean the loss of any of “Durham Bowes” land?

Will the post and rail fence bounding the front of the property facing Inalls Lane survive?

How will any culturally and significant historical landscape around “Durham Bowes” and “Hobartville” be affected if this

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route option were chosen?

Will heavy road traffic and construction cause vibrational damage to fragile and delicate building fabric such as 1804, 1812 and 1820 sandstock bricks, mud shell mortar, plaster, cedar joinery and early stonework?

Amidst the need to plan for growth and provide necessary infrastructure to the community one important goal of responsible government should be to ensure that important heritage properties and landscapes are preserved for future generations. Once destroyed they are gone forever.

Yours Faithfully,

Tim Duddy

Chair

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