



**Parks & Playgrounds
MOVEMENT Inc.**

President:
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PO Box 373, HAMILTON NSW 2303

Planning for wise leisure

Saturday, 23 April 2005

**Mr Reece McDougall Director
NSW Heritage Office
3 Marist Place
PARRAMATTA 2150**

Dear Reece,

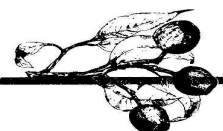
Preliminary Objection: DA 05/0468 Listed property NSW S.H.R. 01674
*Construction 8 luxury Units and Restaurant with Manager's Residence on Nobbys Headland
Private Use & Management of Macquarie Pier & Nobbys - by Nobbys Lighthouse Pty Ltd*

Parks and Playgrounds Movement brings the attention of the NSW Heritage Office to the above development application outlined in an article in *The Herald* – Newcastle 19/4/05 Page 6 (Copy enclosed).

We hereby lodge an objection in the strongest terms and ask for the DA to be rejected on the grounds that any development of this site must be at the direction of a properly researched and widely accepted Conservation Management Plan for the Coal River Precinct and that any new buildings on Nobbys Head should be the subject of a professional architectural competition and that new uses of the site must complement the heritage significance of the precinct and be available to the general public.

Nobbys is Newcastle's most distinctive visual symbol and a unique reminder of Australia's convict period, early coalmining and of our Aboriginal heritage and of the shaping of the environment for port development. Nobbys and the Macquarie Pier are unique heritage elements in the Coal River Precinct, which is a listed property on the NSW State Heritage Register (No. 01674 Gov. Gazette 19/12/03 Pg.11590).

All land affected by this DA including Macquarie Pier Nobbys Headland and the Signal Station lighthouse area is zoned Open Space and Recreation.



The establishment of luxury units and a restaurant building around Nobbys lighthouse is destructive of the heritage value of the site and raises important public management and access issues with regard to Macquarie Pier as well as the whole Nobbys headland. The proposal would severely impact and dominate the Nobbys Lighthouse as seen from the breakwater, the harbour entrance. The proposal would generate unwelcome and potentially dangerous vehicular movement on the Macquarie Pier, which is Newcastle's premier promenade. It would also downgrade the heritage and recreational experience for the majority of visitors and damage the future opportunity for free public access to the Nobbys headland. The effect of the development proposed is out of scale with the sensitive nature of Nobbys and will harm the wild and mysterious isolation of the headland and lead to the cluttering of the restricted site with vehicles.

The proposal is contrary to the spirit and detail of the Heritage Places Strategic Plan and Plans of Management publicly exhibited and adopted by Newcastle City Council 01/6/00. The plan states Pg 88:

- *Nobbys headland is already an emblem of Newcastle, appearing on business logos and city design themes. For some residents, Nobbys symbolises their city, and the view from Nobbys back towards the city inspires pride and pleasure. The most highly visible and treasured icon in the city, it is aloof and inaccessible from its residents.*
- *It maybe that part of Nobbys charm and significance is its very aloofness. Like many a castle of fable and history, sitting out to sea at the end of a causeway, it stands rock solid in all weathers symbolising endurance and constancy. This image is not to be tampered with lightly.*
- *The plan goes on to state: A refreshment room in an unused residence could be considered in association with any increase in access to the headland.*

The DA as proposed, is deficient in its presentation and documentation and must be rejected. The DA is not on public display and is available only on request. The DA documentation fails to mention the relationship of the development to the Coal River Precinct nor is the future governance and management of the full site adequately considered.

It is essential that a professional Conservation Plan of Management for the Coal River Precinct be prepared, exhibited, and legally determined to guide the preparation of future developments in the precinct.

The Movement reserves the right to make further submissions to a full Public Inquiry on this matter.

Yours Sincerely,
 Doug Lithgow, Freeman of the City of Newcastle
 Parks and Playgrounds Movement Inc