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ADLFAH, JP



The Independent Planning Commission NSW

Dear Commissioners,

This submissions to the NSW Independent Planning Commission [IPC] closing 5pm Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June leaves little time to address much as I would want to in reply to the Department of Plannings response and bares my own opinions supported by my experience in Local, Family and Applied History and my social, civic and environmental commitments.

After reading the response from the NSW Depart of Planning and Environment I submit the following.

The DPE acknowledges;

- It is unknown if Ravensworth Homestead could be of National Significant, it hasn't been tested.
- the Ravensworth Homestead's roll in the displacement of the Wonnarua people
- the strong attachment to Ravensworth Homestead by the Wonnarua people.
- the unique importance of Ravensworth as does the Applicant Glencore Mining
- Ravensworth is one of the most unique and intact homesteads in the Hunter Valley and worthy of State Listing.
- Glencore's Assessments , the Department's advice, the Heritage Council advice, all agree that Ravensworth Homestead is of high to exceptional heritage significance .
- the removal and relocation of the Ravensworth Homestead would threaten its authenticity and pose a significant risk to the integrity of its fabric.
- The tangible and intangible archeological values of Ravensworth Homestead including its historical, scientific and social values and that the significance is heightened by the above and below ground archeological resource and the connection to the Aboriginal and Colonial history.

How then can the DPE continue to conclude and espouse the social and economics negate saving Ravensworth in situ and rebutting this application. The departments own acknowledgements raise the question to the integrity of this decision. Glencore is used to getting their way with the department, as are many others, no mine application or extension has been denied in the Singleton Shire.

**“The DPE state they have recommended conditions requiring Glencore to:**

- *relocate the homestead to the Ravensworth Farm site, and undertake comprehensive archaeological salvage of the core estate lands, prior to mining within 1 kilometre of the homestead;*
- *undertake further investigation to identify a suitable long-term use for the homestead which would further preserve its heritage value following cessation of mining; and*
- *prepare and implement a comprehensive Historic Heritage Management Plan for the Project, including a comprehensive Ravensworth Homestead Relocation Plan and a comprehensive conservation management plan for the ongoing management of the relocated Ravensworth Homestead.*

*In summary, following detailed consideration and weighing up, and given the available mitigation measures, the Department considers that any heritage impacts resulting from relocating the Ravensworth Homestead do not outweigh the social and economic benefits of the project.*

Are they now the experts on Heritage and the Social impacts of this project given they strongly acknowledge the expert advice? Is this just the typical lip service we are used to?

It is my long experience conditions of consents and management obligations are all consistently ignored or overlooked once consents are given.

I implore you to do whatever you can to help protect Ravensworth Homestead and surrounding curtilage in situ for both our Aboriginal and European heritage and connections to this place. As I write I have just returned from a stay in hospital and seen the request for comment so I fear that I will not be able to adequately address this submission to make you understand how I feel about the response by DPE and the lack of genuine understanding of what Ravensworth means and represents to so many who have their voices squashed by the process.

I have for many years witnessed the destruction of our heritage here in the Upper Hunter with little genuine regard to the context of our European heritage let alone our incredible Aboriginal Culture and Heritage; we are always given assurances and promises but they are so easily broken or not managed. Much has been left to ‘destruction by neglect’ and something the Department of Planning and Environment continues to ignore.

I am not of Aboriginal descent but have worked closely with the late Elder Barbara Foot and the Native Title Claimants the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua People. I have learnt so much over the years about our Aboriginal culture here, that I am often brought to tears in the lack of knowledge, appreciation and the belief that denying Aboriginal Heritage is okay in this day and age and the abhorrent perception that 'they are only doing it for money'. Nothing will change if our heritage from both sides is not acknowledged. We can't change our history, but we can learn from it and create paths of genuine reconciliation for our communities; I live in hope to see that happen sooner rather than later.

This is the most heartbreaking emotive issue I have been involved with during my near 40 years as a researcher. Ravensworth Homestead Complex is claimed by NSW Heritage as exceptional and should be State Listed, perhaps maybe worthy of National listing. Of course Ravensworth is! Would you say Elizabeth Farm wasn't? and am I surprised it is not on the State or National Heritage List; No, I am not it requires an appreciation and commitment by the owner and do you think Glencore was going to progress this as I believe the previous owners Xstrata were contemplating after they had restored the building in 2009. Glencore have done nothing since and allowed it to be neglected and even cattle roam all over the homestead and out buildings footprint. I have seen this with my own eyes unfortunately we were denied picture taking by Glencore as opposed to Xstrata who welcomed visitors to take photos and appreciate Ravensworth in images.

Elizabeth Farm and Ravensworth's association goes hand in hand, but then perhaps Colonial Surgeon James Bowman wasn't as controversial as his father-in-law John Macarther so therefore Ravensworth does not have the same notoriety Elizabeth Farm has in that respect but there is no denying both properties are incredible part of our Nation's story. They played a notable part in the survival of the colony and the development of the wool industry that we as a nation road on the back of through out our formative years as a Nation. Ravensworth was designed by the same Architect and fostered the same agricultural and pastoral pursuits , often utilizing each both properties for the benefit of the families and progress.

Ravensworth heritage covers: Aboriginal, Early Colonial, Convict, Architecture, Immigration, Individuals, Agriculture, Land use components and much, much more. Every aspect of Ravensworth tells a story. The stories are intertwined with the country, land, people, and community. I have researched so many; it is impossible to relate them to make people sufficiently understand what we will lose if this Development Application is granted and Ravensworth Homestead not protected intact and in situ. [it is only the homestead proposed to be saved by removal, the outbuildings are just as valuable, it is a complete compound].

Removing the complex from its landscape devalues all and is against the Burra Charter principals. We will rue the day if we continue to disregard the Burra Charter, disregard Heritage advice, disregard the historic records, disregard the Aboriginal experience and lore, disregard the connection of the descendants of convicts and immigrants some of which are buried on the property, disregard the destruction of so many other properties by mining, disregard the destruction of a 200 year old property for the short term gain, disregard our communities future sustainability; if everything is gone what do we have left of our heritage in situ for our future generations and it's all for an International mining companies whose own experts acknowledge the true value of Ravensworth. And do you not think, it sets a precedent for other companies to do the same. It is the tip of the iceberg, the slippery slop.

Principals it seems are unacceptable when it is an International Mining Company requesting the powers to overlook the values and impacts on sections of our community, and would you be able to do this in Sweden; no you would not.

I fear what effect it will have on our Aboriginal community and any who have strong connection to this place. Emotions are scoffed at; however, this is emotive; it is at the core of us as humans is our sense of for one am not ashamed of my emotions in this case. Shamefully, the way Glencore have acted is compounded by the NSW Planning process which sees the denial of local lore, experiences, stories, and the displacement of the Wonnarua.

My personal view has seen a concerted effort to pit two Aboriginal Groups against each, The Plains Clan of the Wonnarua and then the Wonaruah Nation Aboriginal Corporation who continue to espouse the company's original view that the Massacre did not happen despite Historic records of the time repeatedly proving the Massacre! The Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation are and I don't want to be disrespectful by stating all but are mainly associated with the Gringai Clan who are acknowledged as being displaced from the Dungog-Gresford area to the Singleton area and the Mission in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so were not in this area of the time of the massacre; that's not to say they their ancestors were not affected by the practices of the day by any means, but I find it incredulous that the voice of the Plains Clans of the Wonnarua are not the voices being listened to.

The constant claim that the Massacre did not happen on Ravensworth, nor the present Ravensworth Homestead involved as it wasn't built until earliest part of the 1830s has been the Company's catch cry throughout this process and consistently used by the DPE as their argument too. Traditionally, living quarters were built nearer the water supply until the means to move to higher ground established , there is no doubt in my mind the site the present Homestead complex is situated near to the original.

Generations of lore have been passed down to the Plains Clans and the massacre connects to Ravensworth and the connection to the perpetrators and the atrocities that occurred which have left no doubt Ravensworth will forever be a place of sad reflection for the Wonnarua and those who genuinely see that Ravensworth Homestead Complex in situ can be also a place of healing and reconciliation.

I strongly believe despite any argument the present Ravensworth Homestead is the physical representation of a horrendous act taken out on the Wonnarua which those associated with Ravensworth sanctioned and took part in and additionally our European connection to this place is just as strong.

The property deserves to be left, the size has already diminished and despite what the company and DPE say about the economic viability of the project, the company will survive and find an alternative if denied, I have no doubt whatsoever.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment once again and hopefully I will see a future where I can take my children and grandchildren to sit on the steps of Ravensworth and tell them its story.



Lyn MacBain

Please see the following as a further argument against the DPE comments please note the following exercise.

**The place is important in demonstrating the course, or pattern, of cultural or natural history in New South Wales.**

Ravensworth is significant because of its association with major figures, in particular James and Mary Isabella Bowman nee Macarthur and her parents Elizabeth and John Macarthur, who were prominent in the early 19th century development of the colony. It was the centre of an estate on which experiments in pastoral and agricultural land use in Australia took place, particularly in the early development of the wool industry. It is associated with Captain William Russell First legislative member and the Russell Family. As a young man he had been a military officer Arrived in New South Wales c.1836. Became a pastoralist and agriculturalist, living at Ravensworth in the Hunter River district. Acquired extensive freehold property in settled districts and in 1859 held 117,041 acres of adjacent land under the pre-emptive leases allowed big landowners. Also held 11,840 acres in settled districts under auction lease. Squatter in Gwydir district, for over sixty years before other prominent people such as . The homestead and outbuildings are part of a group of early colonial buildings which reflect the Hunter Valley's importance as an early agricultural area and one of most important settlements in the colony. The house's building styles reflect the adaptation of traditional European architecture to the prevailing Australian climate. The house is a record of the architectural ideas and ambitions of the colony's first fifty years. The house shows growth from a vernacular cottage to a comfortable family home with some sophisticated detailing, all reflecting the development of colonial life. The homestead is representative of the work of architect John Verge.

### People associated with "RAVENSWORTH"

<b>Situated</b>	In the Parishes of Vane and Liddell, County of Durham. It is significant that the property is not in the Parish of Ravensworth.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Dr. James Bowman</b>
<b>Acquired by</b>	Grants and purchase. Order number 135, June 4 <sup>th</sup> 1824. Granted 2,560 acres is the first reference as we publish. [Further research is being undertaken].
<b>Comment</b>	Dr. Bowman married Mary Macarthur, daughter of John & Elizabeth Macarthur in 1823. Elizabeth was given a dowry of 2,000 sheep and 200 head of cattle. The Ravensworth homestead was built during their time, the original in 1832. It is believed that Architect John Verge was working for the Macarthurs' at the time and may have influenced Ravensworth's design as the homestead has similar architectural references to 'Elizabeth Farm' Parramatta and other Macarthur Properties. With additional land grants and purchases in the Parishes of Vane, Liddell, Goorangoola, Foy, Hershall and Tudor he acquired approximately 24,000 acres.
<b>Known Manager</b>	James White 1829-1839
NB.	Be mindful that there are two unrelated Bowman families in the area. One family can be referenced to Dr. James Bowman Surgeon and the other Mr. George Bowman.
<b>Relinquished</b>	The property was sold after James Bowman's death in 1846. Time held 22 years.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Captain William Russell</b>
<b>Acquired by</b>	Purchased in c1848
<b>Comment</b>	Captain William Lloyd Russell and his heirs build 'Ravensworth' to 60,000 acres by additional land purchase and acquired vast holdings in several areas including Gwydir. 'Ashton', 'Wellers' Flat', 'Pikes Gully', 'Longreach' as some of the Hunter properties.
<b>Known Managers</b>	James E. Davys. George Wyndham Jnr.
<b>Relinquished</b>	Sold after Eliza Russell's death in 1881. Final Sales in 1882 included major Estate and Homestead. Time held 34 years
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Duncan Forbes Mackay</b>
<b>Acquired</b>	Purchased May 1882
<b>Comment</b>	In 1885 it is reported that Ravensworth is some 47,032 acres, stocking 310 horses, 2567 cattle and 22,000 sheep. Mackay also held 'Dulcamah' some 9,300 acres at Whittingham. After Duncan Mackay's death in 1887 his nephew W.H. Mackay of 'Anambah' leased the property. A sale of the property to the Land Company of Australasia Limited was not completed. In December 1889 the Singleton Argus advertised a portion of the Ravensworth Estate to be sold on the 20 <sup>th</sup> December with instructions from the Land Company of Australasia Limited. It is to comprise of 23 farms of which 20 to be 80 acres and 75 township lots. The farms all had creek access and nearly all fronted the railway line.
<b>Known Manager</b>	Robert Hill till early 1900s
<b>Relinquished</b>	In 1894 the property of 64,651 acres was advertised for sale. There is no information if it was sold or to whom but the Mackay family appear to maintain a connection to the homestead in some way as there is reference to them when work was carried out on the homestead in 1903.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>F. J. L. Measures</b>
<b>Acquired</b>	Purchased c1910
<b>Comment</b>	Measures, an American property developer in January 1911 sub divided the remaining property into approximately 300 acre lots leaving the homestead block 1,100 acres. Not all were sold and the unsold blocks passed into the hands of A.C. Reid.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>A.C. Reid</b>
<b>Acquired</b>	Unclear whether by purchase or by default.
<b>Comment</b>	The homestead remained vacant for about eight years.
<b>Relinquished</b>	To the Crown; Resumed and purchased for Solider Settlers Scheme
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Augustine Campbell Marshall</b>
<b>Acquired by</b>	Purchased c1920 Soldier Settlers Scheme. The purchase of 820 acres included the homestead and was later converted in the 1940s to Settlement Lease.
<b>Comment</b>	Some 230 acres was sold to the Electricity Commission after being sub divided into two portions.
<b>Relinquished</b>	Passed to son Geoffrey.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Geoffrey and Jenny Marshall</b> –Homestead Lot
<b>Owner</b>	A partnership between <b>Elders and Coal &amp; Allied</b> created Hebden Mining Company 1970-1990.
<b>Owner</b>	<b>Xstrata Coal</b> . 'Ravensworth' homestead is sited in a rich coal area. To their credit Xstrata recently renovated the homestead and out-buildings after much public concern. It remains as one of the oldest existing properties in the State and said to be the oldest in the Hunter. 'Ravensworth' is recognised as significant in the agricultural development of this nation.
<b>Owner</b>	Glencore Mining purchased Xstrata which included Ravensworth. Community assured nothing would change.

**The place is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in New South Wales.**

The house is one of the most evocative houses relating to the earliest period of Australian European history and is one of the most aesthetically pleasing of colonial bungalows.

**The place has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in New South Wales for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.**

The estate has strong links with the early colonial community both convict and immigrant and their descendants in the Hunter Valley and a cultural and spiritual connection to the Wonnarua people.

**The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales.**

The estate has a large surviving collection of original documentary evidence relating to the house and its occupants. The house is an example of the development of Australian building methods in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

**The place possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the cultural or natural history of New South Wales.**

The Ravensworth Homestead and out buildings is part of earliest surviving construction in Australia and a rare survival of the earliest period of colonial architecture. The part Ravensworth has played in the Wonnarua Story cannot be denied, it is a story of displacement, genocide, and survival.

The above is the displacement of Elizabeth Farm's State Listing with the Ravensworth experience.

Commissioners, by now you would have gained a lot of knowledge about Ravensworth Homestead and I believe you could not disregard its uniqueness and connection so don't you think it meets the following criteria let alone the State's for listing.

The National Heritage List is a list of places deemed to be of outstanding heritage significance to Australia.<sup>[4]</sup> Once on the list, the provisions of the *EPBC Act* apply.<sup>[5]</sup> To be included on the list, a nominated place is assessed by the [Australian Heritage Council](#) against nine criteria:<sup>[6]</sup>

- importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history
- possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history
- potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history
- importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of Australia's natural or cultural places or environments
- importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group
- importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period
- strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons
- special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history
- importance as part of Indigenous tradition.

In addition, the place must pass a "significance threshold"; it must have 'outstanding' heritage value to the nation as a whole. This is determined by comparison to other similar places. Once the Heritage Council has made an assessment, it forwards a recommendation to the [Minister for the Environment](#), who shall make a determination.