

Minchinbury Winery Entry Restoration

Item: **HS1215** Report: **DD350048** File: **48-604-1**

Council Meeting on 08 July 2015

Division is not required

Topic

A scope of works has been prepared for the restoration of the historical Minchinbury Winery Entry.

Analysis

Stage 1 of these works will be construction of the main entry gate features utilising the recently restored arched 'Minchinbury' sign at a cost of \$80,000.

In designing the entry, the remainder of the Reserve was considered, and ancillary elements are planned for future stages subject to funding availability.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Minchinbury Winery Entry Design – Prepared by
Phillips Marler Landscape Architects

Report Recommendation

1. Endorse the proposed design for the restoration of Minchinbury Winery Entry.
2. List the \$80,000 required to complete Stage 1 of the project as an item for consideration at the next quarterly review.

1 Key reasons

1. Entry design development

- i. Phillips Marler Landscape Architects undertook extensive site analysis and research into the entry. Unfortunately, it found that the historical information available on this item was scarce and had to rely on two main photographs of the existing site to assist with the design. The photographs were sourced from the Conservation Management Plan (Feb 1995) prepared by Form Architects for the Winery Restoration project.

- ii. Using both of these photographs in conjunction with the measurements from the restored arched 'Minchinbury' sign, the architects were able to scale off and calculate the dimensions of the main entry features.
 - iii. To ensure the entry gates were not designed in isolation, the remainder of Reserve 606 was considered and designed to support the entry gates. An access path from Minchin Drive has been included along with seating and additional garden spaces.
 - iv. See Attachment 1 for Minchinbury Winery Entry design and the overall design for Reserve 606.
- 2. Construction costs and staging**
- i. The main entry gate features are the items that are proposed in Stage 1 at a cost of \$80,000.
 - ii. The ancillary 'Park' elements planned for the remainder of Reserve 606 would form subsequent stages to be listed in the Works Improvement Program for future funding consideration. The cost of the future stages is \$220,000.

2 Supporting analysis

- 3. Site restoration**
- a. The Minchinbury Winery is recognised as being of local significance and is listed on the Local Heritage Register.
 - b. The only remaining original elements at this site are the 2 low masonry 'Penfolds' wing walls that are located adjacent to the Great Western Highway, and the avenue of Kalamata Olive trees that are listed on Council's Significant Tree Register.
 - c. The arched 'Minchinbury' sign was salvaged and has recently been restored.
 - d. It is an opportune time for Council to incorporate the restored 'Minchinbury' sign and to re-invigorate this important heritage item.
- 4. Consultation**
- a. On the 1 June 2015, the Minchinbury Winery Entry proposal was presented to the Mt Druitt Historical Society at their monthly meeting. The aim of the presentation was to advise their members of Council's vision for the restoration project and seek feedback.
 - b. Mt Druitt Historical Society advised they were very supportive of Council's proposal and had no objections.

3 Context

- 5. William Minchin was granted 1,000 acres of land in the area named after him, now known as Minchinbury. When he died, the land passed to his daughter but she was lost at sea in 1838 leaving no descendants.
- 6. In 1859, Dr Charles McKay bought the site and turned it into a vineyard and cellars. He planted the first grapes there using convict labour.
- 7. In 1895, James Angus bought McKay's property and he began making sparkling wine under the direction of Leo Buring.
- 8. Penfolds bought the winery and vineyard in 1912. By 1949 over 100 ha of vineyards were in production, but encroaching urban development made the land so valuable that pieces were progressively sold off until the site closed in 1978.
- 9. Minchinbury winery was a significant part of the viticultural scene in Sydney between 1821 and 1977, and Penfold's Minchinbury sparkling wines helped put Australia on the world stage.

Attachments

Ref	Description	Files
1	Minchinbury Winery Entry Design – Prepared by Phillips Marler Landscape Architects	 A1DD350048.pdf

Recommendations

Report Recommendation

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2. List the \$80,000 required to complete Stage 1 of the project as an item for consideration at the next quarterly review.

Committee Recommendation

1. Endorse the proposed design for the restoration of Minchinbury Winery Entry.
2. List the \$80,000 required to complete Stage 1 of the project as an item for consideration at the next quarterly review.
3. That an investigation occur in relation to the safety issues regarding the location of the gates, concrete steps and children's playground.
4. If the investigation reveals that the proposed design is safe, then Council approves the design for the restoration of the Winery entry.

Council Resolution

1. Endorse the proposed design for the restoration of Minchinbury Winery Entry.
2. List the \$80,000 required to complete Stage 1 of the project as an item for consideration at the next quarterly review.
3. That an investigation occur in relation to the safety issues regarding the location of the gates, concrete steps and children's playground.
4. If the investigation reveals that the proposed design is safe, then Council approves the design for the restoration of the Winery entry.