

Cossack Masterplan

A joint project between the Department of Housing and Works, the Shire of Roebourne and the Heritage Council of WA

Community focus group series

HISTORY, ARCHAEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT AT COSSACK

Monday 10 April 2pm

Alexander Library, Perth

Attendees at the meeting were

David	Hutchison		
Richard	Bright	Terry	Patterson
Geoff	Van Waardenberg	Merilyn	Clark
Libby	Wilmot	David	Taylor
Maree	Van Waardenberg	Stephen	Carrick
Shane	Burke	Linda	Thoresen
Robert	Mitchell	Linda	Villiers
Barrie	Field	Alan	Wilson
Terry	Keays	Ross	Anderson
Phil	Ross	Jasmine	Day
Kim	LeSouef	Penny	Stewart
Wendy	Van Suivervoo	Gaye	Nayton

Project team

Kevin	Palassis	Mary	Power (facilitator)
Nerida	Moredoundt	Julie	McKay
Helen	Grzyb	Andrew	Howe
Paul	Van der Moezel	Karen	Hyde
Cass	Gray	Amanda	Yates
Phil	Palmer		

Stephen Carrick, Manager Conservation and Assessment, Heritage Council of WA, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mary Power, facilitator, invited all the participants to introduce themselves.

Gaye Nayton, Archaeologist, spoke to the group about the archaeological aspects of Cossack, the values that were unique to Cossack, and the challenge to keep those values intact. Gaye also provided a poster about Cossack and a map of relevant archaeological sites at Cossack which were displayed at the meeting.

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Paul Van der Moezel, ATA Environmental, spoke about the environment at Cossack and showed photos which depicted the landscape, some elapsed time photos of the areas adjacent to the inlet demonstrating water movement on the Cossack coast, as well as identifying opportunities to minimise waste from any potential development.

The meeting then broke into groups for discussion. Points made were:

Group 1 History issues

- Historic value
- Historic town to be protected. Any development should be associated with history (eg former tennis court – future use could be recreational)
- Communications - original telegraphic equipment to be displayed (the Morsecodians Fraternity of WA)
- Possibility of museum
- Tramway reopening/reuse
- Archaeology important
- Management on needs basis OR before development
- Why develop? What will people do there?
- Cossack should not be associated with the mining towns in the NW – it is unique
- Associated sites are Jarman Island (lighthouse) and Lazeret (former leper sanatorium) – the latter's shell paths
- There are interesting stories to tell, and historic buildings could used to do this (compatible uses are not necessarily original use), to bring money in and conserve the history.
- Development - separate OR new with historic buildings (in same style or new?)
- Limited new buildings – once filled up, just don't have rooms.
- Use building principles like cables over roofs to anchor down buildings
- Viability is important
- Tourism can work
- Question whether residential can work without changing heritage values?
- Economic impact survey – note that people spend money elsewhere in the Shire so Cossack doesn't have to make the money itself.
- Cossack is the first major multi-cultural settlement (before Broome)
- Would be good to have books published about the rich history for visitors
- Lack of interpretation on the site

Full details of this project including all community meeting results can be viewed at <http://www.dhw.wa.gov.au/cossack/index.htm>

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Group 2 Archaeological issues

- Uncontrolled excavation, bottle collectors – threat
- Remoteness of the site
- Further archaeological work is required
- Revisit the site in the context of development – systematically (as compared to small studies)
- Private ownership lots – what about when outsiders buy land who perhaps don't value heritage
- Thematic studies
- Indigenous issues – native title sources?, community connections
- No protective legislation for archaeological sites
- Need enforcement of development offences eg digging swimming pools
- Masterplan process should be consistent with Burra Charter
- Upgrade current conservation management plans
- Planning scheme to include caveats to protect heritage/archaeological values

Group 3 Archaeological issues

- Balance of archaeological sustainability VS residential development?
- How to manage archaeology of the area?
- Staged development to manage archaeology – investigate high risk or early development sites first
- Maintain entry into town and central heritage precinct.
- What is archaeology's role in a development of the town
- Opportunity for archaeology to partner with land owners.
- Using archaeology as a tourist focus
- How does infrastructure fit with archaeology – shops, toilets, roads, parking?

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Group 4 Environmental issues

Need to provide controls so that management of the environment is facilitated.

1. Water water/sewerage management

Options/technologies

Existing solutions (eg Point Samson, Coral Bay)

Toxic to mangroves

Mangrove management issues (clearing, nutrients, dune clearance, fish nursery, prawns)

Groundwater contamination

2. Offsite impact of development

4WD and exploitation of the dunes

Issues of engineering solutions

Boating issues (launch ramp, channels, Point Samson flow-on)

Turtles VS prop/jet skis

3. Storm surge

Storm damage (rotting vegetation - attracts sandflies)

Avoid engineering solutions

Development areas controlled

Mangrove buffer important to limit damage from increasing violence of storms, not necessarily just the sea level (global warming)

4. Environmental tourism

Lookouts/trail management

Parking – access control, beach management

What is the environmental attraction – coastal?, inland?, large ocean mammals?

Swimming pools – impacts, expectations

Fishing/fisheries management

5. Bug/insect control

Mangrove/sandfly links/fish feeding

Ross river virus/encephalitis

Air conditioning/screening

Environmentally friendly solutions for control eg fungal for sandflies

Pets/cats – impact on wildlife (reptiles, birds)

A short video was shown about Cossack which was kindly made available by Juluwarlu Aboriginal Corporation media students. Also available for viewing at the meeting were maps of the Cossack land region as well as photos of the damage caused recently at Cossack by cyclone Glenda.