

19 May 2011

Paul Hogan
Mayor
Greater Taree City Council

By email

Dear Mr. Hogan

Re: THE WINGHAM HOTEL SHED

I write to add my protest to the proposed demolition of this structure.

As has been pointed out by others, the shed is both heritage listed and the largest remaining example of a shelter shed built for the horse and buggies of the past, remaining in NSW and possibly Australia. It was built by my grandfather, Harry Cross.

While it has been neglected by the various owners of the hotel since my family left Wingham, the worth of the building was demonstrated by the work done by Wingham Rotary a few years ago to restore it. I am aware that subsequent neglect has probably undone much of the work done by Rotary.

Your Council has a responsibility not to the profit-related vested interests of individuals, but to the future and to the heritage of Wingham. It is easy to tear things down, and to look for quick short-term advantage by exploiting a tragedy like the fire which took the hotel. However once gone, this shed will be gone forever. You and the current Council too will be gone in due course, but what you leave behind will be the monument to your administration. Your role as elected representatives is to prevent exploitative destruction for financial gain.

Properly restored, the shed, which is intrinsically a magnificent structure, could form the centrepiece of an imaginative and innovative development for the site which would enhance the tourist attraction and the heritage of Wingham.

A previous Council approved the demolition of a graceful two story Victorian building on the opposite corner of Isabella Street, which was replaced with a car yard, seriously impacting on the heritage streetscape. Do not emulate this disastrous decision. I ask you to act in the interest of the future heritage of this beautiful town.

Yours sincerely,



Sue Milliken AO

