

**MM-3                    MAYORAL MINUTE - CAMPAIGN TO SAVE DRUMMOYNE  
RESERVOIR**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

---

**REPORT**

I would like to bring to Council's attention, the disturbing news that Sydney Water is proposing to sell the Drummoyne Reservoir located at Rawson Avenue Drummoyne via the open market.

The Drummoyne reservoir is a significant Sydney landmark which is listed on the State Heritage Inventory, and is listed as item 01625 in the NSW State Heritage Register: <http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au>. And on the Sydney Water s170 register, listing number 4573703.

Built in 1913 by the Metropolitan Board of water supply and sewerage, the reservoir supplied water to the locality until 1965 and was disconnected from the system in 1994.

The Drummoyne Reservoir was one of a group of four water supply service reservoirs and one of only two reservoirs built in Sydney with an attached tower and was the only reservoir to feature an ornamental tower. It is now the only reservoir with its tower surviving. The tower and reservoir are a wonderful example of Federation Free Classical design complementing the architectural character of our community and is associated with Sir Thomas Henry, a prominent local identity and politician.

The Reservoir is located on Lots 13, 14, 15 and 16 DP 455626 Rawson Ave Drummoyne. The land has an area of 1802 M2 and approximately 60% or 1000 M2 is occupied by the reservoir. There are also pipes and valves running underground through the site. The site also contains a single storey brick office building.

A Conservation Management Plan was undertaken by Sydney Water in June 2005 and information provided on conservation works required to restore and protect the heritage fabric.

An environmental report advised that the site requires decontamination prior to any residential or other uses such as by schools. The land is zoned R2 Low Density Residential.

In my view the sale of the site on the open market will lead to a number of undesirable consequences:

1. There is a high likelihood of the heritage reservoir being demolished because there is no permissible use in the R2 zone for which the reservoir could be adaptively reused.
2. In the event that a purchaser seeks an alternative, non-conforming use of the site by applying the heritage provisions of the LEP, it is likely that a high density residential density development will be sought, to offset the likely high cost of restoration of the heritage item and site decontamination.

An alternative and preferable solution would be for Sydney Water to undertake the necessary restoration and decontamination works on the site as recognition of their legacy obligations as owner of a piece of significant public infrastructure, and to then dedicate the site to Council to be used for public recreation and suitable adaptive reuse of the heritage structure.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council seek the support of the Member for Drummoyne Mr John Sidoti MP, the Minister for Heritage the Hon Gabrielle Upton MP, and the Minister for Energy and Utilities the Hon Don Harwin MP, to facilitate:

1. The retention of the Drummoyne Reservoir as a public asset by its dedication to Council, and
2. The provision of funding to ensure the restoration of the heritage water reservoir and site remediation, on the basis that Sydney Water has a legacy obligation in respect of this historic site.
3. Council develop a Conservation Management Plan for the adaptive reuse of the reservoir, and the residue land area be used as a public park following handover.