



The Heritage Advisory Committee consisted of prominent architects, heritage experts, historians and town planners including (from front left) Barry Hollett, Bruce Buchanan, Virginia Clarke, Allen Cooper, Alderman Norm Kruger, Graham Killoran, Ian Sinnamon, John Adams, Margaret Eastwell, Bruce Boyes and Ray Whitmore. Photo: LYLE RADFORD

Heritage advisory body scrapped

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THE city's main heritage advisory body has been scrapped by the Harding Administration, replaced with an informal networking group.

The Ipswich Heritage Advisory Committee first met in 1991, made up of the city's prominent architects including Graham Killoran, Bruce Buchanan and Ian Sinnamon, heritage builders such as Allen Cooper, Ipswich members of the National Trust including Barry Hollett, members of the Ipswich Historical Society, historians and the city's key town planners and heritage experts including John Adams, Garth Moore and Tanya Jen.

It was disbanded by interim administrator Greg Chemello in 2019 when all planning decisions were made by bureaucrats after the State Government dismissed Ipswich's democratically elected councillors.

After talk of the Heritage Advisory Committee being re-introduced in July last year, the council formally ceased the Heritage and Monument Advisory Committee in November last year in a vote hidden in the agenda under the item "community panels".

There was no discussion on the advisory committee being scrapped before the vote; the word heritage was not mentioned in debate.

In its place a "Heritage Forum" was to be implemented in the first half of this year.

However, the first meeting to set up an Ipswich Heritage Network Group was only held last month and is yet to settle on any structure.

Unlike the Heritage Advisory Committee, which was a formal sub-committee of council, the Heritage Forum does not have any oversight on planning decisions and is merely a networking opportunity for local heritage groups.

The Tribune asked council whether minutes would be taken and whether the meetings would be advertised and Mayor Teresa Harding said the group was not a formal council committee or a sub-committee and was in the early stages of development.

“The governance arrangements around this are still being established, however there is no intention to make this a formalised committee or subcommittee,” Cr Harding said.

“The make-up of the group is evolving, but includes representatives from Ipswich City Council as well as heritage groups active in Ipswich including the RSL, Ipswich Historical Society, Ipswich Genealogical Society, the National Trust, Ipswich Hospital Museum, Pine Mountain District Historical Society, Queensland Museum and UniSQ.

“At this stage, it is anticipated the group would meet three to four times a year. However, this is also something that may change to suit the needs of the group.

“Our city is a mix of the old and the new. Heritage is a lived experience in Ipswich.

“We consider heritage to be an active, ongoing part of the contemporary culture of the city, something we should cherish and incorporate into modern streetscapes, places that work day-to-day, not just as static artefacts frozen in time.”
