

8 November 2018

Prof Mary O'Kane, AC
Chair, Independent Planning Commission
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms O'Kane ,

**Varroville: Proposed listing on State Heritage Register. AO 92 /18 SHR
00737**

My name is Peter George Thomson, and my father, Robert Stanley Thomson, was former landowner of the Varroville estate.

I was born on 13 November 1939 at Campbelltown hospital.

I was a resident at St Andrews house, and my family owned Varroville from the 1940's up until the property was sold to WF Ross in the 1950's

I refer to the above proposed listing for the Varroville estate, and wish to make the following statement.

I strongly support the development application for the proposed cemetery, Macarthur Memorial Park on the Varroville estate. It is my view that the most appropriate development for the estate, in order to maintain the rich history and heritage of Varroville is the construction of a lawn cemetery and recreational space. Furthermore, the development will provide for the maintenance of the scenic hills precinct, and ensure that the area is preserved for future generations.

I do not support the extension of the curtilage of Varroville estate, as the effect of this will be that there will be no one to maintain the property, and stop the enjoyment of this historical area for the residents of Campbelltown and visitors to this historic place.

I also question the heritage value and attributed significance of the dams on the property. I recall working on the property with my father and brothers, grazing cattle and farming, during the 1940's. I recall grazing cattle along the St Andrews Road boundary, and during school holidays would allow the cattle to graze on the road.

Along this boundary, there were a number of mud holes, which at various times would fill with water, but often were dry.

The dams have been numbered in the documents as dams numbered 2, 3, 4 & 5. My recollection is that the dams were significantly smaller than they are today, and have been overstated on the plans.

During the summer school holidays when my brothers and I were looking for a water hole to "cool off", we would swim in the creek that crossed St Andrews Road. The dams were just "mud holes" and not useful for swimming or providing water for cattle.

After Varroville was sold to WF Ross, we remained at St Andrews until 1960, and kept farming the area around Varroville until 1970.

During this time, I witnessed that WF Ross carried out significant earthworks in and around the dams to enlarge the capacity of the dams. I have aerial photos, which indicate the dams were significantly smaller than they are today.

The development application for the construction of a cemetery, including a recreational space and a place of tranquillity and reflection is an ideal commemoration of the history of the farming families of the area. I hope that common sense will prevail, and that the development is approved as proposed, which will ensure that other developments will not happen.

Yours faithfully,


Peter George Thomson


South Grafton, NSW, 2460