

Response to community submissions

Transport for NSW (Transport) invited feedback from the community on the preferred future land use option for the Captains Flat former Station Master's Cottage between 19 August - 17 September 2023.

Transport thanks the community for their attendance at the community information session on the 19 September 2023 and for contributions received during the public exhibition period.

An event summary report has been published on the [project website](#). It provides an overview of the discussion that occurred at the community information session and summarises the feedback received during the public exhibition.

Some of the most common questions received in the submission feedback have been outlined below, which we've provided responses to.

Was the community invited to make a formal proposal for the cottage?

Transport stated at the Captains Flat community information on 19 September 2023 that no proposals had been received for future uses of the cottage. It is not uncommon for Transport to receive expressions of interest from specific interest groups for disused buildings. The community were invited to put forward any formal expressions during the public exhibition phase via the Transport website between 19 September – 17 October 2023.

Transport has not formally invited expressions of interest for future uses of the cottage prior to the public exhibition period. Prior to the 19 September information session, consultation with Council and the community focussed on the remediation options for the rail corridor.

A total of 22 submissions were received during the public exhibition phase. Transport receives requests from communities to lease or acquire land on a regular basis, though Transport has not received any requests for the use of this Site from any community group or organisations.

Why can't the cottage be left alone, retained or relocated?

The cottage is subject to a Voluntary Management Plan which requires Transport to undertake a Future Land Use strategy. To preserve the cottage, a temporary relocation of the building would be necessary. This involves carefully removing, packaging, and disposing of the cottage materials according to asbestos removal standards, as the structure contains asbestos.

Additionally, the entire site must undergo remediation to meet residential Human Investigation Level criteria. This is in line with the EPA's expectations before reintroducing the dwelling back on the Site.

The key constraints include:

- widespread contamination across the Site
- contamination underneath the house, garage and shed
- confined spaces with limited access
- asbestos in walls
- health risk of lead dust
- structural and engineering issues.

It is important to note that the associated costs for this process outweigh those of demolishing the cottage and remediating to residential criteria. Considering the potential risks involved in relocating the cottage, it is not deemed to be in the best interest of the community or Transport. Therefore, alternative solutions that prioritise both safety and economic considerations have been chosen.

What will happen with the Site once the cottage is removed?

Transport will be seeking community feedback specific to heritage interpretation. Timelines for consultation are yet to be determined. Some initial suggestions relating to heritage interpretation were captured during the public exhibition period.