

RE: Urgent allocation of \$25,000 funding for Feasibility Study, Fatima Island

Dear Mayor Haylen & Councillors,

I understand that Marrickville Council will be reconsidering the issue of funding an Erosion Assessment and Remediation Feasibility Study for Fatima Island at its meeting on Tuesday 3 December. Council's report tabled at the 15 October meeting makes it clear that this study needs to be completed before any options for the island's protection can be considered.

I urge you and all Councillors to allocate the \$25,000 needed to complete this study, rather than continue to seek funding for this feasibility study from other sources.

Fatima Island provides a microcosm of our nation's diverse cultural heritage — Aboriginal and non-Indigenous, convict and settler, Christian and Muslim. As well, it is the only island remaining in the Cooks River.

The island's escalating level of erosion over recent years makes its remediation a matter of such extreme urgency that there is no time to delay. We understand that Council has many financial responsibilities, but obtaining outside funding for this study could take so long that Fatima Island could disappear in the meantime.

We therefore urge you to act immediately to at least start the process of protecting this much-loved icon of the Cooks River before the end of this year.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Please also cc –

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