

Cross Road and Fullarton Road Intersection Upgrade Relocation of Gatehouse: The Latest

According to Matt Manifold, Managing Director of Mammoth Movers (House of Assembly Public Works Committee, 10 December 2020) and an FMG report, it is feasible to relocate the State Heritage Listed Gatehouse intact, without disassembling and rebuilding the structure. According to DIT (Department for Infrastructure and Transport), Matt Manifold is currently preparing an updated quote to relocate the Gatehouse.

There is a clear route for the relocation of the Gatehouse, which follows the existing driveway and then uses Walter Young Avenue. Treated pine fencing lining the driveway would need to be temporarily removed and reinstated. One small, non-significant tree may have to be removed. Incredibly, Minister Wingard is still quoting DIT's false claim that 'just over 70 trees, including 14 which have heritage or Scientific Significance, will have to be removed' due to the relocation of the Gatehouse.

Sufficient space is available around the Gatehouse to accommodate the excavation works necessary for the relocation. Only Gatehouse garden plants to the east and several non-significant shrubs to the south would be removed.

Open space exists for temporary laydown areas needed to store excavated soil and equipment required for the relocation. No trees would need to be removed.

There are a number of possible relocation sites along Walter Young Avenue that will enable the Gatehouse to be once again connected to the avenue leading to Urrbrae House. Access to services will transform the Gatehouse into a more useable asset for Adelaide University and its volunteers.

The Gatehouse has already been externally restored and could be renovated internally as part of the relocation process.

Out of the \$61-\$65M estimated project cost for the Cross Road and Fullarton Road Intersection Upgrade, \$41.4M has been set aside for property acquisition. Compensation for the compulsory acquisition of the Gatehouse site could be used to partially or fully fund the relocation of the Gatehouse. There is also an allocation of \$3M for project contingencies.

No significant trees will have to be removed along Fullarton Road (south-eastern side of the intersection) as a result of the intersection upgrade or relocation of the Gatehouse.

Approximately 14 trees (including 8 significant trees) are to be removed in the Waite Arboretum due to the planned widening of Cross Road, not in any way linked to the relocation of the Gatehouse. Survey pegs clearly delineate this area. The 8 significant trees along Cross Road, each aged around 120 years, are to be felled. The first of these trees is over 90 metres from the intersection. A modification to the design of the intersection upgrade could potentially save these significant trees.

According to the National Trust of South Australia, the proposed demolition of the Gatehouse would set a precedent in SA. No State Heritage Listed building has ever been demolished. There is absolutely no reason why this should occur as the Gatehouse can be relocated and preserved as an iconic heritage asset within a tourism precinct!

Minister Corey Wingard MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, has still not changed his official position that the Gatehouse is at risk of demolition. However, it is reported that he recently offered Adelaide University \$2M (plus any compensation received for compulsory land acquisition) to shift the Gatehouse themselves. Apparently Adelaide University has received formal notification of compulsory land acquisition and is concerned that the government is trying to shift responsibility for the Gatehouse solely to them. Adelaide University is opposed to the acquisition of Waite campus land due to its impact on the heritage of that land and the Peter Waite legacy. It will take time for Adelaide University to work through the legal processes and the University should not be unduly pressured. In a recent letter dated 25 January, 2021, Minister Wingard states that 'if the University is unable or unwilling to take on the responsibility of moving the Gatehouse, the state government will proceed with the initial proposal to salvage the Gatehouse'. I assume that 'salvage' means demolition as that was the initial proposal. This threat is totally unacceptable as the State Government has a responsibility to protect a State Heritage Listed building.

If the government succeeds in compulsorily acquiring the land on which the Gatehouse is located, then the government and DIT should work collaboratively with Adelaide University and the community to relocate the Gatehouse. Moreover, Minister David Speirs MP should be allowed to work with Minister Corey Wingard MP to resolve this heritage / infrastructure matter. With perseverance a win-win can be achieved. It is necessary to hold the government to account on this issue and ensure that this State Heritage Listed asset is not demolished on our watch!

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