

Stacy Thomas, Parramatta Advertiser, 27 February, 2018

Parramatta Female Factory world heritage listing push.

THREE months after securing national heritage listing for the Parramatta Female Factory, the push is now on for global recognition. One local community group is keen for it to be given the same status as 11 other convict sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List including Old Government House at Parramatta, Cockatoo Island in Sydney Harbour and Tasmanian tourist site Port Arthur.

North Parramatta Residents Action Group (NPRAG) wants to set up a coalition to push for the listing. "The coalition should be made up of heritage experts, community members, prominent Australians and other local community and industry groups," NPRAG vice president Steve Brancatisano said.

Mr Brancatisano said while getting the site on the national list was a big win, it would not stop Urban Growth NSW from building unit blocks around the heritage components. He was certain world heritage listing would curb what NPRAG considers to be an "inappropriate development". "We believe there should be no development on the site until a decision is made," Mr Brancatisano said.

Urban Growth NSW, is planning on building up to 2700 residential units surrounding the site. The developer said if both the state and federal governments proposed a World Heritage listing, it would support it. "Our plans to renew the land around the listed area and to conserve and adaptively reuse its buildings are consistent with a world heritage listing," an Urban Growth NSW spokesman said.

Mr Brancatisano said their push for world heritage listing wouldn't happen overnight. "This is probably a five to 10 year fight and we believe there should be no development on the site until a decision is made," he said. "I speak for most NPRAG members when I say I envisage a grand, open sweeping space that involves the whole Fleet St precinct connecting to Parramatta Park, Old Government House and across the railway line to Mays Hill."

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/parramatta/parramatta-female-factory-world-heritage-listing-push/news-story/2dee2fc9dfcb36d807865d6d58a916d8>