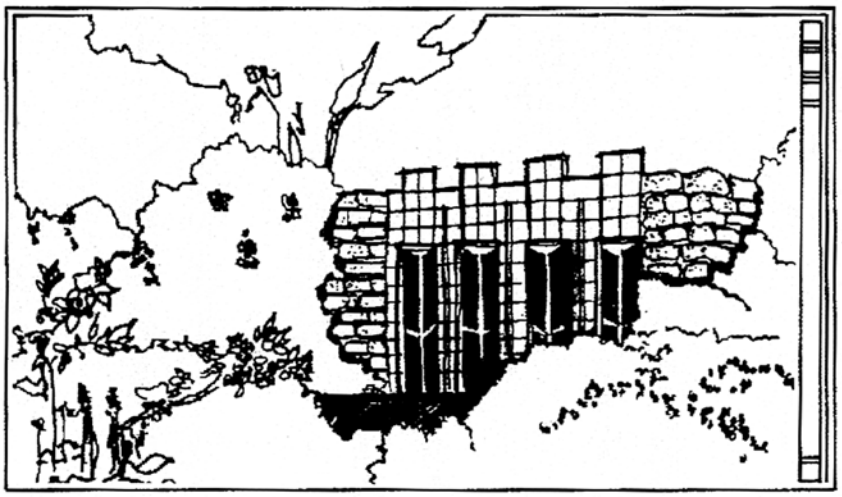
WALTER BURLEY GRIFFIN SOCIETY INCORPORATED



19 September 2026

The Honourable Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341, Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Minister Scully,

Request that SSD 90134958 at 100 Edinburgh Road, Castlecrag is rejected due to its detrimental impact on the suburb's existing heritage urban structure as designed by Walter and Marion Griffin, that is of international renown.

Today's Castlecrag owes its uniquely planned, leafy, urban environment to the visionary philosophies of Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin, designers of our national capital. Besides the plan of Canberra, the creation of Castlecrag was their major achievement in Australia.

Developed during the 1920s, the Castlecrag Estate is an example of globally respected 20th century modern architecture and urbanism that honours the natural landscape and is like no other in Australia of any time. The planning history and architectural values of the existing subdivision pattern, urban morphology and individual houses in the Griffin Heritage Conservation Area (Griffin HCA) of Castlecrag are of national and international importance. The Griffin HCA was established by Willoughby City Council in 1995 in recognition of the area's heritage significance and to acknowledge and protect the Griffins' vision in Castlecrag. Following its commitment to protect the values of the suburb, Willoughby City Council also objects to this SSD in support of a more appropriate development.

Scholars, heritage and planning professionals, cultural tourists and others come from across Australia and the world, including the USA, UK and NZ to see the Griffins' Castlecrag.

As Sydney grapples with today's unprecedented planning and climate challenges, the Griffin legacy at Castlecrag is as relevant as ever and should be preserved for future generations.

Following the submission of the SSD 90134958 for mixed use development (up to 13 storeys), the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) issued an appropriate Request for Information (RFI) to the developer in June 2026. DPHI requested that the built form of any development of this site should be "subordinate to the natural landscape", a key tenet of the Griffins' philosophical approach to the suburb's plan. The SSD is still being assessed by the DPHI.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the nationally and internationally important Griffins' Castlecrag is not compromised and degraded by the high-rise development currently proposed by developer Conquest's SSD 90134958 at 100 Edinburgh Road, the gateway to the Griffins' Castlecrag

Concomitantly, we request that the height of any redevelopment at 100 Edinburgh Road, the landmark site and entry into Castlecrag, is limited to approximately the height of surrounding trees, so that it does not dominate the landscape and the scale of the adjacent Griffin HCA. We request that you, as Minister for Planning, refuse SSD 90134958 if it does not comply with these requirements.

Sincerely,

John McInerney AM
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Past President, Planning Institute of Australia; Life Fellow, Planning Institute of Australia;
Fellow, Australian Institute of Architects;
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