

Approval for heritage course

By **Siobhan Tanner**

COUNCILLOR Gary Green has been given the go-ahead by his fellow councillors to attend a one-day course on the heritage perspectives of development approvals.

The course, presented by the Local Government and Shires Association, will cost \$297.

Under the new Department of Local Government guidelines on the payment of expenses, Cr Green's request to attend must be approved by the council.

There was a noticeable pause at the April 4 Rockdale Council meeting when Mayor Bill Saravinski called for a councillor to move the motion approving Cr Green's attendance.

After a few moments of silence and paper shuffling, Cr Joe Awada raised his hand.

The mayor called for a seconder and was met with another lengthy pause broken by Cr Angelo Anestis.

Rockdale Council is sending Cr Green to Auckland in June where he will deliver a speech on heri-

tage at International Cities, Town Centres and Communities Conference.

The content of Cr Green's speech was the source of some debate in the council chambers recently during which Cr Liz Barlow requested that a copy be available for councillors to see beforehand. Cr Barlow also questioned whether Cr Green was a suitable representative for Rockdale on the heritage issue.

Cr Green's parents' Camperdown property was involuntarily listed by the City of Sydney

some years ago, an event that shaped the Liberal councillor's views on heritage listing.

Cr Green said councillors could read the speech when it is finished in early June. However, he has made an 11-page draft of the speech available to the *Leader*.

The introduction reads: "This paper will consider the opposing view to most heritage fundamentalist/fanatics, who often hold that insignificant or non-genuine heritage must be preserved at any cost including emotional, social and economic."

CONSERVATION FAILINGS

The findings of the Productivity Commission's report into the conservation of Australia's historic heritage places will be addressed in Cr Green's speech.

"The Productivity Commission uncovered numerous failings with present heritage-listing systems":

- **Local governmental heritage-listings are so poorly conducted that they threaten the integrity and credibility of the whole process.**
- **Most council systems are not structured well enough to ensure that heritage-listings only occur where a community benefit is likely.**
- **Some councils . . . seek to heritage-list properties to prevent development.**