

I wish to support the listing of 4 Darling Street in Tamworth Regional Local Environmental Plan 2010:

4 Darling Street was built in 1898 for the Court caretaker of the 1861 Tamworth Court house. It gave the caretaker a family home instead of a single room near the stables, considered “unhealthy”. It is one element of the justice precinct on the corner of Peel and Darling Streets. The two former Court Houses faced first, Peel and then Darling Street. The Court Houses can still be recognised inside the PCYC building. The third element of the police precinct is at no 6 Darling Street - the former Lock-up keeper’s house, now owned by NSW Health.

After Tamworth Court moved to Fitzroy Street in 1937 the house at 4 Darling Street has had continuing historical associations with the work of Tamworth organizations:

The Managers of Tamworth PCYC occupied it from 1937 until 1951.

The family of prominent school teacher William Surtees lived there until 1975. William and his son Ron were each recognised as Tamworth Citizens of the Year for services to the community. Eileen Surtees sewed uniforms voluntarily for PCYC boys.

In 1980 it became the 2nd home of the community based Tamworth Women and Children’s Refuge. The building was sensitively extended with 4 bedrooms. In 12 year’s occupancy approx. 4,000 women and children used the refuge.

From 2002 to 2022 the cottage was used to support the work of mental health rehabilitation for people from rural areas through Billabong Clubhouse. The families of members of Billabong spent 2 years completely restoring the cottage, with help from businesses, community fundraising and voluntary work.

The house at 4 Darling Street has Local Historical, Historical Association and Social Significance and Representativeness for the community and history of Tamworth. It is part of an historical area which is largely unchanged since the first settlers – the Community Centre is opposite. It was built to be Tamworth’s Municipal Council in the same period that 4 Darling Street was built.

This cottage is clearly significant to thousands of past, and present Tamworth residents.