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Mr Cameron Sargent
Team Leader - Key Site Assessments
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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Sent by e-mail to: Andrew Hartcher andrew.hartcher@planning.nsw.gov.au
Cameron Sargent cameron.sargent@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sargent

Notification of a section 75W modification request to Sydney Opera House – Use of the Southern Forecourt Monumental Steps for Temporary Events (DA 445-10-2003 MOD 4)

I refer to your email dated 21 July 2016 seeking comments and recommended conditions of consent as part of the exhibition of the above proposal.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the recommended conditions of approval below. Please note that these conditions are in addition to those of the existing consent.

1. TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

- a) Infrastructure associated with any event or activity should be designed and sited to minimise intrusion into primary view lines on the southern approach to the site and to maximise public access to the Forecourt and Monumental Steps;
- b) All structures, containers, scaffold towers and the like should be covered in a suitable screening material with appropriate graphics or artwork that reduces their visual impact and does not detract from or compete with the Opera House itself.
- c) No infrastructure element should be highly reflective, white or off-white, but a more neutral colour that does not compete with the Opera House shells or Podium;
- d) Potentially intrusive items, or those that inhibit public access should be installed at the last possible opportunity and removed as soon as possible and practicable after the event.
- e) All event infrastructure and installations, including fencing and signage, should be of high quality design and execution that does not diminish or detract from the setting and presentation of this World Heritage Listed site.
- f) Stage, rear and side-stage trucks and props for the one-off opera event in 2016, when not in use and between blocks of performances should, where possible, be moved to the eastern end of the monumental steps to minimise visual intrusion and to maximise public access to these steps.



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2. SITE PROTECTION & WORKS

Significant building fabric and elements are to be protected during the works from potential damage. Protection systems must ensure significant fabric is not damaged or removed.

3. NOMINATED HERITAGE CONSULTANT

A suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant is to be nominated to provide advice for temporary events in relation to potential impacts on heritage values, including the impact on significant fabric.

4. APPROVAL UNDER THE HERITAGE ACT

The approval for the modification of the number and duration of events in the forecourt shall only operate following further approval by the Heritage Council of NSW under the Heritage Act 1977. The Heritage Council will require detailed information about the number and type of events being planned with a clear understanding of event free days and temporary event guidelines. Following this consideration by the Heritage Council the number and duration of events may require amendment.

5. TIME LIMIT FOR APPROVAL

The number and type of outdoor events to be held at the Sydney Opera House & associated structures shall be reviewed every 5 years and approved by the Heritage Council or its delegate. The Sydney Opera House Trust is to provide an annual report to the Heritage Council of NSW on outdoor events to assist in this review. The report is to include the dates of events, their purpose, their specific location, and description & location of temporary structures associated with the event. The report should include visual representation of the information requested.

ADVICE

Please note that the proposed infrastructure required for the event *The Opera* is being considered acceptable only in this instance as a one-off event. It is advised that a repeat of such events requiring this level of infrastructure to be placed on the forecourt for extended periods is considered to have an unacceptable impact on the setting and the overall significance of the Sydney Opera House.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Kate Higgins, State Heritage Assets Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, on (02) 9873 8534 or kate.higgins@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Rajeev Maini

Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council
6 September 2016