



Our ref: DOC20/840781

Mr Marcus Jennejohn
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bay 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: marcus.jennejohn@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Jennejohn,

Advice regarding Response to Submission – Parramatta Powerhouse (SSD-10416)

I refer to your email dated 13 October 2020, seeking advice from Heritage NSW (HNSW) on the proposed Parramatta Powerhouse (SSD 10416).

Heritage NSW (HNSW) of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) have reviewed the following documents:

- Powerhouse Parramatta Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Ethos Urban, dated 2 June 2020
- Powerhouse Parramatta Environmental Impact Statement – Appendix H – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report – Powerhouse Parramatta, prepared by Curio Projects, dated 17 April 2020
- Powerhouse Parramatta Response to Submissions and Amended Proposal Report, prepared by Ethos Urban, dated 8 October 2020
- Powerhouse Parramatta Response to Submission Report – Appendix I Addendum Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, prepared by Curio Projects, dated 15 September 2020

HNSW provides its comments and recommendations at Attachment A.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Rebecca Yit, Archaeologist at Heritage NSW, on 4927 3244 or rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Dr Samantha Higgs
Senior Team Leader
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - North
Heritage NSW

Date: 3 November 2020

1. Aboriginal consultation requirements for the project area must be fulfilled

Aboriginal consultation requirements for the project have not yet been met. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) indicates that the proponent “has reached the completion of Stage 1” (ACHAR Curio April 2020: 9) of the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents* (DECCW 2010) (Consultation Requirements) for the project and that consultation with the RAPs is ongoing. HNSW understands that the commencement of Stage 2 Aboriginal consultation with the RAPs was delayed in April 2020, to comply with NSW Government COVID- 19 social distancing regulations and requirements (ACHAR Curio April 2020: 25 - 26). No further information regarding the Aboriginal consultation process has been included in the supplied documentation to date.

The Consultation Requirements outline a clear process (Stages 1 - 4) that ensures relevant Aboriginal cultural knowledge holders have an opportunity to be consulted with respect to a proposed project, and to provide relevant information about cultural significance and values. The outcomes of the consultation process should inform the preparation of an ACHAR. HNSW is not satisfied that the supplied ACHAR, meets current regulatory requirements by adequately identifying and assessing the impacts of the proposal on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the project area. In accordance with the SEARs and HNSW Guidelines (Section 2.3 and 2.4 of the Guide), consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken for the project in accordance with the Consultation Requirements, in order to document the significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land. The collection of cultural information relevant to the identification, assessment and management of Aboriginal cultural heritage values should be completed during the current assessment phase and should not occur as part of further investigations post-approval of the project.

HNSW recommends that the full Aboriginal consultation process be completed and the ACHAR updated to demonstrate that Aboriginal consultation was undertaken in accordance with the SEARs and the Consultation Requirements prior to project approval. This should include evidence of how the outcomes of consultation informed the development of cultural heritage management options and recommendations for the project.

2. An Aboriginal cultural heritage management plan should be prepared and implemented for the project

An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan (ACHMP) should be developed for the project in consultation with the RAPs, to manage and mitigate extant Aboriginal sites and objects that may be recovered from the archaeological excavation, to be undertaken within the project area. The ACHMP should also recognise and acknowledge the continued Aboriginal connection of the project area to the Aboriginal community, linking into the proposed Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation Strategy to be prepared and implemented for the project. Ensuring potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are managed and mitigated and facilitating the ongoing Aboriginal involvement and engagement in the

conservation and celebration of Aboriginal heritage values associated with the Parramatta River and the Powerhouse Parramatta project area.

HNSW recommends that a consent condition is created that requires an ACHMP be prepared for the project, in consultation with the RAPs.

3. Long term management of Aboriginal objects in the project area.

It is understood that the long term care and curation of Aboriginal objects recovered from the project area is yet to be finalised with the RAPs (Curio 2020:90).

HNSW recommends that the finalised long term care and control procedure for the management of any Aboriginal objects from the project area including any extant sites, be integrated into an ACHMP, to be prepared for the project (Recommendation 2). HNSW recommends that a long term management procedure be prepared for the project and integrated into the ACHMP.