

Design Integrity Panel -Advice

Meeting Subject	Third Design Integrity Panel Meeting Indigenous Centre of Excellence, Western Sydney University Parramatta South Campus (171 Victoria Road, Parramatta)
Location	Virtual - Microsoft Teams
Date & Time	15 December 2025 at 4.00pm – 5.30pm AEDT

This letter summarises the Design Integrity Panel’s (the Panel) commentary on the material presented by Jackson Clements Burrows Architects (JCBA) to the Panel on 15 December 2025. The focus of the meeting was to present an update on work undertaken since the second DIP meeting held on 28 January 2025. The objective of the third DIP is to ensure that design integrity has been maintained, over a period of design development undertaken since the second DIP, confirming that the project achieves design excellence.

The general structure of the session included a summary of the current status of the project provided by WSU, followed updates to the building’s functional program as well as the updated external landscape design, provided by JCBA.

Specific items for review included four items identified by DPHI including:

- Two new temporary at-grade carpark
- Rooftop net enclosure - no longer in scope
- Proposed slab-on-ground design
- Proposed projection signage zone

Other items for review included:

- Arrival and stairs
- Theatre reorientation
- Site hydrology
- Timber columns with extended concrete footing
- Artwork hanging
- Clay shingle
- Rooftop basketball - relocated internally

This session was held online and was attended by members of the Design Integrity Panel, as well as the design team, Proponent and representatives from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. The specific details of the attendees are as follows:

Meeting Invitees	Position/Role
Design Team	
Sarah Lynn Rees	Associate Principal, Jackson Clements Burrows
Thomas Sharp	Senior Associate, Jackson Clements Burrows
Selection Committee	
Professor Liz Cameron	Associate Professor, University of Newcastle (Darug)
John Choi	Director, Choi Studio
Carroll Go-Sam (Chair)	Director of Indigenous Engagement, School of Architecture, Design & Planning, University of Queensland (Dyirbal gumbilbara bama)
Dolla Merrillees	Arts and Cultural Advisor Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President Indigenous Leadership, Western Sydney University (Wiradjuri)
Professor Michelle Trudgett	
Kieran Wong	Fulcrum Agency

Indigenous Advisory Group

Michelle Locke
 Kayden Edwards
 Fiona Towney

Senior Lecturer, Western Sydney University (Darug - Boorooberongal)
 WSU Alumni (Darug)
 Director Indigenous Futures, Western Sydney University (Wiradjuri)

Project Team and Observers

Andrew Mackenzie
 Thomas Klobucar
 Danièle Hromek
 Michelle Lee

Competition Advisor | Director, CityLab
 Project Director, Western Sydney University
 Director, Djinjama (Budawang/Dhurga/Yuin and Burrier/Dharawal)
 Executive Director, Infrastructure Strategy and Planning, Western Sydney University

Ingrid Zhu
 Liam Coe

Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Housing
 Senior Design Advisor, Government Architect NSW (Wiradjuri Wahlan Gibir)
 Advisor, Solutions Consulting Australia

Andrew Steventon
 Schandel Fortu
 Sonya Constantinou

Colliers Urban Planning
 Colliers Urban Planning

Panel Feedback

The advice of the Panel is outlined in the table below.

Focus Area	Panel commentary
<p>Temporary carparks</p>	<p>The Panel notes that the University intends to strengthen existing north-south connections between the existing University campus and the ICOE building as part of the Parramatta Place Strategy that WSU are preparing for the campus. The Panel recommends that care is taken to mitigate any potential impacts the carparks may have on pedestrian movements between ICOE and the rest of the University campus.</p> <p>It is also noted that the temporary carparks will require the removal of a small number of non-significant trees that will be replaced when the temporary carparking is removed and the landscape re-instated in accordance with the WSU Parramatta Place Strategy.</p> <p>The Panel has no objections to the temporary carparking proposal.</p>
<p>Rooftop net enclosure</p>	<p>As this is no longer in scope, the Panel has no comment.</p>
<p>Proposed slab-on-ground design</p>	<p>The Panel acknowledges that the change to piles, capping beam and slab on top, means retaining more soil in place, and is consistent with avoiding water flow under the building. There is also less concrete used than a raft slab, with associated reduced carbon impact. The Panel has no objections to these changes and is comfortable with the proposed flood strategy design.</p>
<p>Proposed projection signage zone</p>	<p>The Panel acknowledges that approval for programming and content of projection will be sought in the future through a development application with Council.</p> <p>The Panel acknowledges that the trees shown in existing renders between ICOE and Victoria Road are not being removed, and the Panel has no objections to the location and size of the projection signage zone.</p>

<p>General changes to ICOE functional program and plans</p>	<p>The Panel note the changes to functional areas within the building and note that some spaces have been reduced or have been incorporated into other functional spaces. Changes to exhibition storage and project space have been managed through project governance. The Panel acknowledge the changes to the building design, and are comfortable that this design development has not materially impacted on the original design intent of the building and continues to maintain design excellence.</p>
<p>Multipurpose Court</p>	<p>The Panel notes the relocation of the multipurpose court from the roof to within the performance theatre, noting that the scale of the court would otherwise negatively impact the external landscape strategy, if relocated to another location on the site.</p> <p>The Panel also notes that the scale and materiality of the performance theatre are retained, with a suspended grid to allow flexible sound and lighting, as well as retractable seating, which together enable an efficient transition between modes of use.</p>

Conclusion

The matters for refinement were agreed as follows:

- Ensure care is taken to mitigate any potential impacts the carparks may have on pedestrian movements between ICOE and the rest of the University.
- Ensure that the trees removed as part of the temporary carpark proposal are replaced or re-instated when the temporary carparks are removed and landscaping re-instated.

Notwithstanding the above, the Panel considers that the evolution of the building and landscape design is both positive and aligned with the project’s ambitions and does not impact on the design integrity of the project. With regards the material refinement and construction detail of the proposed design modifications, along with the updates to the landscape treatment together maintain and build on the design excellence of the project.

Acting Chair of Panel Endorsement

This letter summarising the Design Integrity Panel’s commentary from the session held on 15 December 2025 relating to Lot 100 in DP 816829 on the material presented by JCBA is endorsed by Selection Committee Member Carroll Go-Sam, Acting Chair, who was nominated on the day to act on behalf of the Panel Chair, Dillon Kombumerri.

Name	Signature
<p>Carroll Go-Sam Director of Indigenous Engagement, School of Architecture, Design & Planning, University of Queensland (Dyirbal gumbilbara bama)</p>	<p>Carroll Go-Sam</p>

Signature:  Carroll Go-Sam (Dec 18, 2025 14:04:04 GMT+10)

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Final Audit Report

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