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Chris Ritchie
Manager – Industry
Mining and Industry Projects
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Emma Barnet

Dear Mr Ritchie

Reference is made to the letter sent by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure inviting the NSW Heritage Council to provide a submission on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Macdonaldtown Gasworks Remediation Project (MP 09_0145), which is currently on Public Exhibition.

Accordingly, the Heritage Council has considered the Environmental Assessment and the relevant Appendices for this project and provides the following comments:

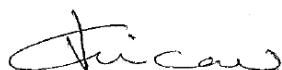
1. It is noted that this site is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register as part of the Eveleigh Railway Workshops (listing No. 01140). Nevertheless this appears to be the first time the Heritage Council has been approached by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure to provide comment on this Major Project which has potential impacts to archaeology related to this present. It is recommended that projects of this kind be referred to the Heritage Council as early in the process as possible to enable effective management of Heritage.
2. It is noted that the Applicant has four Statement of Commitments relating to Heritage – H1- H4. These are generally considered adequate with the following changes:
 - a. In **Commitment H2**, the Applicant has agreed to undertake recommendations 1-4 in the Archaeological Assessment (Appendix O). The Heritage Council considers that these recommendations require refinement before they can be used to manage the archaeology at this site.
 - The Heritage Council requests that **Commitment H2 is amended** to state that the Excavation Director required for future archaeological excavations around the area of Retort House and the Superintendent's residence must be able to meet the Heritage Council Excavation Directors Criteria for salvage excavation on a State significant site.
 - **Commitment H2 should also be amended** to require the Excavation Director to submit a Statement addressing these criteria, along with an appropriate Research Design and Archaeological Methodology (which includes a significance assessment of the archaeological resources on site)

to the Heritage Branch of the Office of Environment & Heritage for approval, prior to works commencing.

- Finally, **Commitment H2 should be amended** requiring that a final excavation report is written by the approved Primary Excavation Director to publication standard, within one (1) year of the completion of the field based archaeological activity. This report must be submitted to the Heritage Council and must comply with Heritage Council guidelines for Archaeological Reports.
- b. In **Commitment H4**, the Applicant agrees to install Interpretive Signage as per the Interpretation Plan in various locations, including Macdonaldtown Railway Station. The Heritage Council considers that the location of the single Interpretation Panel proposed at Macdonaldtown Railway Station (as outlined in the Interpretation Plan) is inappropriate, as the planned location is unlikely to encourage commuters to take the time to stop and engage with the interpretation.
- The Heritage Council requests that **Commitment H4 is amended** to allow for several panels exploring the history of the gasworks to be provided along the railway platform in appropriate locations to allow commuters to understand the history of their local area.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please feel free to contact Katrina Stankowski at Katrina.Stankowski@heritage.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



29/05/2012

Vincent Sicari

Manager – Conservation Team

Heritage Branch

Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council