



Job no. DOC16/272668
Your ref. MP10_0048 Mod 9

Cameron Sargent
Key Site Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Sargent

Section 75W Modification – Headland Park and Northern Cove Main Works, Hickson Road Barangaroo (MP 10_0048 MOD 9)

Thank you for your email dated 5 June 2016 inviting the Office of Environment and Heritage to make a submission on the proposal to vary consent condition A2A for Headland Park and Northern Cove Main Works, Hickson Road, Barangaroo (MP 10_0048 MOD 9), approved 30 June 2015.

This Modification no. 9 seeks to modify the previously approved landscape works at the former site of the Harbour Control Tower to delete the 'Oculus' installation. This was previously approved in Modification no. 4, along with removal of the Harbour Control Tower.

It should be noted that the Heritage Council previously resolved to recommend the Harbour Control Tower for listing on the State Heritage Register (SHR), and has raised concerns regarding its loss at the project's various consultation stages. Whilst it is understood that demolition is now underway, methods to minimise the impacts of its loss, such as physical interpretation, are strongly encouraged.

The Harbour Control Tower Interpretation Plan provided with this modification identifies the Oculus as a potential interpretive device. However does not recommend its implementation, arguing that it *"is not consistent with the Barangaroo Public Art and Cultural Plan which states that the Barangaroo Reserve is the preferred precinct for the 'Aboriginal Stories' theme"*. However, the Plan does not identify any aboriginal interpretive devices for this location or explain why the two themes cannot be successfully interpreted in co-existence.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the Department of Planning's previous decision to approve demolition of the Harbour Control Tower recognised the interpretive merits of the Oculus, which is described in the Environmental Assessment Report as *"a well-conceived component of the overall Interpretative Strategy for the Barangaroo site and will suitably integrate with the broader landscape strategy for the Headland Park."* The Oculus was considered to minimise the impacts of the proposal, amongst a number of other factors, and influenced the Department of Planning's decision at that time.

It is considered that the Oculus provides an innovative, site-specific, sculptural vestige of the former Harbour Control Tower, and that its ability to interpret the physical location and history of the Tower cannot be achieved through providing alternative devices in other locations. It is recommended that the proposed modification to delete the Oculus from the project is refused.

Additionally, the themes and other devices presented in the Interpretation Harbour Control Tower Interpretation Plan are supported and their implementation in addition to the Oculus is highly encouraged.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Nina Pollock, Heritage Assets Officer at the Heritage Division on (02) 9873 8520 or at nina.pollock@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Stankowski', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

Katrina Stankowski
Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage
22/07/2016