

Our ref: HMS ID 13183

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Letter uploaded to the Major Projects Planning Portal

Advice on Response to Submission – State Significant Development

Proposal: WSU Indigenous Centre of Excellence

Major Project reference: SSD-64916225

Received: 24 December 2025

Dear Ms Zhu

Thank you for your referral dated 24 December 2025 inviting the Heritage Council of NSW to provide advice on the above State Significant Development (SSD) Response to Submissions (RtS).

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- Relevant parts of *Response to Submissions for the Amended Proposal Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence*, Colliers Urban Planning, 24 December 2025, including the following appendices.
- Appendix C: Architectural drawings, Jackson Clement Burrows and Peter Stutchbury Architects, November 2025;
- Appendix E: *Summary of Changes*, Jackson Clement Burrows. 23 October 2025;
- Appendix F: *Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence*, Jackson Clement Burrows, Peter Stutchbury Architects and Jane Irwin Landscape Architects, November 2025 (Design Report)
- Appendix I: *WSU-Carpark Relocation Project Civil Drawings*, TTW, 14/08/2025 02/05/2025 and 27/10/2025.

- Appendix P: *Response to Submissions – Heritage Western Sydney University, Indigenous Centre of Excellence*, Curio, October 2025;
- Appendix Q: *Western Sydney University- Indigenous Centre of Excellence Historical Archaeological Assessment*, Curio, November 2025; and
- Appendix S: *Western Sydney University, Indigenous Centre of Excellence Heritage Impact Statement*, Curio, November 2025.

The following advice is provided to address the applicant's response to the heritage issues raised:

1. Indigenous Centre of Excellence

- The amendments to the design of the Indigenous Centre of Excellence are noted. We have no comments on the proposed amendments to the building and its immediate landscape.

2. Temporary carparks

- Our key concern continues to be the infringement of the eastern carpark into the highly significant landscape adjacent to Building ED as defined by the line of the former Ha Ha. As per our previous advice, development in this area would be contrary to the policies of the conservation management plan (CMP).
- We note that the borrow pit in the eastern carpark has been relocated away from the location of the Ha Ha as per our previous advice (HMS ID: 11828), but the design of the eastern and western carparks are otherwise unchanged.
- We understand the reasons for the proposed four-year time period and note the commitment made by the proponent to remove the carparks and reinstate the landscape at the end of the temporary period. However, we consider that four years represents a significant period of time and that this justifies a requirement to comply with the CMP to avoid impacts to a highly significant landscape.
- No justification has been provided for why the re-design of the eastern carpark has not been considered.

3. Historical archaeology

- The information provided by the proponent has adequately addressed the comments relating to historical archaeology in our previous correspondence (HMS ID: 11828).
- We understand that the location of the proposed borrow pit in the eastern car park has been moved to the north to avoid impacts to the mapped location of the former Ha Ha walls. Archaeological resources associated with the former Ha Ha walls have the potential to be of State significance and mitigation through the avoidance of impacts to this feature is appropriate.
- Further archaeological investigation in the form of test excavation and monitoring is appropriate. All archaeological investigation should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced Excavation Director who meets the requirements of the *Criteria for assessing Excavation Directors* (Heritage NSW 2019).

- If archaeological resources associated with the former Ha Ha walls are identified during works, it is recommended that the nature and extent of excavation for the temporary car park is reconsidered to avoid impacts to this feature.

Should the SSD be recommended for approval, we would appreciate the opportunity to provide advice on the conditions of consent.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Anna Simanowsky, Senior Assessments Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 9873 8500 or heritagemailbox@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Rochelle Johnston

Rochelle Johnston
A/Director Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

22 January 2026