



Our ref: DOC20/873127-2
Your ref: SSD-10470

Ania Dorocinska
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Industry Assessments
Department of Planning Industry and Environment
Email: ania.dorocinska@planning.nsw.gov.au

Advice provided via the Major Projects Portal

Dear Ms Dorocinska,

Notice of Exhibition – Woolworths Warehouse and Distribution Centre, Auburn (SSD 10470)

Thank you for your referral dated 22 October 2020 inviting comment from Heritage NSW on the proposed Woolworths Warehouse and Distribution Centre, 11-13 Percy Street, Auburn.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents as part of our assessment:

- *Environmental Impact Statement, Proposed Warehouse and Distribution Centre 11 & 13 Percy Street, Auburn Lot 1 & 2 DP1183821* prepared by Willowtree Planning Pty Ltd on behalf of Fabcot Pty Limited, dated 16 October 2020.
- *Appendix 8: 11-13 Percy Street, Auburn, NSW: Aboriginal Archaeological Report* prepared by Austral Archaeology, dated 7 October 2020.
- *Appendix 9: 11-13 Percy Street, Auburn, NSW: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* prepared by Austral Archaeology, dated 7 October 2020.

Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation review of EIS and Appendices

The *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment* (ACHA) and *Aboriginal Archaeological Report* identifies the entire development to be of low archaeological potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage. No Aboriginal objects or sites were identified during the assessment. This is argued to be due to the entirety of the site already being developed, consisting of existing warehouse and factory buildings for industrial purposes.

One registered Aboriginal party provided information on the strong cultural and spiritual significance of the land surrounding the study area. The advice also identified that they believe there is potential for Aboriginal artefacts to occur due to the vicinity of the study area to the creekline and that there should be further investigations. We note no test excavations have been considered or undertaken to confirm the disturbance levels or any low subsurface potential.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) summarises the assessment outcomes and mitigation measures from the ACHA. One specific environmental commitment has been listed in the EIS under section 7.2.4:

15. All contractors undertaking earthworks on site would be briefed on the protection of Aboriginal heritage objects under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and the penalties for damage to these items.

Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation advice

While the proposed development appears to have low potential to impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage, we support raising the cultural awareness of contractors working on site. We also provide the following recommendations:

- Any Aboriginal cultural heritage awareness inductions would benefit from the involvement of Aboriginal community representatives.
- An Unexpected Finds Protocol for Aboriginal objects needs to be included as part of any Construction Environmental Management Plan (CMP) prepared for the development works.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice please contact me on (02) 6229 7089 or via email at jackie.taylor@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Taylor
Senior Team Leader, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - South
Heritage NSW
3 December 2020