



Our ref: DOC20/912385-5
Your ref: SSD-10438

Mr Russell Hand
Principal Planning Officer
Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
email: russell.hand@planning.nsw.gov.au

Advice provided via the Major Project Portal

Dear Mr Hand

Notice of Exhibition of Waterloo Metro Quarter OSD - Basement Car Park Detailed Design SSDA (SSD-10438) (City of Sydney)

Thank you for your referral dated 4 November 2020 inviting comment from Heritage NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

We note the Secretary's Environment Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for this SDD requires the consideration of the extent of Aboriginal heritage impacts of the proposal on the site.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the relevant documentation listed below and provide comments in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage:

- *Environmental Impact Statement Waterloo Metro Quarter Over Station Development Basement Carpark Detailed State Significant Development Application*, prepared by Urbis and dated 26 October 2020.
- Appendix H - *Waterloo Metro Quarter Over Station Development Heritage Impact Statement Appendix H – Basement DA SSD-10438 Basement Car Park*, prepared by Urbis and dated 7 August 2020, and *Archaeological Method Statement for Waterloo Metro Quarter*, prepared by AMBS Ecology & Heritage and dated July 2020.

The EIS and supporting documents contain only brief information relating to Aboriginal cultural heritage and rely heavily on summarising previous assessments.

Table 21, under section 9.2 Mitigation Measures of the EIS, provides the proposed mitigation impacts for Aboriginal heritage whereby;

“The updated Archaeological Method Statement (AMS) prepared by AMBS (dated July 2020) must be adhered to for the full extent of excavation and construction associated with the basement. This AMS outlines the proposed excavation methodology for the subject site to manage archaeological significance and impacts.” (page 147)

We note however that the Archaeological Method Statement (AMS) itself states, under section 1.4 Limitations (page 5), that it does not address the potential for Aboriginal cultural heritage other than to recommend an Unexpected Finds Protocol. Given previous assessments for the area have already recognised there is low to moderate potential for Aboriginal objects to occur as well as the potential for deeper dune deposits to remain intact, we would question whether the application of an Unexpected Finds Protocol is sufficient for this SSD.

We would recommend any conditions of consent for this SSD should continue to include requirements for Aboriginal archaeological test excavation (and salvage when required) if and where intact natural soil profiles are identified, or where Aboriginal objects are identified as an unexpected find. The Archaeological Method Statement (AMS) should be revised to incorporate this requirement.

Please note: the above comments relate to Aboriginal cultural heritage regulation matters only. You may wish to seek separate advice from Heritage NSW in relation to matters under the *Heritage Act 1977*.

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
4 December 2020