



Ms. Angela Stewart
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Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Dear Ms. Stewart

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Heritage NSW - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage - Sydney Metro West - The Bays to Sydney CBD (SSI-19238057) (Inner West, City of Sydney)

Thank you for your referral on 3 October 2021, inviting comments from the Heritage NSW (HNSW) on the above SSI project with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage matters.

HNSW understands that Sydney Metro West will double rail capacity between Greater Parramatta and the Sydney CBD, and the planning process for Sydney Metro West is being assessed as a staged infrastructure application under section 5.20 of the *Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The Sydney Metro West Concept and major civil construction work for Sydney Metro West between Westmead and The Bays (Stage 1 of the planning approval process for Sydney Metro West) (SSI-10038), was approved on 11 March 2021. The proposed major civil construction work between The Bays and Sydney CBD includes - enabling works such as demolition, utility supply to construction sites, utility adjustments, and modifications to the existing transport network, tunnel excavation including tunnel support activities, and station excavation for new metro stations at Pyrmont and at Hunter Street, in the Sydney CBD.

Heritage NSW has reviewed Technical Paper 4 of the EIS - the *Sydney Metro West - Major civil construction work between The Bays and Sydney CBD, Technical Paper 4: Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report Inner West and Sydney Local Government Areas*, Report to Sydney Metro, dated October 2021, and prepared by Artefact Heritage, September 2021.

Based on that review, HNSW recommends that all mitigation and management measures, outlined in Chapter 12 of Technical Paper 4 in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage be implemented, which includes the following:

1. Aboriginal stakeholder consultation for this proposal should continue, following on from major construction work between Westmead and The Bays (Stage 1 of the planning

approval process for Sydney Metro West) in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*.

2. If suspected human skeletal remains are uncovered at any time during the proposed work, procedures outlined in the Sydney Metro Exhumation Management Plan and the Sydney Metro Unexpected Heritage Finds Procedure Heritage Management Plan unexpected finds procedure would be implemented.
3. If unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified during construction work, the Sydney Metro Unexpected Finds Procedure would be implemented.
4. In recognition of potential impacts to the Aboriginal cultural values of the project area, the line-wide Heritage Interpretation Strategy for Sydney Metro West would address Aboriginal cultural values and be prepared in consultation with the local Aboriginal community, knowledge holders and with reference to the Connecting with Country framework.
5. As the Hunter Street Station (Sydney CBD) western construction site has been assessed as having the potential for intact deposits, a stage specific Archaeological Method Statement would be prepared prior to works commencing. The Archaeological Method Statement would adhere to the archaeological management measures for Method Area 2 as outlined in Technical Paper 4 (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report).

Based on the assessment and information provided in Technical Paper 4, HNSW supports all the recommendations and proposed mitigation and management measures outlined in relation to Aboriginal cultural heritage for the project. Should you require any further information, please contact Nicole Davis, Archaeologist, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation, Heritage NSW by email at Nicole.davis@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Jackie Taylor
Senior Team Leader
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - South
Heritage NSW

1 December 2021