



Our ref: DOC22/38261-4

Attention: Isaac.Clayton@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr. Clayton,

Heritage NSW - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage - Major Projects - Nepean Hospital Redevelopment Project - Stage 2 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - (SSD 16928008) (Penrith)

Thank you for your referral dated 20 January 2022, inviting comments on the on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal, with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage. HNSW has reviewed the - *Aboriginal Archaeological Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, Nepean Hospital Redevelopment, prepared for Health Infrastructure NSW, Comber Consultants, November 2021* and make the following comments.

Heritage NSW understands that Comber Consultants was engaged by Health Infrastructure NSW to undertake an Aboriginal archaeological assessment, which included background research and a site inspection. Due to the disturbed nature of the site, it was concluded that the site does not contain Aboriginal archaeological potential and that it was unlikely that Aboriginal objects would be disturbed by the proposal. That report is appended to this Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). Heritage NSW concurs with this assessment.

Heritage NSW notes that the ACHAR details the Aboriginal consultation undertaken for the project and was written in accordance with the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents* (2010), and makes the following recommendations:

1. There are no constraints to the proposed Nepean Hospital Stage 2 redevelopment in respect of Aboriginal archaeology.
2. The Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group (KYWG) and Aragung are concerned that previously undetected or unrecorded Aboriginal objects may be harmed during ground disturbance and have requested that monitoring of excavations be undertaken by the Registered Aboriginal Parties. Please contact:
 - The Kamilaroi-Yankuntjatjara Working Group at: philipkhan.acn@live.com.au to arrange monitoring by the KYWG.
 - Jamie Eastwood at: james.eastwood@y7mail.com to arrange monitoring by of Aragung.
 - An archaeologist is not required for this monitoring.
3. The RAPs requested that an interpretation strategy and plan be developed and implemented that details the Aboriginal history of the site and the Penrith area. The history and data contained in this report could underpin the interpretation. The interpretation should be undertaken in a range of innovative ways including artworks, landscaping, and digital displays.

4. A Landscape Design Report by Arcadia which includes plantings that respond to Connecting to Country and includes interpretative opportunities such as “Healing Landscapes” and “The Story of the Mulgoa People”.
5. If any previously unrecorded or undetected Aboriginal objects are unexpectedly uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of that object, the area secured, and further advice sought from the consultant and the Aboriginal monitor.
6. An induction should be provided by an archaeologist to all employees, contractors or sub-contractors engaged on this project, detailing their responsibilities under the *National Parks & Wildlife Act 1974* in respect of Aboriginal archaeology and heritage and should include advice:
 - That it is an offence to harm an Aboriginal object without a permit.
 - How to identify an Aboriginal object.
 - If an Aboriginal object(s) is unexpectedly uncovered, all work must cease in the vicinity of that object, the area secured, and the consultant contacted immediately.

Heritage NSW concurs with all the recommendations documented in the ACHAR with respect to the management and mitigation of the Aboriginal cultural heritage values associated with the proposal.

Should you require any further information, please contact Nicole Davis, Manager Assessments, Heritage NSW on 4927 3156 or nicole.davis@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Nicole Y Davis

Manager Assessments

Community Engagement

Heritage NSW

Department of Premier and Cabinet

31 January 2022