



lara.fusco@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms. Fusco,

Heritage NSW Review - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage - EIS - Taronga Wildlife Hospital Nutrition Centre (SSD-17655146) (Mosman Municipality)

Thank you for your referral on 25 February March 2022, inviting comments from the Heritage NSW on the above SSD proposal with respect to Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH).

Heritage NSW understands that Urbis was commissioned by Taronga Conservation Society Australia (Taronga) (the Proponent) to produce an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, in accordance with the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the State Significant Development (SSD-17655146) for the site of the proposed Taronga Nutrition Centre, to support the Taronga Wildlife Hospital, Taronga Zoo, 2A Bradleys Head Road, Mosman NSW 2088.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the Appendix L - *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) -Taronga Wildlife Hospital Sydney - Nutrition Centre, Taronga Zoo, Mosman, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, URBIS Pty Ltd, 1 December 2022*, and make the following comments and recommendations.

Heritage NSW understands that the proposed works include the demolition of existing back of house facilities and the construction of a new Nutrition Centre precinct to support the proposed Wildlife Hospital (subject to a separate Application). These facilities will be primarily inaccessible to the public and will constitute food preparation and animal welfare management areas. The ACHAR concluded that:

- No Aboriginal objects and/or places are registered on AHIMS within the subject area or within proximity.
- The subject area is within management zones 4 (Areas heavily modified by European Development) and 5 (areas which have previously been excavated down to bedrock, or culturally sterile soils) on the GML 2004 AMP for the wider Taronga Zoo. There is nil-low Aboriginal archaeological potential associated with these zones.
- The subject area sits upon the GyMEA/Lambert soil landscape, which contains mixed sandy soils to a depth of approximately 30-100cm. However, the geotechnical investigation identified no natural soils within boreholes across the subject area and the site survey and historical research confirmed significant disturbance through historical land use.
- The subject area is upon a crest which slopes to the south and west. The subject area is currently utilised as back of house facilities and is upon substantially modified topography with evidence of cutting.

- Archaeological site survey identified high level of disturbance at the subject area, including extensive historical land use associated with the development of the Zoo.
- No Aboriginal objects or archaeological resources were identified during the site survey.
- RAPs confirmed during the survey that the likelihood of objects or intangible cultural heritage values was low.
- The predictive model has identified that there is low to nil archaeological potential across the subject area.

The ACHAR identified low to nil archaeological potential across the subject area and based on the information provided - Heritage NSW concurs with this assessment. Based on the conclusions of the ACHAR, the proposed development of the Nutrition Centre can proceed with the following recommendations that:

1. RAP consultation be maintained.
2. Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Induction is undertaken.
3. Archaeological Chance Find Procedure is implemented.
4. Human Remains Procedure is implemented.

Heritage NSW supports the implementation of the proposed recommendations in relation to the Taronga Wildlife Hospital Nutrition Centre, and has no additional concerns or comments in relation to this proposal proceeding. Should you require any further information, please contact Nicole Davis, Manager - Heritage Assessments, Heritage NSW at Nicole.davis@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Nicole Y Davis

Manager - Heritage Assessments

Heritage NSW

Department of Premier and Cabinet

13 March 2022