

Lara Fusco
Planner
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO BOX 404, PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

By email: lara.fusco@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Fusco

Notice of Exhibition of application for Taronga Wildlife Hospital Nutrition Centre (SSD-17655146)

Thank you for your referral received 4 March 2022 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD). The proposal involves the demolition of the existing food preparation building group and the construction of a new two-storey Animal Nutrition Centre and associated infrastructure and landscaping. The Nutrition Centre is stage 1 of the Wildlife Hospital Nutrition Centre project.

Heritage NSW (HNSW) have reviewed the following documents:

- Statement of Heritage Impact (Geoffrey Britton, November 2021)
- Historical Archaeological Assessment (Urbis, 22 December 2021)
- Environmental Impact Statement (Urbis, December 2021)

Taronga Zoo is not currently listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR), however it has been assessed in several studies to have State heritage significance. There are no other SHR items in the immediate vicinity of the subject site.

Taronga Zoo is locally listed on the *Mosman Local Environmental Plan 2012* (Item I34, "Rainforest Aviary", "Elephant House", bus shelter and office, floral clock and upper and lower entrance gates). These elements are not located in the site of the proposed Nutrition Centre.

Taronga Zoo maintains a Section 170 heritage and conservation register which identifies individual built and landscape heritage items within the zoo. The proposal will directly affect a portion of item 07L, a remnant section of 1920s stone boundary wall.

As delegate of the Heritage Council, I provide the following comments:

Non-aboriginal heritage

The Statement of Heritage Impact has addressed the impacts of the proposal on the stone wall, as well the broader impacts on the zoo's fabric and setting.

HNSW supports the recommendations outlined in Section 7 to minimise visual impact and conserve the stone boundary wall. The Department should ensure that the final design addresses these recommendations and/or include appropriate conditions of consent.

Historical Archaeology

The Historical Archaeological Assessment has found that there is low-moderate potential for the proposal to impact on archaeological remains of the mid-20th century bird enclosure. If remains are located, they may have local significance for their associations with adaptation to the Zoo under Hallstrom's Directorship (1941-1966) and for their ability to demonstrate the historical development of Taronga Zoo and evolving attitudes toward zoological practices.

The works are unlikely to impact on any archaeological remains of State significance. HNSW supports Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 of the Historical Archaeological Assessment.

In the unlikely event that archaeological remains of State significance are uncovered they should be conserved *in situ* where possible.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

Comments relating to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage will be provided in separate correspondence by HNSW.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Lily Chu, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8595 or Lily.Chu@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ellis.

Michael Ellis
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier & Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
23 March 2022