

Our ref: DOC22/362656

Ms. Catriona Shirley
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Energy Resource Industry Assessments
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Advice referred through the Major Project Portal

Dear Catriona

**Advice regarding Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development –
42 Raymond Avenue Multi-level Warehouse Matraville (SSD – 31552370)**

Thank you for your referral dated 11 May 2022, inviting comment from Heritage NSW (HNSW) in relation to the proposed State Significant Development (SSD-31552370) at 42 Raymond Avenue, Matraville NSW. It is understood the proposal involves the redevelopment of a vacant hardstand industrial site and construction of a multi-level warehouse and distribution facility across developable land within Lot 1 in DP 369668, Lot 32 Sec B in DP 8313, Lot 1 in DP 511092 and Lot 2 in DP 1082623.

In providing comment on Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) matters, HSNW have reviewed the following documents prepared by Urbis to support the SSD proposal, including:

- *Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): 42 Raymond Avenue, Matraville*, dated 11 March 2022; and
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA): 42 Raymond Avenue, Matraville, NSW Gadigal Country*, dated 3 May 22.

HNSW is not satisfied that the ACHA completed to date for the project meets the SEARs and regulatory requirements under HNSW Guidelines by adequately identifying and assessing the impacts of the proposal on the Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) values within the development area.

Despite extensive ground disturbance impacts from industrial use, the ACHA has identified the development area lies within the archaeologically sensitive Bunnerong Creek waterway and Tuggerah soil landscape with the potential for Aboriginal objects to be present within subsurface deposits. Geotechnical evidence referenced in the ACHA supports the presence of an intact sand body (which the ACHA suggests is likely to be a remnant of the Tuggerah soil profile), situated at depth beneath the hardstand and disturbed fill layer.

Based on the ACHA findings and previous archaeological investigations undertaken in the vicinity, Urbis (2022:48) have recommended a 'staged subsurface archaeological investigation program' be undertaken within the development area prior to the commencement of the

proposed works, to ascertain the nature and extent of any Aboriginal objects associated with potential subsurface archaeological deposits.

HNSW supports the recommendation to undertake further ACH investigation in the form of test excavation within the curtilage of the proposal area. However, we are of the view where further primary ACH assessment is recommended, this should be completed as part of the EIS rather than being deferred until post-approval.

HNSW recommends that where there is uncertainty regarding potential impacts to ACH values and there is a recommendation to conduct further investigation via archaeological test excavations within the development area, this should be completed as part of the current ACHAR to inform the impact assessment for the project.

HNSW recommends that the proponent undertake further ACH assessment to determine the nature and extent of potential subsurface deposits within the development area, in consultation with relevant Aboriginal parties, to adequately capture the information required to address the SEARs for the project and inform the EIS by the development of appropriate management and mitigation measures for any ACH values.

The ACHA includes a preliminary significance assessment of Aboriginal objects associated with any potential subsurface deposits located within the development area. To adequately assess the ACH significance of the lands subject to the proposed infrastructure project, the proponent must clearly identify all potential areas, objects, places or landscapes of heritage significance to Aboriginal culture and people that may potentially be impacted by the proposal. It is unclear how the significance of any Aboriginal objects and potential subsurface deposits has been assessed, when the nature and extent of any such deposits has not been confirmed through test excavation.

HNSW notes that the EIS submitted for review includes a draft version of the ACHA (EIS 2022; Appendix AA) and incomplete information regarding the consultation undertaken with the Aboriginal community. Consequently, the EIS does not present current information about the potential impacts of the proposal on ACH as information contained in Section 6.1.15 of the EIS is outdated and incorrect. HNSW recommends this document be updated to include the finalised ACHA and any subsequent results from additional ACH investigation undertaken within the development area to provide an accurate summary of the potential ACH impacts of the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact Rebecca Yit, Senior Assessments Officer at HNSW on 4927 3244 or rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Davis
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Heritage NSW
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27 May 2022