

31 July 2026

Ingrid Zhu
Senior Planning Officer, Social Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
Via email: ingrid.zhu@dpie.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ingrid,

Request for Additional Information – Western Sydney University Indigenous Centre of Excellence SSD-64916225

Colliers Urban Planning on behalf of Western Sydney University submitted a formal Response to Submissions Report and accompanying documentation to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) on 19 December 2025.

On 23 January 2026, DPHI issued correspondence requesting additional information to address matters raised in agency advice and Council's further submission in response to the Response to Submissions Report. A written response, supported by additional documentation, was subsequently submitted on 18 February 2026, addressing the majority of the matters raised, with the exception of outstanding flood-related issues.

To address the outstanding flood matters, supplementary information was provided on 4 March 2026, presenting four (4) flood modelling scenarios and their respective impacts on flood hazard, levels and depths. Following review, DPHI requested further detail in relation to Option 4, despite this option being inconsistent with the direction previously provided by the agencies and Council. Notwithstanding this, DPHI requested that Option 4 be investigated in further detail.

Option 4 comprised a speculative design approach involving a building elevated on piers to facilitate flood conveyance through the undercroft. This speculative design and supporting consultant information were provided to DPHI on 8 April 2026, and a meeting to discuss the findings was held with DPHI on 22 April 2026. At this meeting, general in-principle support for Option 4 was provided by DPHI.

While this option was prepared for testing purposes, subsequent agency advice received on 19 May 2026 reiterated the matters previously raised and did not support this approach, resulting in DPHI engaging an independent peer reviewer. Ultimately, this direction significantly extended the assessment timeframe, resulting in the application remaining at a standstill for approximately four months, without any material change in outcomes.

In response, Western Sydney University adopted a proactive approach by engaging Water Technology to provide independent advice on the outstanding flooding matters, including a review of the assessments prepared by GRC Hydro. Water Technology was selected due to its detailed knowledge of the Parramatta River Flood Study (PRFS), having been engaged by Parramatta City Council to review and amend the study, as well as its capability to provide independent, expert advice in relation to Council's flood considerations. The peer review undertaken by Water Technology concluded that the development can be supported, and that the University's flood modelling is technically sound, and the design achieves an appropriate and conservative level of flood immunity.

In light of the above timeline, this letter provides a formal written response to the items raised with the request for additional information dated 23 January 2026, with a response to the individual items raised provided below.

1. Encroachment Safety Management Study

An Encroachment Safety Management Study (SMS) assessing the impact on the Ampol high pressure oil pipeline is to be provided as the pipeline is in proximity to the development site.

Response: An Encroachment Safety Management Study Action Plan and Threat Register details have been submitted to DPHI on 29 July 2026. See **Attachment A**.

Response to Attachment 1 – City of Parramatta Council submission on the ARTS

1. Flooding

Council still has concerns regarding flood modelling, flood impact assessment and flood management. Climate change impacts have not been appropriately modelled, lost flood storage has not been offset, and design and safety measures are not considered for the defacto flood basins and overland flow paths created by the proposal. Detailed flood advice is provided under Attachment 1.

Response: In response to the correspondence from DPHI to Colliers Urban Planning dated 19 May 2026, and further to our letter to the Department dated 24 June 2026 (See **Attachment B**), Western Sydney University engaged Water Technology to undertake an independent peer review of the flood assessment information submitted as part of this Development Application. Water Technology's review, dated 25 June 2026, was commissioned to provide an independent assessment of the matters raised by the Department and to confirm the adequacy of the flood-related information previously submitted.

We understand that the DPHI has also engaged an independent consultant to undertake its own peer review of the flood documentation. However, to date, we have not been provided with any findings, recommendations or advice arising from that review.

The independent peer review prepared by Water Technology on 25 June 2026 confirms that the flood assessment information submitted to the Department in December 2025 remains current, relevant and technically sound. The review also confirms that the documentation satisfactorily addresses the flood-related matters raised in the Department's correspondence of 19 May 2026.

Accordingly, and having regard to both the Department's correspondence dated 23 January 2026 and 19 May 2026, we have resubmitted the relevant flood assessment material previously provided to the Department. Consistent with our correspondence of 24 June 2026 and the findings of Water Technology's peer review dated 25 June 2026, we consider that the information submitted adequately addresses the outstanding flood-related requests for information and demonstrates that the proposal remains acceptable from a flood planning and flood risk management perspective.

Recognising the Department's focus on resolving the remaining matters with the City of Parramatta Council, Western Sydney University has requested a meeting with Council on 10 August 2026. DPHI will also be invited to participate to enable all parties to discuss the independent technical advice, clarify any outstanding matters and facilitate the finalisation of the assessment.

2. Stormwater and Water Sensitive Design

The amended proposal continues to retain Council's existing 1200mm diameter pipe within the proposed building footprint, which is not supported. Council will not be able to service this important public drainage pipe if it runs under the proposed building. This issue has been raised previously but there is still reluctance to either relocate the existing 1200mm diameter pipe or revise the building footprint.

Response: Response provided to DPHI in February 2026, see **Attachment C**.

3. Urban Design

Council acknowledges and supports the design changes, particularly in regard to the reduction of bulk and scale, with the removal of the 4th floor.

Council acknowledges and supports the effort of enhancing the sense of arrival from Victoria Road which provides better building address to the main street and more street prominence. However, as previously commented, the proposed form still offers little activation to this primary road. Acknowledging the noise constraints of such a busy road, it is still considered valuable for the proposal to address this frontage and respond to the street with a more significant entry point. Improved permeability from Victoria Road into the site would be achieved through a more distinctive primary entry (that opens into the internal space with more generous dimensions). 'Opening up' of the Victoria Road façade through a horizontal ground floor glazing opening, similar to the interface with the internal courtyard, would provide sightlines into the centre.

Response: An Urban Design Response was provided to DPHI on 18 February 2026. See **Attachment D**.

Response to Attachment 2 – Response to Government agencies advice on the ARTS

Heritage NSW

As per the advice from Heritage NSW dated 6 March 2026, this matter has been resolved and conditions of consent recommended. See **Attachment E**.

Crown Lands

Owners consent has been provided for development on Crown Land (Lots 100 and 101 in DP 816829) as per correspondence issued to the DPHI on 19 May 2026. See **Attachment F**.

Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation (CPHR)

Refer to response provided at **Item 1**.

SES

Refer to response provided at **Item 1**.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Western Sydney University considers that it has now fully responded to all requests for additional information issued by DPHI, including the flood-related matters which have been the subject of extensive further investigation, independent technical review and multiple rounds of consultation. To the University's knowledge, there are no remaining information requests requiring a response prior to determination of the application.

While the Department's independent peer review is understood to have been completed, no technical findings or requests for additional information have been provided to the University. Accordingly, the University assumes there are no further matters requiring clarification beyond those addressed through the material submitted.

We appreciate DPHI's continued assessment of this application and have worked collaboratively throughout the process to respond to each request for additional information, including commissioning further independent technical reviews. The University considers the application to be fully documented and supported by comprehensive technical evidence and respectfully requests that DPHI now proceed to finalise its assessment and issue draft conditions of consent.

Should you require further information or wish to discuss the above please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Constantinou".

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Schandel Fortu".

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