

## **Appendix A      Architectural Statement**

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## Introduction

This report summarises changes to the façade design of the Australian Institute of Nanoscience (AIN) building, the subject of State Significant Development (SSD) application (SSD 5087-2011). The revised façade scheme improves the clarity of the building and will, in our opinion, provide an improved relationship to its campus condition and immediate neighbours, by reducing its impact on adjacent heritage items, whilst providing a high quality piece of contemporary architecture with an external expression appropriate to its function.

## Façade Amendment

The façade in the original submission comprised two façade materials; a fully glazed curtain walling system with a ceramic frit pattern and a rain-screen composite metal panel cladding system. The fully glazed curtain walling was predominantly to the northern and eastern facades with the southern and western façades consisting of the metal panel cladding system with punched window openings. The metal panel cladding continued in a high level band and to selected areas of the southern and eastern facades.

The revised proposal is to wrap the whole building in a single façade type; the glazed curtain walling system, and to remove the metal cladding panel system with punched windows. The revised proposal wraps the new building wholly in a carefully detailed, flush, glass skin with a white ceramic frit pattern. The removal of the punched window openings and different façade materials will provide a more unified and simple solution, this will help to provide a clear delineation between new works and existing heritage items.

The glazing will comprise areas of clear vision glazing and opaque shadow-box spandrel panel, consistent with the curtain walling system proposed in the original submission. All of the external glazing will be flush and will incorporate an applied ceramic frit pattern. The pattern is an abstraction of the patterns studied by the nanoscience researchers and will provide an abstracted contemporary expression of the nature of the nanoscience research occurring within the building. The reflection and shadowing of the frit pattern on the shadow box and vision areas of glazing will provide a depth and subtle complexity to a flat façade surface. It is a much higher quality façade product than the metal cladding panel system and this will be reflected in the increased quality of the external building appearance.

Comparison images overleaf show the original and proposed schemes.

## Heritage Impact

The Heritage Architect's assessment of this amendment is as follows, *'The materials have been altered to utilise a single glazed façade system as opposed to a dual system (glazed and Alpollic) which may have created the potential for water ingress at junctions between façade systems. Architectus have also confirmed that this has always been their preferred architectural approach as it produces a simpler, more elegant building. In any case there will be no additional heritage impacts as a result of the material change.'*



Eastern Entry – Original



Eastern Entry – Proposed



North East Aerial Perspective – Original



North East Aerial Perspective – Proposed