

21 October 2020

Ms Sally Webster
Head of Sydney Modern Project
Art Gallery of NSW
Art Gallery Road, The Domain
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Ref: 20-0060swc3

Re: Art Gallery of NSW Expansion Project, Sydney Modern—Proposed Modification Landscape—Archaeological Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement

Dear Ms Webster,

This letter assesses the potential built heritage, landscape, Aboriginal and historical archaeological impacts of the proposed Modification Landscape (Mod Landscape) to State Significant Development (SSD) application 6471. Mod Landscape includes a revised landscape and public domain plan for the immediate setting of the existing gallery and the new gallery and works to Art Gallery Road, Cowper Wharf Road, Mrs Macquarie's Road, and Lincoln Crescent.

This assessment has been prepared with reference to the following reports:

- GML Heritage, Art Gallery of New South Wales Expansion: Sydney Modern—Heritage Impact Statement, April 2018 (2018 HIS); and
- GML Heritage, AGNSW Sydney Modern—Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report, August 2018 (2018 ACHAR).

Study Area

The site of the Sydney Modern Project is located within the landscape setting of the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain (RBGD) - State Heritage Register #01070. The modifications to the landscape design are predominantly located within the footprint of the Sydney Modern Project, with the exception of two localised areas, which seek to extend the project boundary. The first area includes an irregular hexagonal shaped area on the western side of Art Gallery Road, at the pedestrian entry to the Domain. This area has been enlarged to the north and south to incorporate reconfiguration of the landscape and stairs. The second area is at the southwest corner of the Art Gallery of NSW building, where the area of landscaping to this southern corner has been extended partially to the east along the southern elevation.

Proposed Works

The following statement has been prepared as part of the design development process to describe Mod Landscape.

The proposed landscape design builds on the design concept established in the approved landscape documentation under SSD-6471 and seeks to further integrate the architecture with

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the landscape. It maintains the core elements of the landscape design which are the Entry Plaza, paved forecourt at the front of the existing Gallery building and reuse and interpretation of heritage walls, circular path and grassed area on the land bridge, landscaping to roof tops and publicly accessible terraces to the building, and vegetated areas.

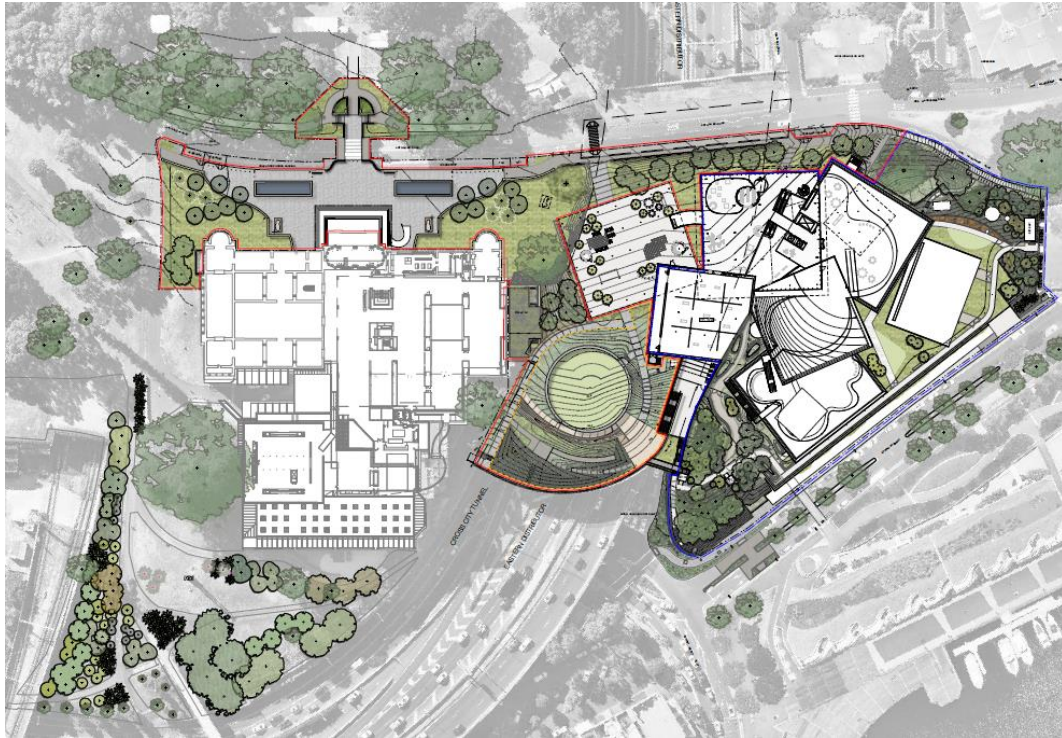


Figure 1 Art Gallery of NSW Expansion Sydney Modern Project, Landscape Master Plan (Drawing No. LD_DA_00-02). (Source: Art Gallery of New South Wales)

The changes are described in detail in Attachment A—and the referenced drawings listed at Attachment B—but can be summarised in simplified terms as:

- Addition of reflection pools to either side of the front entry of the existing Gallery building;
- Re-use and reinterpretation of heritage walls in front of the existing Gallery to reflect their original alignment and height;
- Enhanced pedestrian entry into the Domain from Art Gallery Road, opposite the existing Gallery building;
- Changes to the Entry Plaza, including to the tree layout and the addition of a 'rain catcher' to the roof canopy, with associated sandstone channel to capture rain runoff and move water through the landscape;
- Land bridge incorporates an elevated grassed area within a circular path system, surrounded by an ephemeral water feature and with future Art Garden on elevated berm;
- Existing paved area on the land bridge adjoining the existing Gallery is proposed as a terrace area with trellis structure and planting over, accessed from the existing Gallery;
- Security measures to Art Gallery Road frontage in the form of bollards, low walls and reflection pools to prevent vehicle access into the site; and

- Minor design changes including to planting areas, plant palette, tree numbers, path systems, retaining walls/seating, lighting, and landscape materials and finishes.
- The 'artwork' zone between the new gallery and the existing building has been specifically set aside for a major commission. The Gallery is currently working with several artists to develop commissions as part of its broader curatorial program for the expanded art museum campus.

Assessment of Heritage Impact—Historical Archaeology

The areas of the proposed modification works have nil to low potential for historical archaeology. Refer to Attachment C for further analysis.

Assessment of Heritage Impact—Aboriginal Archaeology

There is no potential for Aboriginal artefacts within intact subsurface deposits to be identified in the overall Sydney Modern Project boundary. Refer to Attachment D for further analysis.

Assessment of Heritage Impact—Built Heritage and Landscape

The proposed works do not further alter the significant Vernon Wing of the existing gallery and the significant oil tanks from the approved design. Changes relate to the setting of the gallery and the gardens.

The approved landscape design for the Sydney Modern Project incorporated a series of small-scale changes to the existing landscape setting and exterior of the Gallery, with the changes aimed at providing integration between the existing and new building. The majority of these changes were focused around the footprint of the new buildings, to the north of the existing Gallery, providing a landscaped setting to the new Gallery building as well as improving the approach to the site from the Woolloomooloo foreshore via Lincoln Crescent. Some changes were proposed in front of the existing building in the forecourt area and across Art Gallery Road at the entrance to The Domain.

The Art Gallery Forecourt

The works approved to the forecourt immediately outside the front of the current Gallery, referred to as the Vernon Curtilage in the landscape design drawings, included upgrades to facilitate pedestrian movements and reducing risks of trip hazards associated with the low sandstone retaining wall currently delineating the original alignment of the carriage loop to the main entrance of the Gallery. This design was assessed as having a major adverse impact on the sandstone dwarf wall element, with an overall minor adverse heritage impact on the existing Gallery. Further historical investigation undertaken during the design phase, has now revealed the wall has undergone more modifications over time than was previously understood.

Generally, the Mod Landscape changes to the landscape design in the Vernon Curtilage will include areas of departure from the existing arrangement, which has remained largely unchanged and interpretable from the early twentieth century. The main components of the proposed modification that depart from the approved design include the raising and realignment of the dwarf sandstone retaining wall, introduction of new trees, introduction of new 'reflection pools' standing above ground levels to either side of the main portico, an alteration to the configuration of the footpath leading into The Domain and additions to the new land bridge garden.

The sandstone dwarf wall in front of the existing Gallery is identified as a significant element within the setting and landscape of the Art Gallery. Previously, this wall was used to demarcate the carriage loop leading to the entrance of the Vernon Wing. However, over the course of minor modifications to the forecourt the wall has been realigned in sections and has been accompanied by the building up of ground

levels over the years. The approved landscape design included demolition of elements of the sandstone wall to ground level. The proposed modifications to the landscape design now propose for the sandstone wall to be retained and relocated largely to its original alignment. This will require the sandstone wall to be removed in sections, raised and realigned as part of the overall modifications to the forecourt. The change in level for the sandstone wall will minimise the trip hazard of the wall, while also increasing the prominence of this element in the landscape. This proposed modification to the design would have a minor positive heritage impact, through the reinstatement of a significant element to a more prominent position and reset with reference to its previous, original alignment.

The existing Gallery building, and the landscape to its western elevation, is notable for its distinctive and formal geometry as well as the classical symmetry of the main elevation and its generally open character which allows full appreciation of the principal façade of the Vernon Wing. This open character is revealed on approach from the south by the heavily shaded and gently curved Art Gallery Road. The planting of 13 new red bloodwood trees (*Corymbia gummifera*) in front of the apsidal end bays of the principal façade of the Vernon Wing will significantly alter the historic—and current—open setting of the Vernon Wing. The number and density of the tree planting, their location and the height of the species at maturity (20–35m equivalent to between five and ten storeys) contribute to the visual intrusion. Significant views of the Gallery building on approach from both the north and south from Art Gallery Road would be altered by the proposed plan. The prominence of the original palm plantings would also be reduced by the new trees. The plantings of this species of tree in this location would be an adverse heritage impact on the building and its setting, and alternatives to this species and location should be considered with heritage advice.

The proposed modifications to the landscape design also include installation of new security features to the eastern side of Art Gallery Road, to the length of the existing Gallery forecourt. Depending on the scale, positioning and form of the bollards and retaining wall, proposed design modifications may lead to visual clutter in the existing open landscape around the Gallery. This may have a minor to moderate adverse heritage impact; however, this should be confirmed upon preparation of a detailed design for the proposed security measures and should be guided by heritage advice during development.

Refinement of the landscape design has also included the proposal to install two reflection pools to the west of the Vernon Wing. These pools, with a dual purpose of hostile vehicle mitigation and enhanced entry setting, would flank the axial approach to the entry steps to the central portico on the Gallery building. The rectangular pools would run on a north–south alignment, parallel to the Art Gallery building, and would sit above ground level. The pools would be a new addition to the historic setting of the gallery and details about the height required for hostile vehicle mitigation would need to be considered during detailed design development in order to avoid visual intrusion on the setting of the Vernon Wing. This should be guided by heritage advice during design development.

Currently, the southwest corner of the Vernon Wing has a concrete apron with earth at its edges retained by a wall. This apron wraps around the southern apsidal end bay from the western elevation to the southern elevation. The apron has not been identified as a significant element within the landscape of the Gallery. It is believed that this was installed during the mid to late twentieth century to mitigate moisture ingress and rising damp in this part of the building. Damp in the basement level at this corner is apparent. Mod Landscape proposes extending the turfed area up to the building with some form of separation proposed. Turf up to the building could exacerbate damp in the masonry of the building, however this could be mitigated with additional drainage and stormwater management. This should be guided by heritage advice during design development.

Landbridge and Trellis Garden

The approved landscape design currently includes a paved area between the existing building and the new landscaping to the southeast of the new gallery building, where the northern sculpture garden is currently located. Modifications to the landscape design seek to establish a plant-covered trellis—pergola—over a terrace on the north side of the Captain Cook Wing. The pergola would be freestanding and built to the height such that the bottom of the top frame would be set at the level of the bottom spandrel of the Captain Cook Wing’s northern elevation. The landscape in this part of the site is stepped down towards the east, with a sandstone outcrop, containing large mature plantings currently providing a screen to views between Art Gallery Road and the Captain Cook Wing northern walls. This sandstone outcrop would be retained and used to form the western border of the terrace, with the ground level of the terrace sitting below the sandstone, resulting in the terrace sitting low in the landscape, when viewed from Art Gallery Road. This proposed change to the landscape design will reactivate a hard, somewhat bare area of the landscape and improve the landscape setting to the north of the Gallery while also providing a softer integration point between the new and existing buildings. The significant views of the Art Gallery and from the Domain will be maintained, and no physical impacts would be required to the significant elements of the Art Gallery. The overall form and ‘massing’ of the pergola would not result in additional heritage impacts on the Art Gallery or the Domain. However, the materials, set out and detailing of this element would require heritage advice during detailed design development to ensure heritage impacts are mitigated.

The Entry Plaza

The works to the Entry Plaza to the new gallery do not introduce significant new elements that would change the visual setting of the Vernon Wing from that of the approved design. The proposed works in this area would not have an additional heritage impact.

Fuel Bunker Garden and Art Garden

The works to the Fuel Bunker Garden and Art Garden do not introduce significant new elements that would change the visual setting of the Vernon Wing from that of the approved design nor do they result in additional impacts on the significant fuel bunkers (oil tanks). The proposed works in this area would not have an additional heritage impact.

Summary of Impacts

In summary, the proposed design modifications will not impact Aboriginal or historical archaeology. However, the existing management procedures for Aboriginal or historical archaeology management should be continued.

Works to the Entry Plaza, Landbridge, Fuel Bunker Garden and Art Garden will not increase the heritage impacts from those of the approved design. The Trellis Garden and its pergola will not adversely impact the heritage values of the Vernon Wing or the significant oil tanks and will not disturb key significant views; however, this element will require materials, set out and detailing to be confirmed in detailed design development to ensure heritage impacts are mitigated.

The proposed design modifications to the forecourt of the Vernon Wing (the Vernon Curtilage) includes elements that retain and reveal the heritage significance of the place such as the serpentine dwarf wall’s reconstruction and the removal of the stark parking area. However, elements of the design of the forecourt—principally hostile vehicle management measures and the addition of potentially very tall groves of trees—would change the historic setting and may interrupt some key views to the existing gallery, thereby having potentially adverse impacts on the heritage values of the existing gallery.

The treatment of the landscape at the southwestern corner of the Vernon Wing has potential to cause direct impacts to the material conservation of the building which is showing damage by damp in this location. Detailed design should investigate and rectify moisture ingress at this location and elsewhere at the interface with the Vernon Wing so as to not only not exacerbate current defects but to remediate defects and put in place measures to care for the building in the long term.

Recommended Mitigation Measures

The following recommendations should be implemented during the detailed design and construction phases of the project to mitigate heritage impacts. This should be done with ongoing review and heritage advice by a heritage specialist.

1. Existing management procedures for historical and Aboriginal archaeology management should be continued. These are outlined in Attachments C and D, respectively.
2. The materials, set out and detailing of the pergola/trellis structure of the Trellis Garden should be reviewed and confirmed in detailed design development.
3. The details regarding the hostile vehicle management measures (including bollards and pools) and tree planting the forecourt of the Vernon Wing (the Vernon Curtilage) should be reviewed—particularly with regard to keeping views to the Wing from the north and south as open and uncluttered as possible.
4. The detailed design of the landscape at the southwestern corner of the Vernon Wing and along its western interface should include investigation and rectification of moisture ingress into the significant masonry fabric of the Wing and a strategy for the long term conservation of this fabric should be implemented as part of the works.
5. If trees are functionally essential in the forecourt, further investigation should be undertaken to select a species with a lower and more open habit. The location of individual trees should also be reviewed to minimise view impacts.
6. The proposed concrete retaining walls adjacent to Art Gallery Road should be reviewed in detail to confirm they are compatible with the significant elements and landscape setting of the Vernon Wing.
7. Vibration monitoring of works in progress should continue to protect the significant Vernon Wing.

If any further information is required or you have any queries regarding the above advice, please contact Don Wallace or me on (02) 9319 4811.

Yours sincerely,

GML Heritage Pty Ltd



Claire Nunez
Senior Associate

Attachment A—Detailed description of Works

The proposed Modification comprises landscape design changes to the approved Sydney Modern Project State Significant Development (SSD) Application (SSD 6471).

The proposed landscape design builds on the design concept established in the approved landscape documentation under SSD-6471 and seeks to further integrate the architecture with the landscape. It maintains the core elements of the landscape design which are the Entry Plaza, paved forecourt at the front of the existing Gallery building and reuse and interpretation of heritage walls, circular path and grassed area on the land bridge; provision for a potential future artwork commission, landscaping to roof tops and publicly accessible terraces to the building, and vegetated areas.

The proposed Modification enhances the approved landscape design with the following:

- Addition of reflection pools either side to the front entry of the existing Gallery building;
- Reuse and reinterpretation of heritage walls in front of the existing Gallery to reflect their original alignment and height;
- Enhanced pedestrian entry into The Domain from Art Gallery Road opposite the existing Gallery building;
- Changes to Entry Plaza including to the tree layout, and addition of 'rain catcher' at ground level to capture rainwater from the glazed roof canopy of the Entry Plaza and a sandstone channel to collect rain runoff and weave it through the land bridge landscape area. Note the ephemeral water feature incorporates an extant sandstone escarpment;
- The land bridge incorporates a 'gathering space' with a low wall for public seating that captures sightlines to the harbour and is bounded by a circular path system and sandstone channel capturing episodic water from the glazed roof canopy of the Entry Plaza and an elevated berm ('Crescent Hill') as the site for a potential future art commission as well as providing an acoustic barrier to the motorway below. Discussions are underway regarding the potential future artwork commission as part of the curatorial program for the expanded Gallery. The Gallery will consult with Indigenous communities and the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney in the development of the planting palette for the site;
- Extant paved area on land adjacent to the land bridge and adjoining the existing Gallery building (former 'Northern Sculpture Court') is proposed to be reinstated as a terrace area which will be accessed predominantly internally from the existing Gallery building and used as a sculpture terrace and, as required, for Gallery programming and events. It will have a trellis structure with planting over, and be bordered by a water feature that will separate it from the remainder of the land bridge;
- Security and safety measures to Art Gallery Road in the form of bollards, low walls and reflection pools that will act as Hostile Vehicle Mitigations for the site;
- Minor changes to planting areas in terms of tree/shrub/groundcover placement, refinements to plant palette, and an increase in proposed tree planting numbers;
- Minor design changes including to path systems, retaining walls/seating, lighting, landscape materials and finishes, and reduction in one accessible car space/loading bay length.

The changes to the landscape design will incorporate the design of landscape architect Kathryn Gustafson and international landscape architecture firm, GGN (Gustafson Guthrie Nichol) Landscape Architects, while maintaining the landscape design prepared by McGregor Coxall Landscape Architects to the remainder of the site, and complementing the architecture of the Sydney Modern Project building, designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architects, SANAA.

The proposed Modification is comprised of the following changes:

1. Landscaping works

The Vernon Curtilage

- Two new reflection pools positioned symmetrically in front of the existing Art Gallery of NSW building entrance
- New paving to the forecourt
- New bollards fronting Art Gallery Road
- New tree planting
- The existing stone wall surrounding the forecourt is to be partly retained and partly relocated with reuse of the existing stone
- New ramps, stairs and paving to match the forecourt in The Domain (far side of the Art Gallery Road pedestrian crossing) where possible reusing existing materials

It is noted the existing sculptures within the Vernon Curtilage area will be retained.

The Entry Plaza

- New paving along Art Gallery Road
- New low bench / retaining wall along Art Gallery Road
- New paving at the entrance to the Entry Plaza to match the forecourt paving in front of the existing Gallery building
- Inclusion of a rain catcher and sandstone channel adjacent to the Entry Plaza to catch water during rain events from the glazed roof canopy of the Entry Plaza
- New tree and shrub planting

The Gathering Space and Crescent Hill

- A large circular central lawn area ('Gathering Space') surrounded by a stone bench / wall on the western side of the site
- New paving to match the forecourt paving in front of the existing Gallery building
- New sandstone paving
- New asphalt footpath
- Inclusion of a rain catcher and sandstone channel (connected to the Entry Plaza rain catcher)
- New crescent-shaped earth berm ('Crescent Hill') adjacent to the edge of the land bridge, including new tree and shrub planting

- New tree planting
- Reinstatement of terrace, new trellis structure and water feature adjacent to the existing Gallery building in place of the area formerly known as the 'Northern Sculpture Court'. The area will be associated with the existing Gallery building and will not be directly accessible via the Art Garden. Access will be via existing doors within the northern façade of the existing building. The area will include new planting.

2. Additional tree planting

Compensatory tree planting throughout the site.

It is noted that two (2) trees that were approved to be relocated, one (1) fig tree and one (1) Canary Island Palm, were unable to be transplanted due to unforeseen site conditions and were removed as a result. Additionally, nine (9) trees on the land bridge died due to drought and one (1) tree adjacent to Lift 8 was removed due to safety reasons. Two (2) small trees were also removed as a result of construction works.

An additional 314 new trees are proposed to be planted under SSD 6471. This represents an increase of 41 additional new trees to be planted from the number of new trees approved under SSD 6471. There will be no net loss of trees on site.

3. Accessible parking

Reduction in length of the proposed accessible parking / loading area on Art Gallery Road (in front of the Entry Plaza) to a size of 12.0m x 3.2m. This is suitable for one accessible parking space or one 8-tonne medium rigid vehicle (MRV) with a length of 8m (e.g. Pantech truck with dimensions of 8m x 2.5m). The bay has been reduced in length due to the constraints imposed by the road bridge construction joint to the south and pedestrian crossing to the north.

Attachment B—Referenced drawings

Title	Number	Revision	Date
Landscape Master Plan—Roof	LD_DA_00-01	Y	3 July 2020
Landscape Master Plan—Ground Floor Level	LD_DA_00-02	Y	3 July 2020
Tree Significance	LD_DA_00-15	U	3 July 2020
Tree Significance—High	LD_DA_00-18	I	3 July 2020
Tree Significance—Medium	LD_DA_00-19	H	3 July 2020
Tree Significance—Low	LD_DA_00-20	H	3 July 2020
Vernon Curtilage	LD_DA_10-01	H	3 July 2020
Entry Plaza	LD_DA_10-02	H	3 July 2020
Fuel Bunker Garden	LD_DA_10-03	K	3 July 2020
Sandstone Woodland	LD_DA_10-04	H	3 July 2020
Art Garden	LD_DA_10-05	H	3 July 2020
Sections	LD_DA_20-01	G	3 July 2020
Sections	LD_DA_20-03	H	3 July 2020
Sections	LD_DA_20-04	A	3 July 2020
Sections	LD_DA_20-05	A	3 July 2020
Plant Palette	LD_DA_30-01	I	3 July 2020
Plant Palette	LD_DA_30-02	I	3 July 2020
Plant Palette	LD_DA_30-03	K	3 July 2020
Trees Proposed	LD_DA_30-05		3 July 2020

Attachment C—Assessment of Heritage Impact—Historical Archaeology

The areas of the proposed modification works have nil to low potential for historical archaeology. Further detail is given below.

The 2018 HIS prepared for the Sydney Modern Project included an assessment of historical archaeological potential within the project footprint. This assessment identified areas of nil, low and moderate potential across the site. The proposed modifications to the landscape design are located within areas of nil to low historical archaeological potential.

Where the proposed landscape design modifications are located within the footprint of construction for the existing Art Gallery, Cahill Expressway and the World War II Oil Tanks, the potential for significant historical archaeological remains was assessed as nil.

Areas which had suffered less ground disturbance were considered to have low archaeological potential. This includes the landscaped areas of the existing Art Gallery entrance (western elevation), areas adjacent to the Gallery's northern elevation and small pockets within the proposed fuel bunker garden, located to the north of the Cahill Expressway land bridge. The areas of low archaeological potential could contain remains of unmapped garden paths and garden beds predating 1930, and perhaps stone quarrying evidence such as hand cuts, drilling or chiselling of bedrock relating to c1788–1812. There is also a low potential for earlier alignments of the existing roads, such as Mrs Macquarie's Road. Historical artefacts may be found in fill deposits and disturbed rubbish dumps.

GML provided an archaeologist to monitor construction work occurring within areas with low archaeological potential in the proposed fuel tanker garden. The archaeologist observed the removal of fills to the level of natural bedrock. Minimal historical archaeological artefacts were identified in mixed fill layers. They did not meet the threshold for significance at either a local or state level. A gravel surface, potentially relating to the earlier alignment of Mrs Macquarie's Road, was identified, recorded, and removed.

Recommendations

As this project has been declared a State Significant Development (SSD) under Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW), the normal permit approvals under the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) are not required to be sought from Heritage NSW, Department of Premier and Cabinet, for the proposed design modifications.

The following strategies are recommended to assist in the management of potential historical archaeological resources within the public domain and landscape of the Sydney Modern Project:

- A historical heritage induction should be provided by a qualified archaeological heritage consultant to all contractors prior to ground disturbance commencing in areas identified as having archaeological potential.
- Ground-disturbing works as part of the landscape design adjacent to the existing Gallery building are located in areas of low archaeological potential. Construction works to this area should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist to avoid impacts to any significant archaeological remains in the area.
- Works within areas of nil archaeological potential should proceed with caution, following the unexpected finds procedures for the project.

- Should any historical archaeological remains of local or state heritage significance, or relics, be identified by the qualified archaeologist, work in that location should temporarily be stopped and Heritage NSW must be notified, under the requirements of Section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW).
- Any historical archaeological relics should be appropriately recorded by a qualified archaeologist using current best practice archaeological recording methods.
- Where possible, any state significant archaeological relics should be left in situ; alternatively, appropriate strategies for the management of such relics should be determined in consultation with the Heritage Division.
- The results of any archaeological monitoring, investigation and recording of the study area should be presented in a succinct report and used to inform future historical heritage management and interpretation measures, if appropriate, as part of the approved development of the site.
- Any retrieved historical artefactual material would be the responsibility of the owner of the site. This includes the appropriate treatment of the artefacts, and their long-term storage in a safe and accessible place.

The above procedure, if implemented diligently, is in line with the existing management protocols for the Sydney Modern Project, and should be coordinated to effectively monitor, record and manage any unexpected finds.



Figure—Areas of disturbance, and historical archaeological potential across the Sydney Modern Project site. (Source: GML 2016)

Attachment D—Assessment of Heritage Impact—Aboriginal Archaeology

There is no potential for Aboriginal artefacts within intact subsurface deposits to be identified in the overall Sydney Modern Project boundary. While Aboriginal people are likely to have camped and traversed the sandstone ridge on which the Gallery now sits, it is unlikely that deep stratified archaeological deposits ever existed in this location. Rather, Aboriginal objects would have been worked into the top stratum of the sandy Gympie soils and consistently subject to erosional processes which would have removed sedimentary material from the convex ridgeline, most recently in the form of European activity. The combination of extensive historical disturbance and the likely shallow erosional natural soil landscape in the area supported the conclusion that it is unlikely that Aboriginal artefacts will remain within an intact soil landscape. Moreover, there is a very low potential for isolated artefacts to be identified in the stockpiles of earth moved during excavations in the area.

GML provided a qualified archaeologist to monitor construction work occurring in areas which had suffered minimal ground disturbance (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The archaeologist observed the removal of fills to the level of natural bedrock. No remnants of the natural soil landscape were identified. As such, GML confirmed that there is no further potential for Aboriginal objects within the footprint of the cooling tower grilles.

The overall study area included in the Sydney Modern Project SSD boundary does not contain previously recorded Aboriginal sites. However, the immediate surrounds of the areas of proposed Sydney Modern Project works include the Royal Botanic Garden and Domain. This location is known to be highly significant to Aboriginal people historically and archaeologically. For this reason, an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) was prepared.¹ The ACHAR preparation included a process of consultation with Aboriginal stakeholders, and this should continue throughout the project.

Recommendations

Due to there being nil potential for Aboriginal archaeological objects to exist within the area of proposed works, it is recommended that the development can proceed with caution, subject to a stop-work procedure in the event that any unexpected Aboriginal objects are identified. GML recommends the project continues to adopt the procedures outlined in the 2018 HIS.² These include:

- Provide an Aboriginal heritage induction to all contractors prior to any ground disturbance. GML provided the Art Gallery of New South Wales with an induction in October 2019.
- Have a suitably qualified archaeologist on call in case of unexpected Aboriginal objects being identified during the course of works. GML has been commissioned by the Art Gallery of New South Wales to provide on-call advice.
- Should unexpected Aboriginal objects be identified during the course of development, work should cease immediately, and the on-call archaeologist should be contacted to document and assess these finds. Any object/s should be reported to Heritage NSW and registered on the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS).
- Should an unexpected Aboriginal object be identified during works, strategies for its removal, management and long-term storage should be determined in consultation with Heritage NSW.

- In the unexpected event that human remains are discovered during the development, work should cease immediately in that particular location, and the NSW Police, Heritage NSW and the on-call archaeologist should be contacted immediately.

¹ GML Heritage, Art Gallery of New South Wales Expansion project, Sydney Modern-ACHAR and ATR, report prepared for Art Gallery of New South Wales, August 2018.

² GML Heritage, Art Gallery of New South Wales Expansion: Sydney Modern, report prepared for Art Gallery of NSW, April 2018, pp 150-152.