

17 July 2019

Ms Emily Dickson

Senior Planning Officer
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
320 Pitt Street
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Dickson,

JURY RESPONSE - FINAL SUBMISSION BY TZG

**UTS BLACKFRIARS PRECINCT - RESEARCH BUILDING
DESIGN EXCELLENCE COMPETITION**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Design Excellence Jury to clarify reasons for the Jury's support for the proposal by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects, and the manner in which it has responded positively to the Jury's requirements for design development.

The UTS appointed the following as members of the Jury for the competition:

Professor Ken Maher AO (Chair), Chair of the City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel
Professor James Weirick, Member of the City of Sydney Design Advisory Panel
Graham Jahn AM, Director of City Planning, Development and Transport, City of Sydney
Dillon Kombumerri, NSW Government Architect's Office
Professor Attila Brungs, Vice-Chancellor, UTS
Glen Rabbitt, Director, UTS Facilities Management Operations

The competition was conducted in accordance with the City of Sydney Competitive Design Policy including the Assessment Framework developed for the competition, and that the Jury's decisions were unanimous. It should also be noted that the Jury included members representing the City of Sydney and the Government Architect.

In addition to the matters noted in the Jury Response dated 24 November 2017, the Jury gave considerable thought to the Buckland Street frontage of the design including the issues of setbacks, tree removal, solar access, urban design and heritage response. The Jury requested that the TZG design be amended, so that the stepped brick frontage of the building on Buckland Street would be closer to the street, matching the setback of the western veranda of the adjacent former Girls' School heritage building, subject to limiting any impact from overshadowing. While the Jury recognised this change would result in the loss of up to three mature trees, the Jury considered that it was imperative to resolve the heritage and urban design response of the architectural form. It was considered the replanting of advanced trees would over time offset any loss and have the potential to result in an improved landscape setting for the building as part of an holistic landscape design for the site. The Jury was not concerned by the encroachment of the proposed basements into the Buckland Street setback as these underground spaces would not contribute to building bulk. However, the Jury recommended that these underground spaces be redesigned to have natural lighting via light wells or skylights to improve the internal building environment.

The Jury further reviewed the amended design, and confirmed that the proposal by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects responded positively to the Jury's requirements for design refinement as stated above, and endorsed it as having potential to demonstrate design excellence.

The Jury therefore supported minor amendments to the approved envelope to allow the winning design by Architects TZG to proceed on the basis that it has carefully balanced the urban design, heritage and landscape constraints and opportunities of the site.

I strongly recommend that the consent authority have regard to the rigours of the competition process and its determination of a winning scheme demonstrating design excellence, and that the credibility of this important process and the achievement of design excellence is not undermined. I further recommend that proposal by Tonkin Zulaikha Greer Architects be supported with regard to the Stage 1 Concept Development modification application, currently being assessed, and the subsequent Stage 2 Development Application, yet to be lodged.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Maher', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ken Maher AO

LFRAIA FAILA Hon AIA

Director

Hon Professor UNSW

HASSELL Fellow

President ASBEC