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Your Ref: SSD7033

Ms Amy Watson
Team Leader
Metropolitan Projects
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Watson

Attention: Pilar Aberasturi (Pilar.Aberasturi@planning.nsw.gov.au)

RE: Comments on the draft SEARs for Residential/Retail Mixed Use Development at Site 53, 2 Figtree Drive, Sydney Olympic Park (SSD 7033)

I refer to your letter received on 24 April 2015, requesting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW regarding the Draft Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the above proposal.

The proposal involves construction of four buildings up to 14 storeys high and includes excavation for a basement. The following comments are based on the draft SEARs provided on 24 April 2015 and the documentation currently on exhibition on the Department of Planning website.

The proposal does not directly affect an item listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). However, the proposal involves excavation and, due to the height of the proposed towers, the development is likely to be visible from the following items listed on the SHR:

- Olympic Cauldron at Sydney Olympic Park;
- Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve; and
- Silverwater Prison Complex Conservation Area

Review of the draft SEARs indicates that there is no requirement for an assessment of potential archaeological or wider heritage impacts. Therefore, as delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I recommend that the following conditions should be included in the SEARs:

1. Prepare a detailed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal archaeological assessment of the likely impacts and outline the proposed management and mitigation measures to protect and preserve the archaeology.
2. Prepare a Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The HIA should address visual impact of the proposed high rise development on SHR items in vicinity, in particular, the Newington Armament Depot and Nature Reserve.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Rajat Chaudhary, Heritage Officer Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on (02) 9873 8521.

Yours sincerely



18 May 2015
Gary Estcourt
A/Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW