



Greg Robinson

Director, Campus Infrastructure & Services

21 May 2015

Ms Carolyn McNally
Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
23-33 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Chris Wilson, Executive Director, Infrastructure and Industry Assessments

Dear Secretary

**Request for SEARs – Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Building,
Camperdown Campus**

In accordance with clause 3 & Schedule 2 of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Regulations 2000* (the Regulations), and clause 15 & Schedule 1 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (State & Regional Development) 2011* (the SRD SEPP), The University of Sydney (the University) is seeking the Department of Planning's Secretary:

1. confirmation that the proposed new Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) Building (A02) and the associated internal works to the RD Watt Building qualify as a State Significant Development Application (SSD);
2. Secretary Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) in the preparation of SSD documentation and EIS report; and
3. agreement to waive certain standard SEAR requirements for documentation typically associated with *educational establishment* projects, for this particular project.

The development site is located on the northern edge of the Camperdown campus east of the Ross Street entrance. This underutilised site faces Parramatta Road and is immediately behind the RD Watt Building (facing Science Road). Until 2012 this vacant site was occupied by the McMillan Building (now demolished).

The vision for the new building is to co-locate and consolidate a number of University FASS Schools into one location, in particular the School of Economics (SoE) and the School of Social and Political Sciences (SSPS). Currently these Schools are significantly fragmented around campus and located in numerous buildings. The works also incorporate internal alterations to the RD Watt Building. The new FASS and the RD Watt Building will be connected by an Atrium containing campus domain and communal areas.

The anticipated cost of the project work is valued at \$38,750,000 and an independent QS report accompanies this application. The University understands that the capital investment value brings this project squarely within the definition of "Educational establishments" under Schedule 1, Clause 15 of the *SEPP (State and Regional Development) 2011* which defines State Significant Development as "*development for the purpose of educational establishments (including associated research facilities) that has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million.*"



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

As you are aware, the Minister for Planning approved the University's Concept Campus Improvement Program (SSD13_6123) on 16 February 2015. This current project for the new FASS falls within the recently approved Concept Campus Improvement Program (CIP) – SSD 13_6123, in particular the *Life Sciences Precinct* (bound by Parramatta Road to the north, Science Road and Regimental Drive to the south, and Orphans Creek Drive to the west). The project brief is to design and construct a new building that fully complies with the CIP building envelopes and relevant CIP consent conditions.

The University seeks to continue its productive, working relationship with the NSW Government in implementing the University's Campus Improvement Program through World Class educational establishment facilities and associated infrastructure.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any clarification or with any queries. The University's officer in this matter is Stephane Kerr, Projector Director CIP who can be contacted on 9351-3128, or by email: stephane.kerr@sydney.edu.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Robinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Greg Robinson
Director Campus Infrastructure & Services