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File: SF16/25882
Job ID No: DOC16/580846
Your Ref: SSD7689

Mr Andrew Hartcher
Senior Planning Officer – Key Site Assessments and Industry Assessment
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Hartcher

RE: Heritage Council comments on Walsh Bay Arts Precinct - Stage 2 (SSD 7689)

I respond to your email dated 16 November 2016 which invited the Heritage Council to provide comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above project.

The project was presented to the Heritage Council Committee for the Management of Non-Government Development at their meeting on 30 November 2016. At that meeting the Committee provided the following comments on the proposal.

- The Heritage Council notes the changes made to the designs of Pier 2/3 regarding the roof, external stairs and internal spaces which address the previous Heritage Council Comments and consider these changes to be a good design resolution.
- It is considered that the urbanisation (greening) of the waterfront park is out of character with the precinct's industrial character and history. The treatment and materials for this square should be reconsidered to remove the grass in favour of more industrial finishes and treatments.

Based on the above comments and a detailed review of the EIS documentation, the following conditions of consent are recommended by the Heritage Division.

1. DETAILED DESIGN

- a) The materials proposed for the Waterfront Square should be reconsidered to remove the grass in favour of more industrial finishes and treatments to respect the integrity of the industrial character of the Walsh Bay Precinct.
- b) The detailed design of building identification and wayfinding signage be visually consistent and specifically designed to respect the integrity of the industrial character of the Precinct.
- c) Limited information has been provided regarding the proposed external additions and lift shafts at Piers 2/3 and 4/5. A sympathetic and modest design approach should be adopted for all external additions to minimise impacts to the visual prominence and industrial character of the Wharves. The size of lift shafts should be reduced as much as possible. Further design details for all external additions should be provided to the Heritage Council for assessment prior to approval of this project.
- d) Any shading devices additional to the shading structure proposed at the Waterfront Square should be indicated in the drawings for this SSD. Shading must be considered at this stage

of the project, and be designed in a consistent, sensitive manner. Any separate applications for additional shading devices will require approval under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Ad-hoc shading structures are unlikely to be supported.

2. FUTURE TENANCIES

Tenancy Fitout Guidelines should be prepared to make future tenants aware of the cultural significance of the Wharves and the requirements for their ongoing conservation and management. The guidelines should be informed by the 'Conservation Management Plan', Design 5 Architects, 2014 and the 'Walsh Bay Arts Precinct Heritage Impact Statement Assessment Report', prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects, November 2016.

3. INTERPRETATION

- a) An interpretation plan for Walsh Bay Arts Precinct should be prepared by an interpretive specialist to outline the approach to Interpretation at Piers 2/3, 4/5, the Waterfront Square and surrounding public domain areas affected by this SSD. The Plan should include indicative designs and locations for interpretive devices, a strategy for the reuse, storage and/or display of the movable heritage items currently stored within Pier 2/3, and incorporate the results of the archaeological monitoring program and evidence of the maritime archaeological potential and archaeological evidence within the site. The Plan should be prepared with regard to the 'Walsh Bay Wharves Precinct Interpretation Plan', 1999, and the 'Interpretation Strategy for Movable Heritage Items Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay', November 2016.
- b) The interpretation plan shall be prepared as an integral component of the final detailed design process and be provided to the Heritage Council of NSW and to the Department of Planning and Environment prior to the commencement of works. The plan must be implemented within 12 months of the completion of the works.

4. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The excavation works for utilities as part of this project should be archaeologically monitored, recorded and appropriately documented including any relics or intact archaeological features identified during this work in accordance with Section 7.4.2 of the 'Archaeological Assessment Walsh Bay Arts Precinct' prepared by Cultural Resources Management dated October 2016. The results of this investigation must be documented in a report provided within 12 months of the completion of the archaeological work to the Department of Planning and Environment and the Heritage Library of the Place Management Division, Property NSW. Archaeological works need to be undertaken by a nominated Excavation Director who satisfies the Heritage Council's Excavation Director Criteria for undertaking works at State Significant historical archaeological sites in NSW.

5. MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

- a) The reclamation or deposition of sediment on the seabed is acceptable. Dredging works should not take place.
- b) The detailed engineering subsurface works, including piling and any other services which may affect the sea floor in the waterfront square area, should be examined by a qualified maritime archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Branch guidelines to review the potential impact on the underwater archaeological remains identified in this report. The underwater subsurface works should be informed by this review and positioned to avoid impacts on underwater archaeological remains as much as possible.
- c) Prior to commencement of maritime excavation works a Maritime Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Method Report should be prepared by a qualified maritime archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Branch guidelines. The report should include the final location of underwater subsurface works and outline the following further work:
 - targeted remote sensing surveys;

- dive inspection(s) of a particular areas; archaeological excavation, and/or;
- archaeological monitoring during construction.

Mitigation measures should include:

- heritage inductions to make the contractors aware of any identified underwater archaeological remains within the works area identify possible relics;
 - engagement of a suitably qualified maritime archaeologist to monitor works if piling or other impacts to the seabed are to take place. Monitoring may be done on site or remotely if workers are fully briefed to identify possible relics;
 - engagement of a suitably qualified maritime archaeologist to be on site to monitor works if any dredging is to take place;
 - recording of any cultural remains that may be relics in detail by a suitably qualified maritime archaeologist, and;
 - works being stopped if a concentration of relics is discovered, and the archaeologist should have the opportunity to conduct a dive inspection of the area to record the site in detail prior to works commencing.
- d) A final excavation report which details the outcomes of the maritime archaeological mitigation program shall be prepared and provided to the Heritage Council of NSW and to the Department of Planning and Environment within 12 months of the completion of the archaeological works.

6. CONSULTATION

The Heritage Council will appreciate an opportunity to provide comment to the Department of Planning and Environment on the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct - Stage 2 (SSD 7689) at the following stages:

- i. Response to Submissions;
- ii. draft conditions of consent; and
- iii. detailed design, including the interpretation plan.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Nina Pollock, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, on (02) 9873 8520.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski
STL, Archaeology
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council
15/12/2016