

19 January 2018

Jeremy Amann
Development Manager
Hunter Development
Corporation
PO Box 813
Newcastle
NSW 2300

42 HONEYSUCKLE DRIVE, NEWCASTLE
ALTERNATIVE DESIGN EXCELLENCE PROCESS

Dear Jeremy,

I am writing to you in response to your request for support of the competitive design excellence process established for the project above. Previous correspondence and the Design Excellence Strategy described in your letter of January 16th, 2018 (attached) have informed the comments and recommendations below.

We note that the site in question triggers the requirement for design excellence to be exhibited to the satisfaction of the consent authority. In relationship to the request for support we note the following:

- The process undertaken was a competitive tender with a design component. This is not the same nor equivalent to a design competition as outlined in the current Guidelines, however;
- A Design Review Panel (DRP) was established to review the submissions, the panel included membership from the GANSW, the Newcastle City Council Urban Design Consultative Group (UDCG) and an independent panellist. All panellists have appropriate design expertise and no financial interest in the project. The DRP therefore meets the criteria of the Guidelines in regards to a jury for a design competition.
- Three schemes were submitted for review by the tender and Design Review panels. This is in accordance with the Guidelines.
- Notwithstanding the actual weighting of design in the tender, the successful project was also the one selected by the DRP as the one achieving the highest design quality.
- The architects of the winning scheme are highly regarded and have a track record of delivering design excellence.
- Since award of the contract the project has been further developed in consultation with the DRP.

Government Architect
New South Wales
L24, 320 Pitt Street
Sydney NSW 2000
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

government.architect
@planning.nsw.gov.au
T +61 (02)9860 1464

governmentarchitect.nsw.gov.au

- The project has also been reviewed by the Newcastle UDCG. The project and the competitive process is supported in principle by them – see minutes from their meeting attached as part of the Design Excellence Strategy letter.

Recommendation

Given the notes above, the Government Architect is satisfied that the design excellence process undertaken meets the objectives of the Newcastle LEP. A process of design integrity is to be established to ensure the competition winning scheme retains design excellence through to construction. This should be provided as part of the SSDA and should include continuing review through design development by the DRP.

The GANSW expect to review the SSDA submission as part of the planning assessment process and will provide further advice and recommendations at that time.

It should be noted that the recommendations above are specific to this project. They should not be taken as a precedent for the position the GANSW may take for other projects of this nature.

Sincerely,



Olivia Hyde
Director of Design Excellence