

Cameron Sargent
Team Leader
Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Sargent

Re: Australian Museum – Alterations and additions (SSD 9452) Notice of Exhibition

I refer to your letter dated 22 October 2018 inviting comments on the above State Significant Development for alterations and additions at the Australian Museum located at 1 William Street, Sydney, in the City of Sydney local government area. The subject site is listed on the State Heritage Register as the Australian Museum (SHR 00805) and is located in the vicinity of various other SHR items listed on the State Heritage Register.

The proposal involves the following alterations and additions to the Australian Museum:

- Extension of Crystal Hall;
- New museum entries;
- Construction of a new café;
- New photovoltaic cells on Lewis Wing and Vernon Wing rooftops;
- Replacement of two trees and a new biodiversity garden; and
- New bus bay.

The following documents have been reviewed in the preparation of this response:

- Environmental Impact Statement, prepared by Ethos Urban, 4 October 2018;
- Appendix A - Architectural Plans, Hames Sharley, Aug-Oct 2018;
- Appendix D - Heritage Impact Statement, Orwell & Peter Phillips, 31 August 2018;
- Appendix E - Design Statement & Report, Hames Sharley, 9 October 2018;
- Appendix L - Preliminary Construction Management Plan, Australian Museum, October 2018; and
- Appendix P - Landscape Plans, Hames Sharley, 13 September 2018.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following recommendations:

- Consideration should be given, and a methodology prepared to re-use the external stairs of 'medium' significance located north of the Parkes Farmer wing in the construction of the new stair configuration (re-oriented from an east-west to a north-south axis).
- A detailed schedule of materials and finishes should be prepared for the proposed extension to Chrystal Hall to demonstrate its consistence with the existing structure and ensure Crystal Hall reads as a single contemporary element on the Parkes Farmer wing north façade.
- Detailed design for the following aspects of the scope should incorporate measures to minimise heritage impacts and be prepared in consultation with the nominated heritage consultant: new plant room against the rear façade of Barnet wing's lower ground floor; new raised floor along the rear facade of Lewis wings' ground floor; new ramp against the rear façade of Vernon wing's ground floor; rebuilding of lightwell roof

of the Still Addition on Level 2; reconfigured north-western stairs on all levels of the Parkes Farmer wing; and installation of photovoltaic solar cells to the roofs of the Lewis and Vernon wings (which should not impact any original roof fabric).

- A Salvage Schedule should be prepared by the nominated heritage consultant before commencement of the works and should list materials and elements to be salvaged during the works and recommendations for their re-use within the project to offset identified heritage impacts. The Schedule should be based on, though not limited to, the recommended mitigation measures provided in the HIS.
- Supplementary heritage assessment should be provided in the application to analyse the heritage impacts of the proposed extension to Crystal Hall when considered cumulatively with the existing hall and access ramp off College Street. The assessment should also provide input into the options assessment process for the two entry schemes (Design Report, p88-96) and advise which of the dual entry option (via the existing ramp off College Street and an extended Crystal Hall entry) and single-entry option (via an extended Crystal Hall entry only) is preferable from a heritage perspective.
- The nominated heritage consultant should review and provide input in the preliminary and final Construction Management Plans for the project. The Plan should include Heritage Management Measures inclusive of, but not limited to: site protection of heritage elements; heritage induction of tradespeople and all personnel involved; monitoring of works by heritage consultant; implementation of the Salvage Schedule; demolition methodologies and other recommendations of the HIS as required.
- A Photographic Archival Recording should be prepared before and following completion of works in accordance with the NSW Heritage Division publications *How to prepare archival records of heritage items* and Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture. A copy of the archival record should be provided to the Heritage Division.
- A Heritage Interpretation Strategy should be prepared and implemented to enhance the public's understanding of the heritage significance of the site including its social significance as the first Australian Museum and the combined values of its successive architectural layers.
- The areas of proposed works are within areas identified in the HIS of nil archaeological potential (basement previously excavated) and in the relocated external stairs and Crystal Hall indicated as having nil to low archaeological potential (fill, convict surfaces, convict garden topsoils). No further assessment or comments are required for archaeological management at this stage.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Emmanuelle Fayolle, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, at e-mail: or on telephone: 8837 6319.

Yours sincerely



As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

21 November 2018