



1 August 2022

Attn: Lisa Mitchell and Grant Brown
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Lisa and Grant

Sydney Metro West Stage 1 (SSI 10038): Request for approval to remove timber capping planks, Parramatta Convict Drain in accordance with Condition 15

As part of the Parramatta archaeological program, and to meet the requirement of condition D15 to accurately locate the Parramatta Convict Drain, the drain has been partially exposed on the southeastern corner of the site during enabling works. Part of this section of drain has timber capping planks intact.

Condition D15 requires that if retention of any part of the Parramatta Convict Drain in situ is not feasible, the Proponent must satisfactorily demonstrate to the Planning Secretary why its removal is appropriate.

A preliminary assessment of the timbers indicates that the timber capping should be removed to ensure that it can be retained, protected, fumigated and a conservation assessment undertaken (see Attachment A). This will enable the capping to be used in any future interpretation. If the timbers are retained on site in situ, there is a danger that their condition will deteriorate. The timbers appear to be resting on the stone drain rather than attached and so could be at risk of dislodging during ongoing site works.

In accordance with Condition D15, Sydney Metro is therefore seeking approval to remove the timber capping planks to protect and conserve them during works.

The proposal is to:

- Archival record, 3D record, number and lift the planks under the supervision of the archaeological excavation director and conservation advisor.
- Transport the planks to the Sydney Metro storage and conservation facility at Yennora
- Engage the services of a timber conservator to advise on fumigation and stabilisation of the timber
- Consider the need to take samples to identify the timber species to assist in understanding the construction and date of this section of the drain noting that other sections of drain on the site are concrete capped.

Previous consultation:

The Parramatta Convict Drain was discussed at the following Sydney Metro's Heritage Working Group meetings:

- January 2020 the Sydney Metro West project was introduced to the Working Group members
- February 2022 the removal of the drain was presented as part of Metro West CSSI Stage 3

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- July 2022 the requirements to conserve the timber planks was discussed.

In addition, the Parramatta Convict drain is discussed in the approved Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology for the Parramatta site (GML Heritage October 2021). This document notes (Section 6.5.1) that “Suitable building materials from the town drain...will be retained and stored for potential future interpretation”.

Supporting information to this request includes:

- 3D recording for the drain to date on the Sydney Metro site
<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/town-drain-73cfa438bde4428da18c688ce6c54031>
- Advice (Attachment A) recommending lifting and conservation of the timbers

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Cath Snelgrove, Senior Heritage Advisor Sydney Metro, Transport for NSW on 0408240224

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Hodgson', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Hodgson

Director, Project Environment, Sustainability and Planning, Metro West