



Level 6, 10 Valentine Avenue
Parramatta NSW 2150

Locked Bag 5020
Parramatta NSW 2124
DX 8225 PARRAMATTA

Telephone: 61 2 9873 8500
Facsimile: 61 2 9873 8599

heritage@heritage.nsw.gov.au
www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

File: SF19/97724
Job ID No: DOC19/832542
Your Ref: MOD 86-11-2007

Mr Karl Fetterplace
Senior Planning Officer
Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
Level 29, 320 Pitt Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Email: Karl Fetterplace [karl.fetterplace@planning.nsw.gov.au]

Dear Mr Fetterplace

RE: Notification of 4.55(1A) modification application – Sydney Opera House - Tours Immersive Digital Experience (DA 43-2-2004 MOD 5)

Thank you for your invitation for the Heritage Council to comment on the Modification Request for the above development consent (email 24 September 2019).

We understand that these works consist of repurposing existing back of house (BOH) catering, stores and staff facilities into a single front of house (FOH) space to facilitate construction of a digital visitor experience whilst the Concert Hall is closed for the building renewal works.

Following a review of the documentation, we provide the below comments and recommended conditions of consent.

General Comments

- The proposed works will have a physical impact to the SOH's original structure and fabric.
- The proposed demolition mostly consists of non-significant fabric, but includes original 1973 elements such as a door, roller shutter and concrete wall. Should the modification be approved, it is recommended that these elements are retained for potential reuse.
- It is also proposed to demolish a portion of the 1968 concrete podium structure along the Bennelong Passage to provide public access to the new Digital Immersion space. Whilst the demolition will impact significant fabric, the works will not impact the adjacent granite wall panels, concrete beams or the configuration of the Bennelong Passage, which is identified as exceptional significance.
- It is unclear how the new opening within the 1968 podium structure will be detailed including to the cut edge. Further detail should be provided as part of the application under the *Heritage Act 1977*. Similarly, details should also be provided for the new fire curtain to ensure it is neatly recessed and does not impact adjacent fabric, including concrete walls.
- It is noted that the proposed works area was initially a front of house space and converted to a back of house space in the 1990s. Its reversion to a front of house space is therefore acceptable.

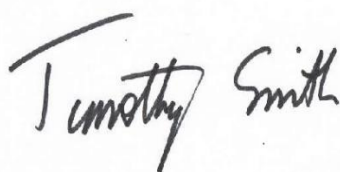
- The documentation shows a new ceiling will be attached to the existing slab beams above but does not provide details of how this interaction between new and original fabric will be undertaken.
- The SOH HIS notes that the use of the space for private functions is not supported. Heritage NSW agrees the space should only be used for interpretative purposes.
- It is unclear where existing back of house spaces (catering, stores and staff facilities) will be relocated to and whether their relocation will have impacts on other areas of the SOH.

Recommended conditions of consent

- All recommendations within the SOH HIS should be adopted.
- The nominated heritage architect should be involved in the detailed design of new work to ensure impacts to values of the SOH are minimised.
- Removed 1973 doors should be salvaged and stored for reuse.
- Detailing of the new opening within the 1968 podium structure should be finished to compliment the character, quality and design aesthetic of the SOH.
- The new fire curtain within the Bennelong Passage should be neatly finished including any guiding tracks, and not impact significant fabric including concrete walls. It should also be finished to compliment the character, quality and design aesthetic of the SOH.
- Installation of the new ceiling within the Digital Immersion space should ensure existing fabric including the concrete slab beams, are not impacted by the works and are reversible.
- Where elements are proposed to be removed including the floor spring door closers within the Bennelong Passage, fabric is to be made good.
- Details should be provided indicating where the current facilities are proposed to be relocated to ensure any impacts from the relocation can be appropriately assessed.
- All significant structures, fabric and elements are to be protected during the works from potential damage. Protection systems must ensure they are not damaged or removed. All tradespeople and workers on site must be made aware of the significant fabric on site and the works overseen by a heritage architect appropriately qualified and experienced in working with similar structures and materials.
- An archival photographic recording of all the affected areas is to be undertaken prior to the works, in accordance with the Heritage Division document entitled, *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture*. The original copy of the archival record shall be submitted to Heritage NSW.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact David Nix, Senior Heritage Officer, Major Projects, Heritage NSW, Department Premier and Cabinet, on (02) 9895 6523 or at david.nix@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smith OAM

Director Heritage Operations
Heritage NSW
Department Premier and Cabinet
9 October 2019