

Ms Prity Cleary
Senior Planner
Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Letter uploaded to Major Projects Website
C/O: prity.cleary@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Cleary,

WEIGHALL SPORTS COMPLEX – SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NEILD AVENUE, RUSHCUTTERS BAY (SSD 10421) – EIS

Thank you for your referral dated 9 November 2020 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal. A letter responding to the project's SEARS request was provided to the department on 24 January 2020 (DOC20/926950).

The proposed development involves:

- Demolition of existing buildings and structures; and
- Construction of Weighall Sports Complex (Building 1, 2 & carpark).

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Sydney Grammar School Weighall Sports Complex (SSD-10421) – Environmental Impact Statement*, prepared by Robinson Urban Planning, dated 2 November 2020;
- *Sydney Grammar School – Weighall Sports Complex – Heritage Impact Statement*, prepared by Paul Davies Pty Ltd, dated September 2020; and
- *Architectural Drawings*, prepared by Allen Jack + Cottier, dated 2 September 2020.

The proposed SSD is in the vicinity of the State Heritage Register (SHR) item Rushcutters Bay Park and Yarranabbe Park (SHR no. 02041) located at New South Head Road, Rushcutters Bay. This item was listed on the SHR on 19 June 2020.

It is noted that the site is located to the south of the SHR item and is clearly separated from it by New South Head Road. It is also noted that the previous Heritage Council letter advised that further referral to Heritage Council would not be required unless significant archaeology was likely to be found on the subject site.

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

- SEAR 9 requires that *'if the HIS identifies impact upon potential historical archaeology, an historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist in accordance with [...].'*¹
- The HIS p24 states that there is no archaeological potential, while on p25 it states that this report does not assess historical archaeology.

¹ Refer to SEARs for wording of the requirements.

- While these statements are confusing, the minimal excavation proposed for the project and previous disturbance in this area contributes to a limited likelihood of archaeological information being uncovered during works.
- It is recommended that the conditions of approval for this project include an unexpected finds procedure to manage the unexpected discovery of historical archaeological information. The below is provided as an example:
 - ***Unexpected historical archaeological relics protection***
The Applicant must ensure that if unexpected archaeological deposits or relics not identified and considered in the supporting documents for this approval are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.

As the site is located in the Paddington Heritage Conservation Area and is in the vicinity of the Alma Street canary palms listed on the Local Environmental Plan, advice should be sought from Woollahra Municipal Council.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Veerle Norbury, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW on 9873 8616 or veerle.norbury@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rajeev Maini
Senior Team Leader
South Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier and Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
26 November 2020