



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

Ref No: DOC16/357348
Your Ref: SSD 7642

Ms Leanne Grove
Industry, Key Sites & Priority Projects
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Sent by email to Leanne.Grove@planning.nsw.gov.au
Megan.Fu@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Grove

RE: Heritage Council comments on State Significant Development Application (SSD) for Westmead Hospital General Acute Services Building

I refer to your email dated 19 July 2016 inviting the Heritage Council of NSW (Heritage Council) to comment and provide recommended conditions of consent on the above SSD.

The Heritage Council understands this project is one of several components proposed for the greater redevelopment of the Westmead Hospital complex by the NSW Department of Health. It is understood this SSD proposes the following:

- construction of a building up to 13 storeys to accommodate acute inpatient care services, emergency departments, operating theatres, surgical wards, intensive care services, various clinical and medical support services and a University of Sydney Innovation Centre;
- a helipad on the uppermost roof of the building;
- a forecourt area with two levels of underground car parking, drop-off/pick-up areas and landscaping;
- overhead pedestrian links to other hospital buildings; and
- a loading dock accessible from Redbank Road.

The proposal was considered in a Heritage Assessment for this project prepared by RPS dated June 2016. This document supported the overall Environmental Impact Statement prepared by Architectus Group dated June 2016. Both of these documents were reviewed with respect to potential historical heritage impacts and the following comments and recommended conditions of consent for this project are provided for your information:

Built Heritage

The proposal does not involve physical modifications to state listed heritage items. However, there is one World and National Heritage Listed item (Parramatta Park and Old Government House) nearby. There are also several state heritage listed items in the vicinity of the development which includes Parramatta Park (SHR #00596) as well as the Cumberland District Hospital Group (SHR #00820). Although these items will not be directly affected by this development through construction, consideration has also been given to potential visual impacts to these significant items.

The Heritage Councils understand there will be some visual impact to views within the World, National and State Heritage Listed Parramatta Park and Old Government House site. The Heritage Council recommends it may be appropriate to mitigate this impact of the new structure through the application of colours and materials in the detailed design of the new building.

There are also several items of local heritage significance within the vicinity of the proposed development. Therefore it is recommended that you seek comment on the heritage impacts of the development from Parramatta City Local Council.

Historical Archaeology

The greater Westmead Hospital site is situated within the Archaeological Management Unit AMU 3070 within the Parramatta Historical Archaeological Landscape Management System (PHALMS). The three AMUs identified in the supporting RPS Heritage assessment are located to the west of the subject site and are not relevant to this proposal.

Although the supporting Heritage Assessment does not clarify where the study area lies in relation to the early convict occupation, I note from comparison with assessment for SSD 7262 that the current study area is located some distance south of this early occupation evidence, which was focused immediately south of Toongabbie Creek. On this basis the argument in the EIS and supporting Heritage Assessment that state significant historical archaeology is unlikely to be affected by the proposed redevelopment is supported.

Recommended Conditions of Approval:

It is recommended that SSD 7642 is approved subject to the following recommended conditions of consent to manage the heritage issues as outlined above. It is recommended that these should cover matters such as the following:

1. **Reduction of Visual Impact:** The colour and materials of the new building should be appropriately selected to reduce visual impacts to the World, National and State Heritage Listed Parramatta Park and Old Government House site. This should include consideration of recessive colours and natural materials into the detail design to mitigate the visual impact to and from this significant landscape heritage item.
2. **Unexpected Finds Protocol** to provide clear guidance as to what would constitute an unexpected find based on what is in the EIS. Advice on how to identify, assess the significance of the find to determine if it is a relic and management of any relics by significance.

Please note that these comments do not relate to Indigenous archaeology because it is understood that the project has been separately referred to relevant sections of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) for specific review.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Felicity Barry, Senior Archaeologist at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, at felicity.barry@environment.nsw.gov.au or (02) 9995 6914.

Yours sincerely



16/08/2016

Rajeev Maini

Acting Manager, Conservation

Heritage Division

Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council