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Your Ref:SSD 6746

Mr David Gibson  
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Department of Planning & Environment  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**ATTN: Megan Fu ([Megain.Fu@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Megain.Fu@planning.nsw.gov.au))**

Dear Mr Gibson

**RE: Heritage Council comments on Environmental Impact Statement for the UTS Blackfriars Precinct Research Building Concept Proposal (SSD 6746).**

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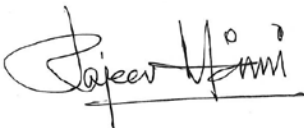
I refer to your letter dated 9 December 2015 referring the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by UrbanAC dated 12 November 2015 currently on public exhibition to the Heritage Council for comment. After review of the above report and its relevant appendices, particularly Appendix 9, the 'Archaeological Assessment & Impact State Stage 1 DA – Concept Application Blackfriars Research Facility Stage 1, UTS' by Casey & Lowe dated November 2015 the following comments are provided:

- It is noted that this SSD approval relates only to a Concept Approval which includes a 'site envelope' for the proposal, and that at this time detailed design of the final research building has not been undertaken, although there are a number of predicted impacts from the building such as from a basement, piling, lift cores and services.
- The Casey & Lowe report indicates that this site has a '*high to moderate potential to contains archaeological remains associated with the Brisbane Distillery and other associated features dating from c. 1825 to 1878*'. This distillery is the second distillery constructed in Australia and this '*type of archaeological site is relatively rare in NSW. The potential remains are anticipated to be relatively intact and readily interpretable*'. The potential archaeological remains are of State heritage significance.
- Given the significance and rarity of the archaeology on the subject site the Heritage Council recommends that the proposed mitigation strategies outlined below which are based upon those in Section 7.1 of the Casey & Lowe report are appropriate to guide the management of this state significant archaeology into the detailed design phase:
  1. Archaeological testing should be undertaken prior to developing the Stage 2 DA design to confirm where the archaeology may survive within the site and the degree to which it survives.
  2. Results of the archaeological testing must be written up in a report outlining opportunities for conservation *in situ* (as a preference), development & interpretation.
  3. Impacts on the State significant archaeology of the site must be avoided as much as possible.

4. Service corridors within the new development must be established to limit impacts from services.
  5. Impacts from lift cores on substantial and significant archaeology must be minimised.
  6. The archaeological site must be interpreted within the new development.
  7. An Archaeological Research Design and Methodology to establish the approach to any archaeological excavation must be written prior to the start of any demolition works on site and must be prepared in consultation with the Heritage Council.
  8. The Archaeological excavation directors for this project must be able to demonstrate that they are able to meet the Heritage Council's Excavation Director Criteria (July 2011) for state significant archaeological sites and in particular must be able to demonstrate compliance with Criterion A.4 that: 'work under any approvals previously granted by the Heritage Council has been completed in accordance with the conditions of that consent and the final report has been submitted to the NSW Heritage Council..
- The Heritage Council recommends that the Department of Planning and Environment include the above eight points as conditions of approval should this project be approved.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please feel free to contact Senior Team Leader Archaeology, Katrina Stankowski, at [Katrina.Stankowski@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Katrina.Stankowski@environment.nsw.gov.au) or on 9873 8569.

Yours sincerely



**Rajeev Maini**  
A/Manager Conservation  
Heritage Division  
Office of Environment and Heritage  
**As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW**  
8 February 2016