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Mr Peter McManus
Senior Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Environment
22-23 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000

By email: Peter McManus <peter.mcmanus@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr McManus

**FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY,
CAMPERDOWN CAMPUS (SSD 7081)**

Reference is made to the correspondence dated 8 July 2016 requesting comment on the above proposal, including advice on conditions of consent for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) State Significant Development (SSD) application no. SSD 7081.

At the invitation of the applicant (the University of Sydney) the Heritage Council's subcommittee attended a meeting at the University of Sydney on 28 June 2016. At this meeting the FASS architectural design drawings dated 20 June 2016, prepared by Architectus were presented to the subcommittee and the applicant sought comment from the subcommittee, which was provided on 8 July 2016 (**Attachment A**).

Please receive these comments of the Heritage Council's subcommittee (**Attachment A**) as the formal response to the FASS architectural design drawings on public exhibition, which are materially the same as the FASS architectural design drawings presented to the Heritage Council's subcommittee on 28 June 2016.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter please contact Michael Ellis, Senior Heritage Assessments Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on 9873 8572 or at Michael.Ellis@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

RAJEEV MAINI
Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council
29 August 2016

HERITAGE COUNCIL'S SUBCOMMITTEE'S COMMENT – 8 JULY 2016

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, CAMPERDOWN CAMPUS (SSD 7081)

FASS Design Strategy

The design strategy for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) proposal should place the exceptionally significant R.D. Watt heritage building at the core of the FASS sub-precinct, in terms of site connectivity, activation, circulation and identity.

The FASS proposal provides a clean separation between the heritage building and proposed new building but the courtyard does not demonstrate a sympathetic abutment to the rear (north façade) of the R.D. Watt Building.

The architectural relationship between the R.D. Watt Building and the FASS proposal needs further refinement, in terms of their internal spatial arrangements and relationship with the shared courtyard spaces; and further setback of the proposed FASS building's southern façade is needed to ensure an appropriate setting is retained around the R.D. Watt Building (refer to montage entitled *South Façade and RD Watt, viewed from Campus, Science Road*).

The proposed FASS design presents a large, continuous bulk to Parramatta Road. A change of façade material, rhythm, and/or colour to this north façade and the setback upper floor would reduce the visual dominance of the proposed FASS building. In addition, further consideration should be given to materiality and articulation of the FASS façades to break up the monolithic warehouse appearance.

The attachment of the large glass canopy link to the rear of the R.D. Watt Building has problematic technical and structural implications for that building.

Public Domain Design

The character and materiality of the courtyard spaces should enhance the architectural relationship between the R.D Watt Building and the FASS proposal. Further refinement of the courtyard spaces is required to improve the spatial quality.

The University of Sydney Grounds CMP (Jan 2016) notes that 'the architecture and planning of the place as a whole has been very well considered and generally well maintained. However, opportunities do exist to restore or reconstruct internal views to significant buildings in order to benefit their interpretation. There are also opportunities to restore/reconstruct visual axes and historic roadways in order to better explain the earlier, historically significant phases of development.' (p119)

The Heritage Impact Statement must address how the public domain design proposal will enhance and reinstate the landscape character of the exceptionally significant Science Road Character Area and approach to the R.D Watt Building (refer to Grounds CMP policy nos 18 and 20 below).

Policy 18 (Ground CMP)

Significant views to and from the expanded curtilage and internal views within the University Grounds (Science Road) should be retained and if possible enhanced.

Policy 20 (Ground CMP)

As opportunities arise components of the place could be restored/reconstructed to date/configuration indicated subject to the qualifications indicated (in the table below):

Element	Date	Qualification
Science Road, Western Avenue, Fisher Road and Manning Road	N/A	Adjust landscape to show significant buildings to their best advantage and to enhance internal view lines

Consider replacement of significant tree removed from Science Road, to retain the line of trees that define the significant Road.

R.D. Watt Building (A04): building fabric survey and digital photographic archival recording

As per the conditions of consent for SSD application no. 6123 (condition nos B13-B14), 'the building fabric survey must include a façade condition survey and a schedule of internal and external conservation and repair works; and the digital archival recording including the building and its curtilage.

The measured survey and digital recording should provide the graphic base for recording, analysis and conveying information. Include background documentary research, structural archaeology and other specialist investigations.

Interpretation Plan

The Heritage Council encourages the University to seek its comment on the Interpretation Plan prior to lodging the EIS for the SSD application no. 7081.

Ongoing dialogue between the University of Sydney and Heritage Council of NSW

The Heritage Council invites Mr Greg Robinson, Director, Campus Infrastructure Services to present on the subject of The University of Sydney's Campus Improvement Plan (SSD 6123).