

Thomas Piovesan
Planner
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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Dear Mr Piovesan

Exhibition of Parramatta Powerhouse Mod-1 (SSD-10416-Mod-1)

Thank you for your referral received 25 February 2022 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal. The modification involves *“the fit-out and adaptive reuse of St George's Terrace to support the Powerhouse program, partial demolition of internal fabric within St George's Terrace and changes to the roof pavilion on the eastern building.”*

The following documents were reviewed:

- Section 4.55(1A) Modification Application Report (Ethos Urban, 15 December 2021)
- Design Statement and updated Architectural Plans (Moreau Kusunoki and Genton, 8 December 2021)
- Design Integrity Report (Powerhouse Parramatta Design Integrity Panel)
- Section 4.55(1A) Modification Statement of Heritage Impact (Advisian, 2 December 2021)
- Structural Statement (Robert Bird Group, 6 December 2021)

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

Non-Aboriginal heritage

1. This modification affects St George's Terrace, which is a local heritage item and therefore will be appropriately managed within the controls of the Parramatta Local Environmental Plan 2011. State Heritage Register items are not directly affected by this modification.
2. Advisian have outlined in their Heritage Impact Statement that the removal and replacement of the ground floor slab of St George's Terrace has potential for archaeological relics to be disturbed. To avoid and mitigate potential impacts, Advisian have recommended the adoption of the mitigation measures for archaeological monitoring and managing unexpected finds as described in the *Historical Archaeological Research Design and Excavation Methodology* (Curio Projects, Final, December 2021).

The Heritage Council supports this approach, however notes that retention *in situ* should be given consideration as the preferred management outcome for any relics of State significance to be disturbed by the proposed works.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

3. Heritage NSW provided comments to the former Department of Planning, Industry and Environment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project on 3 November 2020. In that advice we explained that:
 - The Aboriginal community consultation process needed to be completed
 - An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan needed to be prepared
 - The long term management of Aboriginal objects needed to be resolved

These comments remain relevant to the broader project.

In relation to this modification, we note that there may be potential for Aboriginal archaeological deposits to be uncovered below the ground floor slab that will be removed and replaced as part of the works to St George's Terrace. Accordingly, it is recommended that mitigation measures in relation to Aboriginal objects are in place for archaeological monitoring and the management of unexpected finds continue to apply to this Modification (Curio Projects, 2021). Reference should be made to the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan, if this document has been prepared as previously recommended by Heritage NSW.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Lily Chu, Senior Assessments Officer, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8595 or Lily.Chu@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ellis.

Michael Ellis
Manager Assessments
Heritage NSW
Department of Premier & Cabinet
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
2/03/2022