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Mr David Gibson  
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By email: [brent.devine@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:brent.devine@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Gibson

**RE: Heritage Council comments on the Proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney (SSD 7894)**

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I refer to your email dated 6 June 2017 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW and advice on recommended conditions for the above State Significant Development application for the proposed Chau Chak Wing Museum at the University of Sydney. Key elements of the proposal include:

- construction of a new six level building (two stories below ground) with 7,740 sqm of gross floor area comprising gallery space, education areas, research areas, collection storage space, workshop areas, offices, study rooms, a 1130 seat auditorium, café, museum shop, terrace areas, loading dock and plant rooms;
- removal of existing Fisher tennis courts and clubhouse;
- bulk excavation;
- civil and landscaping works, including removal of 19 trees;
- building identification signage; and
- utilities and services infrastructure upgrades and augmentation.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared for the University of Sydney, dated May 2017, has been reviewed, and the following comments are provided:

- There are several locally listed heritage Items within the vicinity of the site and the site is within the Sydney University Camperdown Heritage Conservation Area; however, no State Heritage Register items are within the proposed development site or within the vicinity of the site. It is noted that on 3 February 2016 the Heritage Council of NSW resolved to recommend listing of the University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park on the State Heritage Register.
- On 28 August 2016 SEARs were provided by the Heritage Council with the comment that *the proposed site for the Chau Chak Wing Museum is not considered an appropriate area to site a building*. One of the SEARs was to *provide a view assessment identifying significant views and potential impacts*.
- On 29 September 2016 a presentation was made to the subcommittee of the Heritage Council after which the proponent was provided with recommendations that reiterated the need for a visual impact assessment.

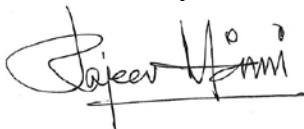
- On 7 December 2016 preliminary designs for the Chau Chak Wing Museum were presented to the Heritage Council Approvals Committee, which provided the following comments for the proponent:
  - a. The design of the building, if built in the proposed location, has to be a counterpoint for the gate house (Baxter's Lodge), which can be viewed in the round.
  - b. The design should be carefully thought out and sit comfortably within the site with high quality details and finishes.
  - c. The design of the loading dock, in particular, will need to be carefully resolved to avoid utilitarian design outcomes for the eastern elevation opposite the gate house (Baxter's Lodge).
  - d. The Heritage Council looks forward to an update in early 2017.
  - e. The maximum height of the building should take its cues from the height of the surrounding trees as viewed from the Great Hall.

The Heritage Council expressed concerns at the first review that possibly this site is *not considered an appropriate area to site a building*. The documents supplied have been reviewed and the proposal cannot be supported. Visual Assessment has been requested by the Heritage Council from the first review of the proposal, the most recent being from the Heritage Council Approvals Committee at the presentation of the concept design on 1 March 2017, in particular, requesting a *view towards the loading dock entry from Baxter's Lodge* (View E). This photomontage confirms the concerns raised by the Heritage Council that the impact of the loading dock, located at the main entry to the University is unacceptable. It is not designed as a counterpoint for the gate house (Baxter's Lodge). The design does not sit comfortably within the site. The design of the loading dock is not well resolved and the utilitarian design has an unacceptable impact on the heritage values of the site.

It is requested that the applicant be required to consult with the Heritage Council and amend the proposal accordingly to resolve these issues prior to any further approval being granted.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact James Quoye, Heritage Officer, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, at email [james.quoye@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:james.quoye@environment.nsw.gov.au) or on telephone: 9873 8612.

Yours sincerely



**Rajeev Maini**  
 Manager, Conservation  
 Heritage Division  
 Office of Environment & Heritage  
**As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council**  
 21 July 2017