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Dear Mr McManus

LEES 1 Science Research and Teaching Facility (SSD 7054) and F23 Administration Building (SSD 7055), The University of Sydney.

Reference is made to your correspondence received on 6 June 2016 seeking advice on recommended conditions of consent for the construction of the new LEES 1 Science Research and Teaching Facility (SSD 7054) and new F23 Administration Building (SSD 7055) at The University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus.

On 26 August 2015 a subcommittee of the Heritage Council of NSW (Heritage Council) provided the University of Sydney with detailed comment on these two State Significant Development (SSD) applications (**Attachment A**).

At its meeting on 3 February 2016 the Heritage Council resolved to recommend that listing of *The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park*, Camperdown on the State Heritage Register (SHR); and subject to its listing on the SHR, the conditional endorsement of The University of Sydney Grounds Conservation Management Plan dated January 2016 (Grounds CMP).

The draft Statement of Significance for *The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park* (**Attachment B**) identifies its state heritage values, which need to be protected. In particular:

The cultural landscape is aesthetically significant at a state level reflecting directly the influence of E.T. Blacket (1850s), Sir J. Sulman (1890s), W.B. Griffin (1910s), Professor L. Wilkinson (1920s) and the Government Architect's Office (1960s) in shaping the place. In particular, Blacket's location of the Great Hall and East Range of the Quadrangle (1854-1862) utilised the site's topography to provide a dramatic presentation of the University on approach from the city, a setting with planning axis that still remains.

The University of Sydney and Victoria Park as connected landscapes have tangible links to Charles Moore, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) and subsequent designers using prevalent 19th century theories of landscape design, plant material and horticultural techniques.

In response to the subcommittee's comments dated 26 August 2015 The University of Sydney (the Applicant) and their design team presented modified proposals to the subcommittee on 23 March 2016 however, the adverse heritage impacts the proposed LEES 1 Building would have on the four (4) Moreton Bay Figs along the City Road boundary were not raised during this presentation.

It is considered that development proposals within The University of Sydney, Camperdown Campus should seek to enhance and protect the state heritage values and significant features and elements identified in the Grounds CMP. However, the encroachment of the proposed LEES 1 Building to within

the canopy and Tree Protection Zone of the four (4) Moreton Bay Figs would have a significant adverse heritage impact on the identified state heritage values of *The University of Sydney and Victoria Park as connected landscapes*. The trees date from the 1880s when this portion of land was part of Victoria Park and are graded Exceptional and High significance in the Grounds CMP.

It is recommended that the F23 Administration Building should respect the established axial arrangement of Eastern Avenue, which is graded as Exceptional significance in the Grounds CMP, by not protruding past the alignment of the Marsden and Anderson Stuart Buildings. It should contribute to a better sense of identity, arrival and transition as the eastern gateway to the main campus and provide a more complementary solution and scale to the open landscape of the junction between City Road and Eastern Avenue linking into the axial arrangement of Eastern Avenue.

In part the F23 Administration Building proposal does achieve these design requirements. Its stylistic attributes including the large eave overhang, and ratio of glazing to solid to screening is complimentary to the historic setting. But further setback of the eastern façade is needed to respect the alignment of the Marsden and Anderson Stuart Buildings, and provide more open landscape (public domain) at the southeast corner of the proposed building to City Road.

Accordingly, please find below the Heritage Council's comments on the proposal:

LEES Building (SSD 7054)

The Heritage Council recommends that the University of Sydney submit revised architectural design drawings for assessment. The southern façade (levels 1-4) and overhanging stepped façade (levels 5-8) should be setback a further 3 metres from these Morten Bay Figs; to ensure that the LEES1 Building development does not encroach into the canopy and Tree Protection Zone of the four (4) Moreton Bay Figs along City Road, numbered T970, T971, T972 and T973 in the Arborist Report.

F23 Administration Building (SSD 7055)

The Heritage Council recommends that the University of Sydney submit revised architectural drawings for assessment. The eastern façade should be setback a minimum of 4 meters to respect the alignment of the Marsden and Anderson Stuart Buildings, and provide more open landscape (public domain) at the southeast corner of the proposed building at City Road.

On receipt of revised architectural drawings for LEES 1 Building (SSD 7054) and F23 Administration Building (SSD 7055), the Heritage Council would provide advice on recommended conditions of consent.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter, please contact Michael Ellis, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on telephone (02) 9873 8572 or by e-mail: Michael.Ellis@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski
Acting Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
26/07/2016



ATTACHMENT A

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF NSW COMMENTS (dated 26 August 2015)

CARSLAW BUILDING EXTENSION (SSD 7054) AND F23 ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING (SSD 7055), THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY, CAMPERDOWN CAMPUS

The Heritage Council considers that the State Significant Development (SSD) sites of Carlsaw Building extension – LEES 1 (SSD 7054) and F23 Administrative Building (SSD 7055) are proposed to be located on a highly significant planned axis (otherwise known as Eastern Avenue) at the University of Sydney.

This early planning framework for subsequent development of the campus forms a key urban space flanked by an ensemble of significant buildings representing several architectural styles and periods and nearly all respecting the formal avenue alignment and linking the centre of the University to City Road. This is all flanked by the exceptionally significant landscape of Victoria Park and St Paul's College.

Proposals for future development should recognise and enhance the character of Eastern Avenue—a strong linear spatial structure with formal avenue alignment of buildings and rows of trees.

In addition, the Heritage Council notes:

LEES1 (SSD 7054):

- The proposal to construct a new building along the southern face of the Carlsaw Building provides an opportunity to reactivate this area and improve a primary view towards Sydney University and along Eastern Avenue.
- The proponent should consider ways to improve the connection between this area and the arrival point at the junction between City Road and Eastern Avenue.
- The proponent should consider options to retain the established axial arrangement along Eastern Avenue by not protruding the building past the alignment of the Carlsaw Building.
- The retention of the significant row of trees along City Road is supported.

Building F23 (SSD 7055):

- F23 should respect the established axial arrangement of Eastern Avenue by not protruding past the alignment of the Marsden and Anderson Stuart Buildings. It should contribute to a better sense of identity, arrival and transition as the eastern gateway to the main campus. Provide a more complementary solution and scale to the open landscape of the junction between City Road and Eastern Avenue linking into the axial arrangement of Eastern Avenue.
- The proponent should explore the opportunity to treat the southern area as an open entry square with an object building that appropriately responds to its immediate site, as well as its broader context. The landscaping of the surrounding area, specifically relating to car parking, and the existing setting of heritage items in this area (the entry gates and F18 Gatekeepers Lodge) needs to be addressed.

Generally:

- Explore alternative options for the location and design of the two buildings, and provide one coordinated design solution for the 2 subject sites, including the junction between City Road and Eastern Avenue. The current proposal forms a gateway by compressing the space of Eastern Avenue; the impact of this approach on the adjacent spaces and the relationship to the City Road entry has not been fully articulated. The design solution should respond to the setting, character and heritage values of the place; and consider furniture, bollards, urban art and landscaping.

- The exploration of various options should be undertaken in consultation with the Heritage Council. Given that the proposed buildings would be prominent in primary views of Sydney University, they should be subject to a design excellence competition.



ATTACHMENT B

DRAFT Statement of Significance

The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park, Camperdown

The University of Sydney, University Colleges and Victoria Park is of state historical significance, as a vestige of Governor Phillip's original 1,000 acres (404 ha) 'Kangaroo Ground' Crown reserve of 1790 and for its connection to the 18th century British government's approach to colonialism and its concept of 'terra nullius' as the foundation for dispossession of Aboriginal land in the immediate area of Sydney.

The cultural landscape is of state heritage significance for its ability to demonstrate activities of the colonial era (1792-1855) associated with Grose Farm, orphan school and convict stockade.

The place is of state heritage significance in demonstrating the aspirations of colonial Sydney to shape its own society, polity and ideals; which ultimately led to the establishment of the University of Sydney and University Colleges by Acts of Parliament in 1850 and 1854 respectively that created the university at Grose Farm.

The University of Sydney is of state historical significance as the first and oldest university in Australia, dating from 1850. Reflecting in the cultural landscape changes in tertiary education, landscape design, institutional architecture, economic development and social attitudes; including the establishment of the first university college for women in Australia, Women's College in 1892.

The Main Quadrangle Building, the Anderson Stuart Building and the Gate Lodges, together with St Paul's, St John's and St Andrew's Colleges, as a rare composition, comprise what is the most important group of Gothic and Tudor Revival style architecture in New South Wales and potentially Australia—deliberately evoke the academic traditions and standards of Oxford and Cambridge, as expressed in the University motto—the landscape and grounds features associated with these buildings contribute to and support the existence and appreciation of their state aesthetic significance.

The cultural landscape is aesthetically significant at a state level reflecting directly the influence of E.T. Blacket (1850s), Sir J. Sulman (1890s), W.B. Griffin (1910s), Professor L. Wilkinson (1920s) and the Government Architect's Office (1960s) in shaping the place. In particular, Blacket's location of the Great Hall and East Range of the Quadrangle (1854-1862) utilised the site's topography to provide a dramatic presentation of the University on approach from the city, a setting with planning axis that still remains.

The University of Sydney and Victoria Park as connected landscapes have tangible links to Charles Moore, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1848-1896) and subsequent designers using prevalent 19th century theories of landscape design, plant material and horticultural techniques.

Strongly associated with Professor Leslie Wilkinson and the implementation of his 1920 master plan, the University grounds, more than any other site, reflect Wilkinson's work in beautifying and unifying buildings and their settings. This pursuit of beauty can also be seen in the work of Professor E. G. Waterhouse, who made a significant contribution to the planning and planting of gardens in the Inter-war years.

The University of Sydney is of state social significance for its role as a site for student activism during the 20th century. In particular, the 1965 Freedom Ride, Vietnam War and conscription protests.

The 1965 Freedom Ride, a bus tour of University of Sydney students led by Charles Perkins—the first Aboriginal person to head an Australian Government department—shone a spotlight on the parlous state of Australia's race relations and is now recognised as one of Australia's most significant civil rights events.