



Our File No: EF14/27337
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Mr Brendon Roberts
A/Team Leader
Key Site Assessments
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Mr Simon Truong

Dear Mr Roberts

**Submission on proposal (SSD 7311), Research and Education Facility – Taronga
Institute of Science & Learning at Taronga Zoo, Bradleys Head Road, Mosman**

I refer to your letter referring the above proposal for input from the Heritage Council of NSW. As a delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW I am responding on their behalf.

The proposal includes demolishing the existing education centre building, staff amenity block, part-existing lecture theatre, capital works building, animal holdings area and ancillary structures and relocating the Zoological Parks Board's Section 170 Heritage & Conservation Register-listed archive and records building.

I note the proposal includes constructing a 3 storey facility with offices, classrooms, lecture rooms, laboratories and research facilities including use for overnight stays, alterations and additions to part of the existing lecture theatre and wildlife experience area, including changing the use of the theatre lobby to office and administration. I further note the proposal includes removing an existing courtyard and creating partly sheltered lawn areas for passive recreation, associated landscape, services and utilities augmentation works.

The Division notes that building 78B is ranked as of heritage significance and envisaged for retention and adaptation in the Conservation Management Plan. Its proposed demolition is not consistent with its heritage significance or with this recommendation. Options to realign the proposed design, retain and reuse this building should be further considered before a final decision to demolish is made.

The following are recommended conditions of approval for the proposal:

Archival Recording:

- Photographic archival recording of the site generally must be undertaken prior to commencement and during construction of items unexpectedly revealed during works or made accessible during the works.

- A detailed archival recording must be prepared of the former Staff Amenities Building (78B) proposed for demolition both before and during demolition. Archival recording must include both photographs and architectural measured drawings and must be in compliance with current guidance published by the Heritage Council of NSW.
- A copy of these archival recordings shall be provided to the Heritage Council of NSW and to Mosman Council.

Conservation works, advice, Contractor Induction and signage:

- The section of remnant stone boundary wall shall be retained, expressed and conserved as part of the subject landscape works. Detailed documents must show this remnant wall in relation to the off holding aviaries. Conservation works and methods should be part of the detailed documentation including lime-based mortar repointing. The sandstone previously demolished from this wall and now incorporated in garden beds should be salvaged and reused.
- Appropriate conservation advice must be available during the detailed design phase and throughout the works program. This should include availability for response to unforeseen circumstances that may arise during construction. Depending on the detailed extent of works expert advice may also be needed on Aboriginal archaeology and cultural landscape conservation and bush regeneration.
- Suitable clauses shall be included in all site contractor and subcontractor contracts to ensure site personnel are aware of their obligations and requirements in relation to the *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) and the *NPWS Act 1974*, both of which are managed by the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). Specifically, personnel should be made aware of the need to protect the remnant indigenous vegetation and relevant personnel should be made aware of the procedure to be followed for notification and stopping works should items of heritage significance, including evidence of Aboriginal occupation, be found during site works.
- Adequate signage and fencing or similar should be erected in the vicinity of the heritage items within (07L) or in the vicinity of the development site that are to be retained alerting contractors and subcontractors to their existence and the need to protect them from damage.

Tree Protection and replacement:

- Trees 10-13 and 49 identified for retention will require further investigation through non-destructive excavation, to quantify the extent to which their root systems will be compromised by the proposed development.
- Trees 1-4, 19 & 20 shall be retained without further investigation.
- Trees in unaffected areas of the site named “animal encounters area” shall be retained.
- All tree protection and management measures (sections 6, 7 and 8 of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment prepared by Sydney Arbor Trees P/L, dated 17 November 2015) shall be implemented with regard to tree protection zones, site establishment, non-destructive excavation to investigate root systems, waste water and erosion control, pruning, tree removals and replacement plantings.
- Replacement plantings should be made up of plant species that are known to be associated with Sydney red gum (*Angophora costata*).

Moveable Heritage: Archive & Records relocation:

- The Zoological Parks Board archives and records shall be relocated in appropriately climate-controlled conditions, subject to the recommendations of a qualified and experienced archivist and the State Records Act. In accordance with Conservation Strategy 2002 requirement 15M, details of the location the archives and records are

to be relocated to, proposed curation tasks and storage conditions shall be provided to the Department of Planning, the Heritage Council of NSW and Mosman Council, prior to any commencement of demolition works on Building 78B.

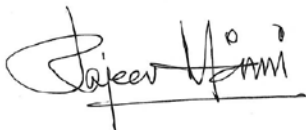
- Details of the final proposed relocation and housing venue for the Zoological Parks Board archives and records, after the temporary relocation from Building 78B, shall be provided to the Heritage Council of NSW within six months of this approval.
- Details of progress towards cataloguing and compiling a Heritage Register of Moveable Items and appropriate management policy or policies for these items in accordance with an Archives Management Plan shall be provided to the Heritage Council of NSW within 12 months of this approval.

Aboriginal Archaeology:

- Removal of one tree within remnant natural area 240L where it overlaps with Aboriginal Archaeological Zone 3 (the natural bushland area between the amenities building and the Koala House) shall comprise cutting the trunk to ground level and leaving the stump and roots in place to avoid any ground disturbance in an area which may have potential for Aboriginal archaeological resources.
- Lowering of the path level east of the Koala exhibit may disturb deposits on or the rock shelf below this area. If subsurface within Zone 3 is unavoidable, the applicant must obtain a preliminary research permit. An appropriately skilled archaeologist would need to be engaged to assess the site and undertake the work in consultation with the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC). Test trenches may be required.
- If relics are found during works, works must cease immediately and OEH and the MLALC must be contacted. The proposal should be modified to avoid these relics and if their removal is necessary or damage to rock features is possible, then an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) would be required under the NSW NPWS Act 1979 with the associated research, advertising, consultation and reporting.
- All such disturbance work must be monitored by the Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC).
- If any unexpected historical archaeological relics are uncovered during the course of work, excavation must cease immediately and an excavation permit, or an exception notification endorsement, be obtained from the Heritage Council of NSW.

If you have any queries, please contact Stuart Read, Heritage Officer at the Heritage Division on telephone (02) 9873 8554 or by e-mail at stuart.read@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Rajeev Maini
A/Manager Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council
4 March 2016