



Contact: Lily Chu
Phone: (02) 9873 8595
Email: lily.chu@environment.nsw.gov.au
Job no. DOC14/130041
File no. SF14/24053
Your ref. SSI-6136

Mr Dominic Crinnion
Senior Planning Officer
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Crinnion

NorthConnex (SSI-6136) – Notice of Exhibition

Thankyou for your letter dated 14 July 2014, inviting comments and seeking advice on recommended conditions of approval for the NorthConnex project (the proposal), a declared state significant infrastructure project.

It is noted that the NorthConnex project is located between the M1 Pacific Motorway at North Wahroonga and the Hills M2 Motorway at Windsor Road, Baulkham Hills. This places the project within the Local Government Areas of the Hills, Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai.

The proposal involves:

- Twin motorway tunnels approximately nine kilometres in length, with two lanes in each direction;
- Integration works with the Hills M2 Motorway;
- Facilities for the maintenance and operation of the motorway;
- A tunnel ventilation system, including a northern outlet facility at Wahroonga and a southern outlet facility at West Pennant Hills.

The Heritage Division, Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH), on behalf of the Heritage Council of NSW, has reviewed the documentation associated with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Particular attention had been made to the 'Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment' (the Heritage Assessment) prepared by AECOM dated 15 May 2014.

It is noted in the documentation provided, in particular the Heritage Assessment, that there are no items on the State Heritage Register (SHR) within the study area. However, it is noted in the mapping provided in the Heritage Assessment indicates that there are some SHR items and items of state significance in the vicinity of the project route. It is understood from the documentation that these heritage items will not be directly impacted. The heritage items include 'The Windsor and Old Windsor Roads,' and homes such as 'Highlands' and 'The Briars' in Wahroonga and 'Gilligaloola' in Normanhurst.

The Heritage Assessment identifies 62 heritage items of local significance that will be directly or indirectly affected by the project. Impacts include the removal of heritage-listed trees and gardens, demolition of structures associated with the Thornleigh Maltworks site, construction vibration, ground settlement, dust, temporary or permanent visual impacts, and the provision of acoustic treatment to properties.

Accordingly, the Heritage Division, OEH, provides the following comments and recommended conditions:

Mitigation and management measures

Section 9.0 of the Heritage Assessment outlines recommended mitigation and management measures to address the loss of heritage value. The report recommends that the measures be further developed and clearly defined on an item by item basis once the final areas of level of disturbance have been defined during detailed design. The measures would be detailed with the construction management plan.

Recommended conditions:

- In accordance with Section 9.0 of the Non-Aboriginal Heritage Assessment prepared by AECOM, the applicant must develop mitigation and management measures to be implemented for every heritage item within the study area, and any heritage item in the vicinity that may be affected by the project. This includes archaeological items, heritage conservation areas, and draft heritage items.
- The mitigation and management measures must also address the impacts of any necessary acoustic treatment to heritage items to ensure that it is carried out in a sympathetic manner. Prior to any acoustic treatment, the applicant must obtain advice from an appropriately experienced and qualified heritage consultant and obtain the relevant approvals to ensure that the works undertaken have minimal impact on fabric and does not detract from the significance of the heritage item.

Archaeology

The Heritage Assessment identifies that the Thornleigh Maltworks site is listed for its archaeological value and makes the recommendation that an archaeological test excavation program is to be undertaken.

Recommended conditions:

- Archaeological test excavation at the Maltworks to be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations of the Heritage Impact Assessment of Thornleigh Maltworks prepared by AECOM dated 16 April 2014.
- The Excavation Direction must comply with the Heritage Council's Excavation Director Guidelines for archaeology of local significance. The final report on archaeological excavation must be submitted to the Heritage Council within 1 year of the archaeological program.
- Where substantial intact archaeological relics of State or local significance are discovered during excavation, work must cease in the affected area and the Heritage Council must be notified in writing in accordance with section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977*.

Please note that the above comments are in relation to non-Aboriginal heritage only. Comments on Aboriginal Heritage are provided by the Regional Operations Planning Unit of OEH. It is understood that this unit has been separately consulted by the Department of Planning and Environment.

Should you have any queries, please contact Lily Chu, Heritage Officer, Heritage Division, OEH, on (02) 9873 8595 or at lily.chu@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rochelle Johnston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rochelle Johnston
Manager Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
15 September 2014