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Jasmine,

O'Connell Street Public School SSD 7372 MOD 5 – Revised Design Statement of Heritage Impact - Addendum

I am writing in support of the shade structure proposed at O'Connell Street Public School, adjacent to Building B within the north-west corner of the site. The works are within the State Heritage Register curtilage of the Marsden Rehabilitation Centre Group (Former King's School) SHR 00826. This letter should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Heritage Impact which accompanied the original proposal.

The shade structure has been revised to take into account comments received from the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment & Heritage (OEH) on 1 February 2019 (shown in italics). OEH acknowledged the need for shade for sun safety purposes for students and generally supported the reversible approach to the structure.

Whilst OEH could see that the shade sails would largely not intrude into significant views to and across the site, they did not support extending the shade structure beyond the northern line of Building D.

The shade sails would largely not intrude into significant views to, and across, the site, but the extension of the structure beyond the northern building line of the former dormitory would increase the visibility of the structure from O'Connell Street and is not supported. Existing vegetation along O'Connell Street may provide some screening, but to further mitigate adverse impacts, the shade structures should not extend beyond the northern building line of Building D;

In response to OEH's comments, the design has been revised so that the structure does not extend beyond the northern boundary of Building D, further mitigating any potential heritage impacts. Further the number of sails has been reduced from two to one as illustrated by the site plans shown overleaf.

This is in accordance with OEH's recommended condition:

The size of the shade structures is to be reduced so that they do not extend further north than Building D.



O'Connell Street Public School Shade Structure





Site Plan, original proposal, December 2018, Northrop.



Site Plan, revised proposal, March 2019, Northrop.

Whilst OEH were supportive in terms of the simple modern curved form of the proposed shade sail they recommended that the height be reduced to sit below the first floor openings.

The height of the main shade sail appears excessive, rising above the first-floor openings, with a curved roof that is unsympathetic to the formality and horizontal lines of Building D. Whilst it is acknowledged that the structure is relatively simple and modern - which is positive – the negative impacts to the character and setting of the building could be mitigated by reducing the height of the main sail to sit below the first floor openings, and corresponding more closely to the height of the triangular sail. A flatter sail may help reduce the height whilst still accommodating the topography;

O'Connell Street Public School Shade Structure

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The design has been revised to reduce the height of the shade sail structure by 700mm at the ridge, however, it is not possible to reduce the height of the ridge to sit below the first floor windows as requested by OEH. This is due to the minimum height of 2100mm at the eastern side and the topography of the site as illustrated below.



Sectional Elevation, original proposal, December 2018, Northrop.



Sectional Elevation, revised proposal, March 2019, Northrop.

The shade structure is substantially lower than the first floor windows at the edges, adjacent to the building and has been designed to read as a distinctly contemporary reversible element within this historic context. The height at the ridge of the large sail has been substantially reduced and now corresponds with the height of the infill balustrades to the first floor openings beyond. The smaller sail has been removed from the proposal. The revised proposal is supported from a heritage perspective.



OEH Recommended Conditions

In terms of the recommended conditions from OEH (shown in italics):

Height of structure

The large shade sail is to be reduced in height to sit below the first-floor openings.

The large sail structure has been reduced in height by 700mm at the ridge, however cannot sit below the first floor openings due to the 2100mm minimum height restriction at the edges and structural design criteria. The revised design is substantially lower than the original proposal and is considered acceptable from a heritage perspective.

Consideration should be given to a flatter sail design which corresponds more closely to the height of the triangular sail.

The triangular sail has been removed from the proposal. A flatter sail design was considered in developing the revised proposal, however proved impractical. This is because the density of the fabric required to provide high UV protection must be installed to falls to ensure that any water is able to quickly run off, especially in heavy rain. If the sail was flatter the fabric would stretch and sag from the weight of water and not drain correctly. The fabric cannot be installed flat.

The proposed revised design is supported and recommended for approval, *without this condition*.

Extent of structure

The size of the shade structures is to be reduced so that they do not extend further north than Building D.

The shade structures have been reduced to a single structure and do not extend further north than Building D. This condition is acceptable.

Archaeology

In terms of archaeology, TZG concur with OEH's recommended conditions:

- Unexpected historical archaeological relics
 - The applicant must ensure that if unexpected archaeological deposits or relics not identified and considered in the supporting documents for this approval are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.

Aboriginal objects

Should any Aboriginal objects be uncovered by the work which is not covered by a valid Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit, excavation or disturbance of the area is to stop immediately and the Office of Environment & Heritage is to be informed in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (as amended). Works affecting Aboriginal objects on the site must not continue until the Office of Environment and Heritage has been informed and the appropriate approvals are in place. Aboriginal objects must be managed in accordance with the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974.



Revised Summary Statement of Heritage Impact

The adaptive re-use of the former Old Kings School site as the O'Connell Street Public School has enabled the heritage significance of the place to be retained and enhanced. The proposed new shade structure is required to provide sun protection for children in the playground adjacent to Building D.

The proposed shade structure is located in an area of low archaeological potential in terms of both Indigenous and Non Indigenous archaeology. The application is accompanied by a Historical Archaeological Impact Statement prepared by Extent which concludes:

The proposed location of the shade sails is in an area previously assessed as having low-nil archaeological potential and no known significance (Extent 2017). Recent archaeological investigations and site works provide no evidence to revise this assessment. No previous buildings are assessed as being in the area immediately north of Building D, nor the existence of the PTSS.

Installation works can proceed with no requirement for additional archaeological mitigation measures.

The shade structure adopts a simple curved form and has been designed as a contemporary secondary element, to ensure that there is a clear distinction between the old and the new. The shade structure is fully reversible.

The visual impact of the shade structure has been minimised by siting it completely behind the line of Building D and by reducing its' overall height by 700mm. At the eaves the structure is substantially lower than the first floor windows, whilst at the curved ridge it relates to the height of the infill balustrades to the first floor openings beyond. This is considered acceptable.

The proposed shade structure to the playground adjacent to Building D will have minimal impact on the heritage significance of the former Old Kings School and is recommended for approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours faithfully



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