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27 February 2007

PTW Architecture
Level 17, 9 Castlereagh Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Attention: Noel Samyia

Dear Noel

SYDNEY OLYMPIC PARK HOSPITAL

Following our meeting yesterday we are pleased to provide this letter to support the ESD opportunities for this project.

We understand the project seeks to set a high standard for a health care facility, part of which would be to achieve a good environmental outcome for the building and provide an environment conducive to patient recovery and wellbeing.

Steensen Varming has aligned its goal to meet the challenges the built environment will realise over the coming years, especially with regard to our commitment to tackling Climate Change, we have made an ethical decision to always integrate appropriate sustainable initiatives into all our work.

This is demonstrated in our leadership in integrating low energy outcomes in the projects that we are involved with and can cite numerous examples where our design ethos has been successfully applied in health care buildings.

Of particular interest is Wollongong Hospital where a cogeneration system was applied to provide both continuous on site power generation with free space heating to the building, Sutherland Hospital Geriatric extension where Steensen Varming were instrumental in implementing a mixed mode ventilation system for the wards, utilising a condensing boiler for the heating or the hydrotherapy pool and air heat recovery from the pool hall. We also implemented a similar strategy for 19 rural hospitals as part the Governments Strengthen Rural Health in Small Towns program.

We would anticipate that as the development is part of the Sydney Olympic Park precinct that the facility would be expected to perform to certain ABGR and Green Star ratings.

On this note we advise that there are a couple of ratings available specific for health care buildings. One, the Green Guide for Health Care which is a tool developed and used in the US, or Green Building Council of Australia which has developed a Green Star rating tool for health care buildings and is currently released as a pilot tool. Within this tool is an energy rating calculator that can be used to rate the energy performance of the building against developed targets. Currently ABGR ratings only apply for commercial office building and hence cannot be applied for this facility.

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We suggest and would fully support Green Stars adoption and use to inform the basis of the design for this building. A minimum 4 Star rating would be set, however we would like to see the project aspire to a 5 star rating that would equal a building of excellence in Australia. If this project was to commit to a Green Star rating one would also need to consider that this would be one of the first projects to do so and may lead to media coverage and promotional opportunities for the development.

Following our review of the plans and in discussion with yourselves, we see the following initiatives as key elements in achieving a sustainable outcome for the building and would score well against the Green Star criteria:

- Mixed mode ventilation to patient rooms
- Connection to the precinct's recycled water reclamation and management scheme
- Daylight wells to harvest daylight deep in the buildings core
- Adjustable external shade element to control solar heat and glare
- Winter gardens external balconies as places of respite for patients and staff
- Fire stairs used for public access to reduce demanded on lifts
- Material selection to improve indoor air quality
- Reduced car parking spaces
- Provision of cyclist facilities
- Site remediation to improve the site ecology

Yours sincerely

CHRIS ARKINS
Director

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