

8 November 2011

Laurie Foy  
 Brookfield Multiplex Constructions Pty Ltd  
 Level 22  
 135 King Street  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Laurie,

**Centre for Obesity Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease (CODCD), Sydney University Precinct: Heritage Review**

This letter supports in heritage terms the proposal prepared for Brookfield Multiplex (BMPX)(October 2011) in relation to the proposed CODCD building within the Sydney University Precinct.

I have inspected the site and reviewed the plans for the proposal. The subject site has been subject to extensive design discussions and review. The site has been the subject of a detailed Heritage Impact Statement, November 2009, by Graham Brooks & Associates. That HIS sets out applicable heritage legislation, Conservation Areas and details the listed heritage items in the vicinity of the site. Although the proposal has changed in scale and detail since that HIS much of the information in the HIS is relevant and may be read in conjunction with this review.

The subject proposal is subject to the DGR, as set out below.

**8. Heritage**

- A Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) assessing:
  - impacts on heritage items within the site including retaining appropriate view corridors, setbacks and curtilages to St Johns College and Sancta Sophia College;
  - potential impacts on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values; and
  - any archaeological relics.

**St John's College**

The subject site is located in close proximity to the heritage listed St John's College and the approved contemporary extension to the College. The site is therefore sensitive from a heritage perspective as a proposal in this location will terminate the playing field to its north and form a major element within the vista of the eastern or 'garden' front of St John's.

The subject proposal is supported in design terms on the impact on St Johns for a number of reasons.

- The form of the building is a formal linear design which terminates the oval in elegant manner. The wing to the north provides a more solid to void elevation to the oval in front of St Johns. The design introduces a façade with low reflectivity with elegant proportions and complements the solid sandstone façade of St John's.
- The proposed building sets up a formal relationship with the oval and acts in the same manner as a quadrangle for the heritage building rather than competing in form and scale. The subject proposal has aligned the building with the St. John's College extension to reinforce the formality of the colleges with the open space.
- The form of the building provides two longer, slimmer forms which have a better visual relationship in proportions with St Johns and its proposed new College wing.

- The materials used on the proposed design will provide a more sensitive backdrop to the heritage item as viewed from the west. The building proposes “sandstone masonry panels” on the northern elevation which will reinforce the traditional collegiate setting in a clearly contemporary manner. The southern elevation will be predominantly glazed.
- The new configuration will provides a well resolved amenity for the grounds and the relationship with other buildings in the vicinity by respecting the existing urban relationships of the precinct.
- Creation of a new landscaped open space to provide similar amenity to the other pocket parks on the campus.

The view lines associated with development from John Hopkins Drive have been altered by the approval of the extension to St John’s on the south side of the College. A clear view of the college is currently available across what is currently a car park however this view is no longer relevant as the proposed college extension will obscure that view from the south. The proposed building will not change that situation in the same manner that the earlier proposal did not affect the view.

The primary public view of the imposing east façade of St John’s College is currently that available from Parramatta Road. The most impressive view of the eastern façade however is that from the oval and this will not be affected by the proposal. The proposal will enhance the view compared to the previous proposal in that the simple façade of the new building to the south of the oval will not divert views from the college.

### **Sancta Sophia College**

Sancta Sophia is not listed as a heritage item and is not included in the Draft City of Sydney LEP 2011 Heritage Schedule.

Sancta Sophia College is a Catholic Residential College for women, founded in 1925, located in Missenden Road to the north of St Johns College.

As stated in the GBA HIS “The College buildings designed around a central courtyard are set in established gardens that are bounded by St Johns college to both the south and the east. The mature plantings of the rear of the gardens, and those of the St Johns College grounds screen views to, and from, the buildings.

Considering the available views, it is concluded that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on the potential heritage significance of Sancta Sophia College.”

The subject building in fact will present a more solid, less reflective end to the south of the oval and will provide a sympathetic ‘collegiate’ elevation to terminate the college precinct.

The reports on aboriginal cultural heritage and archaeology prepared for the earlier application may be relied on as the proposal does not alter their conclusions.

I consider that the proposal is one that should be supported on heritage grounds.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Davies  
Director Heritage