

29 January 2012

Ms Margo Kouvaris
Design Coordinator—VAPS, BDM
Sydney Opera House Bennelong Point
GPO BOX 4274
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Our Ref: 11-0454mkc1

Re: Sydney Opera House Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project (VAPS) Major Works—Section 75W Modification Application MP 09_0200 MOD 2

Dear Ms Kouvaris,

We refer to the above project and your request to provide a statement in relation to potential archaeological impacts associated with the proposed design modification to the existing consent for the VAPS project (MP 09_0200).

We understand that the proposed modification includes the following works:

- introduction of a Cross Tunnel at basement (B4) level connecting the previously approved Opera House Theatre Corridor and The Concert Hall Corridor as part of the construction of the underground loading dock;
- amendments to the Ramp Balustrade Wall and Precast Panelling at the Forecourt level; and
- amendments to the Gate House.

The following documents were used to provide the background information for the preparation of this letter:

- Modifications to Major Project MP09_0200 Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project at the Sydney Opera House, Environmental Assessment, Byrnes & Associates Pty Ltd, November 2012;
- Sydney Opera House Proposed Modification to Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project (VAPS) (MP 09_0200), Heritage Impact Statement, Design 5 – Architects Pty Ltd, 25 October 2012;
- The Sydney Opera House VAPS Design Report, In support of s75W Planning Application Sept 2012 Major Project MP09_0200, Scott Carver in collaboration with Jan Utzon, September 2012;
- Sydney Opera House: Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project (VAPS) Archaeological Management Plan and Archaeological Impact Assessment, Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, February 2010 (the AMP and AIS report); and

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- Sydney Opera House: Vehicle and Pedestrian Safety Project (VAPS) Aboriginal Cultural Values Assessment, Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd, July 2010 (the ACVA report).

The proposed Cross Tunnel between the Opera Theatre Corridor and the Concert Hall Corridor will be located at B4 level which is well below the existing basement level, and in the area of previous major disturbance caused by the construction of the Sydney Opera House (shown on the attached site plan shaded in black between the two corridors shaded in purple).

The construction of the Cross Tunnel which would generally involve drilling through the bedrock would therefore cause no archaeological impact.

The proposed modifications to the design and fabric of the Ramp Balustrade to the perimeter of the entry to the underground loading dock as well as the removal of precast panelling adjacent to the Tarpeian Wall at the east end of the loading dock entry would result in no archaeological impacts.

We understand that the final design of the proposed Gate House will be within the footprint of the existing Gate House, which is located within the area of previous major disturbance (shaded in black at the southwest end of the study area, as per the attached site plan). Given the high level of previous disturbance in the subject area it is unlikely that the construction of the new Gate House would result in archaeological impacts.

The AMP and AIS report prepared by Godden Mackay Logan (GML) for the site in 2010 assessed the areas of historical archaeological potential and identified management strategies to mitigate the adverse impacts of the proposed development onto the potential archaeological resource at the site. The report was prepared as part of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, to accompany an application to the Department of Planning for the approval under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)* and for excavation permit under section 60 of the *Heritage Act 1977 (NSW)* (Heritage Act). The report that was endorsed by the Heritage Council of NSW has been used to guide the on-going program of archaeological monitoring and investigations, the main bulk of which was undertaken by GML in conjunction of the initial stages of the VAPS project during 2011 and 2012. In line with the assessment and recommendations of the AMP and AIS report, the proposed modifications to the original design including the introduction of the new Cross Tunnel and the Gate House fall within the areas of major previous disturbance and as such do not require archaeological intervention. In addition, the proposed modifications to the design and fabric of the Ramp Balustrade as well as the removal of the Precast Panelling fall within the area requiring archaeological monitoring and recording, which was undertaken by the GML archaeology team in 2012.

As part of the same EA and the original application, GML prepared the ACVA report that assessed the impacts of the VAPS project on Aboriginal cultural heritage values (both tangible and intangible) and identified management strategies to mitigate any identified adverse impacts. The recommended management strategies were applied during the program of archaeological monitoring and investigations undertaken in 2011 and 2012. The archaeological program however did not provide any material evidence of Aboriginal archaeological remains. Based on the nature, location and extent of the proposed modification works discussed above, it is unlikely that any potential Aboriginal archaeological remains will be adversely impacted upon.

In conclusion, the proposed modifications works are unlikely to cause any adverse archaeological impacts. Given that they are located within the areas of the site assessed to be already disturbed and at

the level well below that where the potential archaeological remains are expected to be found, archaeological monitoring is not required.

However, in the event that unexpected historical archaeological remains were to be encountered during the proposed modification works, works should cease and the Heritage Branch of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), Department of Premier and Cabinet should be notified in accordance with Section 146 of the Heritage Act.

Equally, in the event that unexpected Aboriginal archaeological remains were to be encountered during the proposed modification works, works should cease and the Environmental Protection Authority, OEH should be notified immediately in accordance of Section 89A of the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 (NSW) (as amended).

The AMP and AIS and the ACVA reports prepared for the VAPS project by GML in 2010 are valid documents that should be referred to regarding the on-going management of archaeological potential at the site, including the proposed modifications.

Should you have any further queries in relation to this matter please do not hesitate to call or email.

Yours sincerely

Godden Mackay Logan Pty Ltd



Anita Yousif
Associate

Attachments:

Plan showing areas of archaeological potential and where archaeological investigations and recording would be required (Sydney Opera House: Vehicular and Pedestrian Project (VAPS), Archaeological Management Plan and Archaeological Impact Statement, GML, February 2010, page 66, figure 5.1).

