

12 October 2010

Mr Peter King  
Chief Executive  
Royal Agricultural Society of NSW  
Locked Bag 4317  
Sydney Olympic Park NSW 2127

Dear Peter,

### **RAS EXHIBITION HALLS REDEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for providing the drawings prepared by Ancher Mortlock Woolley (AMW), indicating alternative approaches to the stage 1 design.

The drawings, as well as the subsequent Cox report responding to cost, feasibility and design considerations have been reviewed. We note that the AMW sketches illustrate an alternative conceptual approach without addressing all of the concerns that they (AMW) raised in earlier meetings. As such the ideas are confined to the concourse roof and the external arrangement of AC ductwork, and are preliminary in nature. Other issues such as junctions with enclosed dome colonnade would require further consideration in a future design development phase.

The advice of the Design Review Panel (DRP) has also been taken into account in making the following recommendations in relation to the alternative concepts:

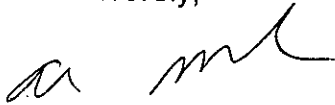
1. The concourse roof proposal cleverly adapts the language of the existing exhibition halls into a lively and expressive northern frontage for the exhibition halls. While the height is low enough to provide some external glimpses of the existing Hall roofs, it precludes the opportunity for future upper level seminar rooms which were originally proposed in the Cox design. Considering the longer term objectives of the RAS expansion, where the concourse area will be contained by exhibition halls on both sides, the simple 'linear' form currently proposed provides a more neutral edge to the distinctive profile of the existing exhibition halls and is a more suitable approach for both the short and long term redevelopment of the facility.
2. Following on from DRP comments, the current 'linear' design should be reviewed in relation to external finishes and the internal 'diagrid' structure. Literal references to the original design elements should be avoided.
3. The AMW proposal for resolving the complex ducting configuration addresses one of the DRP's main concerns and should be investigated further. AMW's suggestion to 'pair' the ducts reduces their impact on the overall character of the

roof and is more respectful of the original roof design. However, we share Cox's concern with the proposed method of penetrating the roof and exposing the timber structure and ask that this be addressed in the ongoing investigations.

4. Further development of the stage 2 design will need to address AMW concerns relating to enclosure of the Dome and the western entry courtyard.

We trust that this provide outlines SOPA's views progressing the design and look forward to reviewing the outcome. If you have any further queries please contact Darlene van der Breggen on 97147934.

Yours sincerely,



**Alan Marsh**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

cc. Michael Leech, Thinc Projects