



ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HERITAGE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

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8 September 2010

Our ref: 100901-1

Paul Edmiston
Savills Australia
Level 7, 50 Bridge Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

Re: Aboriginal Heritage Advice - Penrith Health Campus Redevelopment Stage 3: Mental Health Services

Dear Mr Edmiston,

Introduction

Further to AHMS previous investigations of the area Savills Australia has engaged Archaeological and Heritage Management Solutions Pty Ltd (AHMS) to provide Aboriginal and historic heritage advice for the proposed Penrith Health Campus Redevelopment Stage 3: Mental Health Services. AHMS undertook a base-line Aboriginal and historic heritage assessment of the Penrith Health Campus in February 2009, as part of the 'East Block Development', immediately north of the proposed development.¹ While this report focussed on the proposed East Block, it also considered Aboriginal and historic heritage values for the immediate environment, and therefore it encompassed the proposed Mental Health Services redevelopment.

This letter provides a summary of the tasks and findings of AHMS' 2009 study and identifies Aboriginal and/or historic heritage issues within, or in close proximity, to the proposed Mental Health Services redevelopment.

Previous Assessment

AHMS undertook a baseline assessment of the Aboriginal and historic heritage values of the Penrith Health Campus, with specific reference to the East Block, in February 2009 (Figure 1).

The assessment included:

¹ AHMS. 2009. Proposed East Block Development, Penrith Health Campus, Kingswood, NSW - Baseline Aboriginal and Historic Heritage Assessment. *Unpublished Report for Architectus Pty Ltd.*

- searches of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water's (DECCW) AHIMS database; NSW Heritage Branch's (part of Department of Planning) State Heritage Register and Inventory; and Local Environment Plan heritage schedules and
- a review of general history and archaeological studies in the Penrith region; and
- a site inspection to identify any Aboriginal objects and/or sites, and/or historic relics or sites that may be present, or have the potential to be present within the study area.

In terms of historical heritage, the review identified no areas or items of significance. A search of the databases revealed four heritage items in the Penrith region, but none within 500m of the health campus. Further, aerial photography and other documentation indicated the campus area was largely pastoral, agricultural and/or undeveloped until construction of the hospital in the early 1950's. Therefore, with the exception of areas in close proximity to the Great Western Highway (north of the East Block and proposed redevelopment), the potential for buried archaeological historical heritage remains, was considered low.

The existence of any Aboriginal heritage issues was also considered to be low in the health campus. A search of the AHIMS database revealed the closest objects/sites to be over 1 km away, and archaeological models indicated the importance of creek lines or other water sources for prehistoric use. No such creek lines or water sources were evident in, or near, the health campus.

A site inspection further confirmed these findings, with a conclusion being reached that the general area had been being heavily modified through existing construction activities including earthworks, levelling, and re-landscaping.

In summary, the report identified that there was low to very low potential for significant Aboriginal or historical heritage items or sites to exist occur within the proposed East Block footprint and in the broader health campus.

The recommendations of the assessment indicated that no further management actions were required in relation to Aboriginal or historic heritage archaeology prior to development. However, consultation with relevant Aboriginal communities was recommended to ensure that no cultural values were affected by proposed development within the health campus. This was particularly relevant, since a memorial garden relating to Aboriginal reconciliation was present in the immediate area.

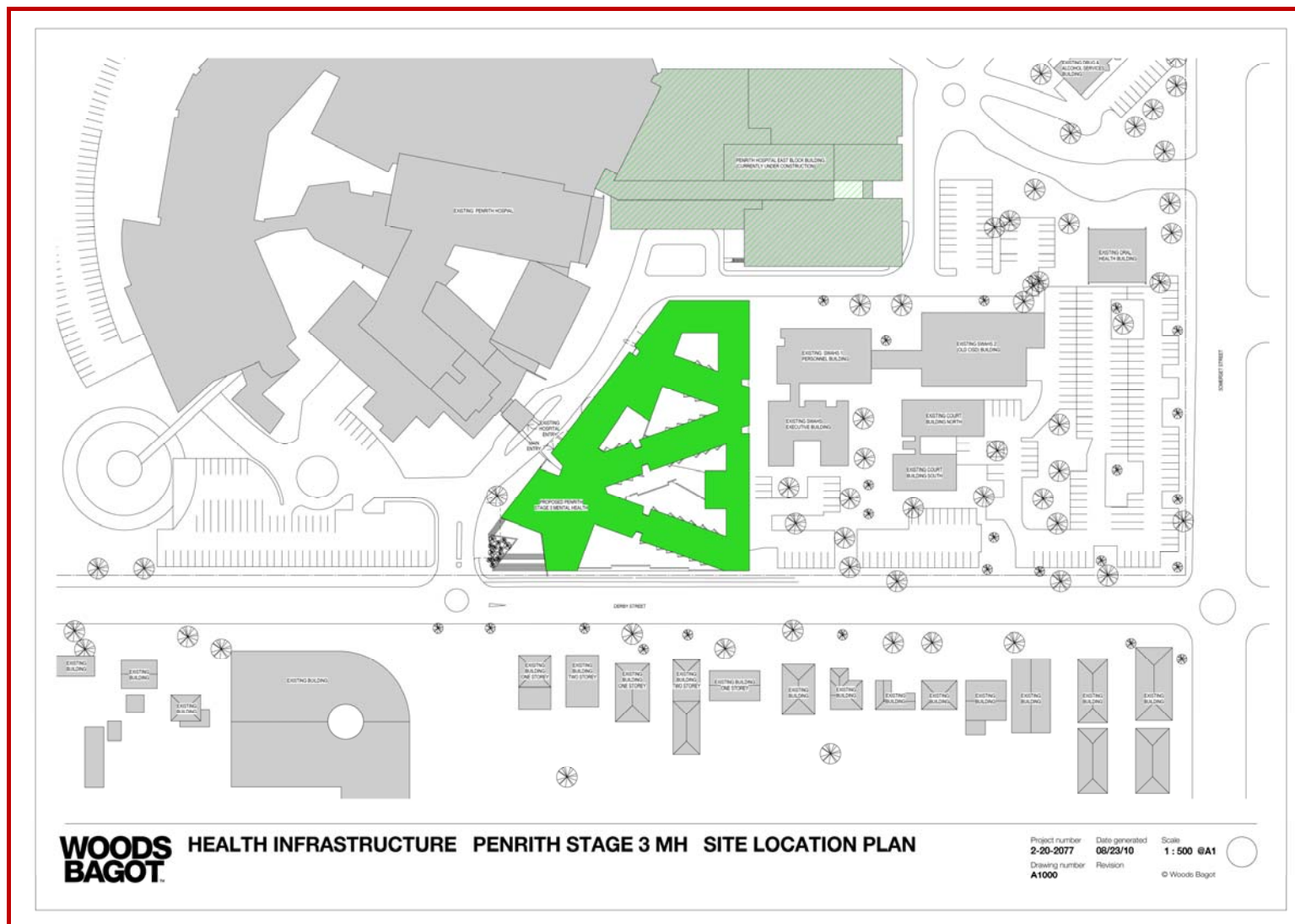


Figure 1. Map showing the location of the East Block redevelopment (pale green shading), and the proposed Mental Health Service redevelopment (green).

HISTORIC & ABORIGINAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

- SURVEY & ASSESSMENT
- CONSERVATION PLANNING
- STRUCTURAL RECORDING
- EXCAVATION & ANALYSIS

The Proposed Mental Health Services Redevelopment

Inadvertently, AHMS 2009 has undertaken a baseline assessment of the proposed Mental Health Services Redevelopment. The close proximity of the proposed Mental Health Services footprint to the East Block has meant that the findings of the 2009 assessment (outlined above) are identical for the two areas.

The database searches, background information and aerial photography in the AHMS 2009 assessment, all encompassed the entire Penrith Health Campus and can, therefore, all be directly applied to the currently proposed redevelopment. As outlined above, these searches identified no Aboriginal or historical heritage items or sites within, or near (<500 m), the health campus curtilage.

While the site inspection focussed on the East Block and paid only cursory attention to the proposed redevelopment, photographs and descriptions of the entire campus indicated extensive construction, modification and/or disturbance was present throughout. It is, therefore, considered that the potential for *in situ* or intact archaeological materials within the redevelopment would be comparable (i.e. low to very low) to the East Block study area.

Based on the findings of the 2009 assessment, it is considered that no further archaeological assessment or works are necessary prior to the Mental Health Services redevelopment.

The 2009 assessment recommendations did indicate the need for Aboriginal consultation, most notably in relation to the memorial gardens. It is understood that such consultation is currently being undertaken.

While AHMS notes that the consultation was recommended by the Director-General's requirements, in accordance with DECCW's (2004) *Interim Community Consultation Requirements for Applicants* (which has now been superseded by a new series of guidelines entitled *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation for Proponents 2010*), since no Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits (AHIP) are being sought the implementation of these guidelines is not required. However, effective Aboriginal community consultation should be undertaken.

A letter provided to AHMS on this issue (**Appendix 1**), summarised the consultation and recommended the following:

The Aboriginal Reconciliation Garden has specific Cultural recognition for the Aboriginal communities of Penrith LGA...If the garden is to be relocated it is essential that all plants and trees are re-located as well.

It is understood that the garden will require location as part of the redevelopment, and therefore AHMS supports the recommendations of NSW Health (**Appendix 1**), specifically that the garden is relocated in an appropriate manner and includes all existing plants and trees currently within it.

If you have any questions or enquiries regarding this advice, please contact Alan Williams on 02 9555 4000

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter Douglas", with a stylized flourish underneath.

Peter Douglas
Director

Appendix 1: NSW Health Letter regarding Aboriginal Consultation

Aboriginal Health Unit,
Mt Druitt Hospital,
Railway Street, MT DRUITT NSW 2770
Phone: (02) 9881 1670
Fax: (02) 9881 1544

Engaging with the Community

Our Ref: TRIM 08/
Your ref:

Aboriginal Reconciliation Garden, Nepean Hospital Campus.

The Aboriginal Reconciliation Garden is located on the grounds of Nepean Hospital near the Area Executive Building.

Background

The Reconciliation Garden was developed as a project to acknowledge Reconciliation Week. Staff from Nepean Hospital and members of the Aboriginal community were invited to be representatives on the planning committee.

The first Garden was located near the Cancer Care Centre, however it had to be relocated due to re-development of that site.

Marilyn Cintra an Arts Coordinator for WAHS was successful in securing funding to relocate the garden and to employ an artist to design a new garden. The new garden has a path with footprints that lead to the centre of the garden. There are also wooden logs that have Aboriginal carvings on them.

Description.

The Reconciliation Garden has a number of plaques that acknowledge the contribution and dedication of two Doctors, a Nurse a former CEO and the Aboriginal Community. A number of particular trees were planted in their honour.

At the present location of the Garden it is easily accessible for staff or visitors to the hospital to visit or spend some quiet time. In my understanding that it is regular visits from staff and community members.

Principles

The Aboriginal Reconciliation Garden has specific Cultural recognition for the Aboriginal Communities of the Penrith LGA. It is also a place of remembrance for the families of the people that have been acknowledged in the garden.

If the garden is to be relocated it is essential that all plants and trees are re-located as well.

Patricia Heal
Manager Programs
Aboriginal Health
2.3.10