



Heritage Council
of New South Wales

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PCU030168

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File: 11/05245
Your reference

Mr Anthony Witherdin
Acting Director
Metropolitan and Regional Projects South
GPO 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ATTN: Ms Jane Flanagan

Dear Mr Witherdin,

Department of Planning
Received
31 JAN 2012
Scanning Room

Re: Exhibition of Environmental Assessment – Project Application for Wollongong Hospital redevelopment (10_0213)

I refer to your letter dated 25 November 2011 received by the Heritage Branch on 30 November 2011 referring Major Project 10_0213 for Wollongong Hospital Redevelopment involving demolition of 1941 wing of Nurses Home, and construction of Illawara Elective Surgical Service/Intensive Care Unit/Emergency Department.

It is noted that the subject 1941 wing of Nurses Home is listed as part of the Nurses Home on the State Heritage Register and the Local Environmental Plan. Although retention of this part of the Nurses Home is desirable in view of its heritage significance, the arguments put forward by the Heritage Impact Statement prepared by Godden Mackay Logan in favour of its demolition are also noted. The information submitted with the application also indicates that the potential for historical and Aboriginal archaeological relics to be found within the development area is low.

The continued use of the Nurses Home (Elouera House) as a residence for medical staff is considered to be an important part of its heritage significance and is therefore, supported. The retention of the earliest part of the Nurses Home itself and its refurbishment to its original configuration is a positive element of the development.

It is also proposed to remove two Morton Bay Fig trees to allow for the development. The Tree Assessment Report submitted with the application identifies potential remaining Safe Useful Life Expectancy to be less than 5 years. The Arboriculture Hazard Assessment Report recommends that the failure potential of one tree be reassessed in 3-5 years and considers the other tree's failure potential to be low. These trees are listed on the Local Environmental Plan but not on the State Heritage Register. Also, these trees are not related with the heritage significance of the Nurses Home. Therefore, although the retention of these two trees is considered desirable, it is a matter for the relevant consent authority to consider.

If you have any query in this regard, please contact Rajeev Maini on (02) 98738592.

Yours sincerely

27/01/2012

Vincent Sicari
Manager, Conservation Team
Heritage Branch, Office of Environment and Heritage
AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL