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File: 11/16220
Your reference

Mr Alan Bright
Acting Director
Metropolitan and Regional Projects South
GPO 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ATTN: Mr Chris King

Dear Mr Bright,

Re: Exhibition of Environmental Assessment – Project Application for Stage 1 & 1A of the Redevelopment of Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, Edward Street, Wagga Wagga (MP11_0087).

I refer to your letter dated 5 December 2011 received by the Heritage Branch on 9 December 2011 referring Major Project 11_0087 for Wagga Wagga Base Hospital redevelopment involving demolition of Gissing House and Old Mortuary Building.

It is noted that the subject property is listed on the Local Environmental Plan, not on the State Heritage Register. 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 Statement of Heritage Impacts states that *This work is in accordance with the Master Plan assessed by Heritage Assessment December 2010 and reinforces significance by continuing the tradition of providing health services on this site. The demolition of Gissing House and the Old Mortuary will have an acceptable level of impact because they are modest building that have been extensively altered. Their social significance is perpetuated in the provision of improved services and can be interpreted in other ways. The New Mental Health Building will have a positive impact with regard to the new services that will be provided, a minimal and acceptable impact on the significance of existing buildings and a minimal and manageable impact on the nearby Conservation Area.*

The continued use of the subject site for a public hospital is considered to be an important part of its heritage significance and is therefore, supported. The retention of significant parts of the Hospital is also considered to be a positive element of the proposed development. Although retention of the two heritage buildings is desirable in view of their heritage significance, the above aspects of the proposed development are likely to mitigate the adverse impacts to some extent. In addition to this it is considered that the applicant should be required to carry out the following by way of conditions of consent:

1. Archival recording before, during and after completion of the proposed works;
2. Relocation of moveable heritage items to other public parts of the hospital site to assist with interpretation of the demolished and altered areas;
3. Preparation and implementation of an interpretation strategy prior to the issue of occupation certificate for the proposed development;
4. Implementation of a naming policy commemorating those associated with the hospital;



5. If any significant archaeological relic is found the work must cease immediately and Heritage Branch, Office of Environment and Heritage must be consulted. A separate approval under the Heritage may be required under those circumstances;
6. If any significant Aboriginal relic is found the work must cease immediately and relevant consent authority must be consulted. A separate approval may be required under those circumstances.

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

Yours sincerely



01/02/2012

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

