

1 December 2020

File No: 2019/339289  
Your Ref: SSD-6471-Mod-4  
Our Ref: R/2014/13/G

Director, Key Sites Assessment  
NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

By email: [andy.nixey@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:andy.nixey@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Andy,

**Art Gallery NSW Expansion Project – Sydney Modern – Modification 4 (SSD-6471-Mod-4)**

I refer to the application to modify the consent for the Art Gallery NSW Expansion Project (“Sydney Modern”). It is noted that the application proposes various modifications to landscaping and the public domain.

City staff have reviewed the modifications and are generally supportive of the conversion of car parking to public forecourt in front of the existing gallery building. However, the design of the cultural plaza appears cluttered, will constrict mobility and detract from views to and within the heritage site. The following elements are not supported and/or require redesign:

- The reflection pools may be supported if they are inground and flush with existing ground level, similar to the War Memorial.
- The density of trees within the plaza poses an obstruction to views of the existing building from within the site and the public domain.
- The location of the bollards impedes access, and it is unclear if their design is consistent with the City's strategies.
- The remodelled path from the Domain, the impact on the history of the statues and the new entrance walls require further information with regard to heritage impacts, accessibility and landscaping.

City staff would like the opportunity to work through these modifications with the applicant to better understand the rationale and maximise the public benefit.

The City also requests further information regarding the 26 new trees to be planted on the land bridge and how the applicant intends to integrate a major art installation

in this location. It is requested that the applicant provides an updated landscape plan that includes the proposed canopy cover percentage over the site.

The trees currently proposed in the planting schedule are appropriate medium to large trees that are likely to grow to maturity and provide canopy cover.

The majority of the proposed pot sizes are TBC on the landscape plan. These should be finalised before determination of the amendment to ensure appropriately sized trees are selected for the landscape.

It is recommended that the applicant provide receipts / contract agreements to the consent authority for contractually grown trees in the specified sizes prior to determination. This will ensure that these trees will be available at the time of landscape works. Availability for large container sized trees has often been an issue at the time of satisfying conditions. Having this certainty regarding the tree sizes will ensure that the likelihood for amendments to the consent conditions at the last minute is reduced.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about the above, please contact David Zabell, Senior Planner, on 9288 5842 or at [dzabell1@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:dzabell1@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



**ANDREW REES**  
Area Planning Manager