



Our ref: DOC20/1008608-4  
Your ref: SSD-10325

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Advice provided via the Major Project Portal

Dear Mr Devine,

### **New Request for Advice - Kincoppal- Rose Bay School – EIS (SSD 10325)**

Thank you for your referral dated 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020 inviting comment from Heritage NSW on the EIS for the Kincoppal- Rose Bay School, NSW in the Woollahra Council Local Government Area. We note that the project intends to upgrade existing facilities and install new facilities to accommodate long term growth and operation of the school. The proposed works have been divided into two stages the Detailed Development and the Concept Development.

Heritage NSW has reviewed the following documents as part of our assessment:

- *Environmental Impact Statement*, prepared by Urbis, dated 9 November 2020
- Appendix A – *SEARs Requirements*, prepared by DPE, dated 14 January 2020
- Appendix H – *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report*, prepared by Coast History & Heritage, dated January 2020
- Appendix O, P and Q- *Geotechnical Reports*, prepared by JK Geotechnics, dated Feb 2020

We provide the following comments in relation to Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation matters.

### **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Review of EIS, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report**

The 2020 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) prepared by Coast History & Heritage Consultants assesses the impact of both the Concept Development and Detailed Development proposed for the Kincoppal- Rose Bay School.

The Proposal Area is situated on the southern side of Sydney Harbor on a peninsula that extends north. The Proposal Area is located on a steep slope extending down to Rose Bay in the west with a series of sandstone outcrops, in varying degrees of modification, extending along the site. There has been fairly extensive past land disturbance as a result of the existing infrastructure associated with the existing school.

Historic plans demonstrate that there were originally several drainage lines extending through the study area, that have subsequently been infilled or modified. The background assessment of the ACHAR concludes there was reasonable potential for shell middens, rock shelters, art sites and artefact scatters to be present within the Proposal Area in areas not impacted by historic land use.

The pedestrian survey of the proposal area concluded that the area had been subject to significant past land disturbance however a rock shelter with a Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD) was identified within one of the sandstone outcrops (AHIMS # 45-6-3754). Visibility for the survey was poor due to vegetation, historic disturbance and infilling and no further sites were identified. Following field survey, Coast (2020) concluded that:

*“there is some potential for the presence of archaeological deposits, where the upper part of the soil horizon remains in a location that is (or was) within a rockshelter or in close proximity to one. There is also some potential for rock engravings, where suitable rock platforms have been covered over rather than removed. This archaeological potential is considered to be moderate in the upper part of the western campus; sandstone platforms are more likely to have been present in the relatively gentle slopes alongside Vaucluse Road, and the area is bordered by an escarpment. Low archaeological potential has been identified across the lower part of the western campus; this steeply sloping area is unlikely to have been suited to occupation, and no rockshelters have been identified.” (Coast 2020, pp. 67-68).*

We note no test excavations have been undertaken to date to confirm any subsurface potential but a limited program of geotechnical investigations (Umwelt 2020, Appendix O-Q) have confirmed the presence of residual soils (~20cm) overlying the sandstone bedrock and beneath fill.

The ACHAR (Coast 2020, p.89-90) provided the following recommendations in relation to the proposal:

#### Detailed Development

2. The Aboriginal heritage management measures outlined in Section 6.4.1 should be incorporated into the development program. In summary, these include:
  - a. Aboriginal community consultation.
  - b. Aboriginal heritage management plan.
  - c. Aboriginal heritage induction.
  - d. Archaeological monitoring of works with moderate potential for impact.
  - e. Archaeological investigation and recording of any Aboriginal archaeological sites that will be subject to impact.
  - f. Reporting.

#### Concept Development Works

3. The Aboriginal heritage management measures outlined in Section 6.4.2 should be incorporated into the development program. In summary, these include:
  - a. Aboriginal community consultation.
  - b. Updated impact assessment.
  - c. Aboriginal heritage induction.
  - d. Detailed design to avoid impact to KRB Rockshelter (AHIMS #45-6-3754).
  - e. Archaeological monitoring of works with moderate potential for impact
  - f. Archaeological investigation and recording of any Aboriginal archaeological sites that will be subject to impact, under the conditions of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit.
  - g. Reporting.

The recommendations and management strategies proposed by Coast (2020, Section 6.4 p. 81-84) revolve around avoidance and archaeological monitoring during construction in areas identified as having moderate potential to identify any currently unknown Aboriginal cultural heritage items.

#### **Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation Advice**

We note the proposed development has potential to impact upon Aboriginal cultural heritage most likely in the form of intact shallow subsurface deposits under fill and/or rock engravings

and grinding grooves in sandstone outcrops. Consequently, Heritage NSW provides the following recommendations:

- As searches of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) are valid for 12 months and the original search was undertaken on 9 July 2019, an updated search is required.
- Clarification should be sought regarding the exact extent and depth of proposed impacts. Additionally, confirmation on whether any ground disturbance is proposed for the early learning centre – Additional Carparking as shown in Figure 6 of the EIS (Umwelt 2020) and whether this impact has been assessed by the ACHAR is needed.
- Detailed design should be undertaken to avoid impact to KRB Rockshelter (AHIMS #45-6-3754) and minimise impact to areas of moderate and high archaeological potential.
- If avoidance of the areas of moderate and high archaeological potential is not possible, a systematic subsurface testing program needs to be undertaken under an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP) due to the proximity to a rockshelter and potential for rockshelter deposits and rock art to be encountered. The testing needs to target areas proposed for impact as part of the development works and within areas expected to contain intact A horizon and/or over areas where rock outcropping is expected but visibility is limited to identify potential art or grinding groove sites. Figure 52 and 53 of the ACHAR (Coast 2020, p.78 and 80) identifying potential Aboriginal heritage impact should be used to guide test excavations and should be updated to reflect the results of the subsurface testing and the final development designs if any changes are made.
- If avoidance of the rockshelter is not possible, test excavations under an AHIP must occur within KRB Rockshelter (AHIMS #45-6-3754) to confirm the presence or absence of subsurface archaeological deposits.
- We recommend the subsurface testing program be undertaken prior to development approval so as to inform the potential of the areas to contain Aboriginal objects, whether future salvage excavation is required and to allow the proponent to redesign the project to avoid any significant objects or sites if necessary.
- Following a subsurface testing program, the ACHAR needs to be updated to document the results of the testing and reassessment of the impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- An Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Management Plan will need to be prepared in consultation with Heritage NSW and the RAPs to address unexpected finds and outline the management and mitigation measures required before, during and after construction.
- Consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAP) must continue in line with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010*.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice please contact Emily Dillon, Archaeologist, Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation – South, Heritage NSW on (02) 6229 7189 or via email at [emily.dillon@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:emily.dillon@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



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**Heritage NSW**  
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