



Megan Fu
Principle Planning Officer
Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Email: megan.fu@planning.nsw.gov.au

Your reference: SSD-9351535
Our reference: EF21/9026

Dear Megan,

Advice on EIS and recommended conditions – State Significant Development – John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct (SSD-9351535)

**Project: John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct
SSD/SSI application no: SSD-9351535**

Thank you for your referral uploaded to the Major Projects Portal on 31 May 2021 seeking advice on the EIS for the above state significance development (SSD) proposal.

In preparing the following advice we have reviewed the following documents:

- Environmental Impact Statement: John Hunter Health Campus, Lookout Road, New Lambton Heights, John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct – prepared by Ethos Urban Pty Ltd, dated May 2021;
- Appendix B: Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for SSD-9579147 – reissued February 2021;
- Appendix S: John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report – prepared by Umwelt (Australia) Pty Ltd (Umwelt), dated April 2021; and
- Appendix X: Geotechnical investigation report, John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct – prepared by RCA Australia, dated December 2019.

The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR) has been prepared in reference to the relevant guidelines as required by the SEARs (Requirement 10). It is noted that no registered Aboriginal sites, areas of Potential Archaeological Deposit (PAD), or Aboriginal Places have been identified as located within the proposed development area.

Heritage NSW recommends the following in addition to the management and mitigation measures included in the ACHAR and EIS:

- Further assessment is required of forested areas within the project area that were not subject to survey. Much of the project area has been subject to disturbance owing to the hospital construction and associated infrastructure. However, there are large areas of forested areas that have not been impacted through the ongoing construction and expansion of the hospital that were not subject to archaeological survey (ACHAR Section 6). Rather, survey coverage was restricted to exposures and within proximity to drainage depressions. While these forested areas may have been subject to clearing/deforestation in the past, the areas have potential to contain intact deposit that may contain Aboriginal Objects. Heritage NSW recommends that a complete and thorough survey be conducted in those areas not yet subject to survey. Greater explication is required in the ACHAR on the potential for intact archaeological deposit to be present throughout these forested areas.

- The mapping quality throughout the main text of the ACHAR require revision, as superior mapping is presented in the Draft ACHAR than finalized version. Heritage NSW recommends that all mapping and figures be updated to a higher resolution.
- There is potentially a mapping error for AHIMS site #38-4-1940, as the point overlaps with site #38-4-1932. The ACHAR must confirm that site #38-4-1940 is located outside of the project area and site cards updated if necessary.

Consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties (RAPs) has met Heritage NSW guidelines, with no issues raised during this process. No responses were received from the RAPs regarding the Draft ACHAR and revised project boundaries.

There are minimal management recommendations provided in Section 9 (pages 50-51) of the ACHAR and Section 5.10 of the EIS as much of the project area has been heavily disturbed with low to nil potential for archaeological material, nor does it contain any known Aboriginal Objects, PADs, or Aboriginal Places. The ACHAR (Section 9) outlines that if any Aboriginal Objects and/or human remains are identified during the project then work would cease and contact made with the relevant agencies (e.g., NSW Police and Heritage NSW). Heritage NSW agrees with the current Management Recommendation ACHAR outcomes, based on the current state of the archaeological investigation. Heritage NSW recommends that material be produced ensuring workers on site receive suitable heritage inductions prior to carrying out any development on site and that a detailed Unexpected Finds Protocol be produced for the Project Manager.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Corey O'Driscoll, Archaeologist, at Heritage NSW Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulations - North, on 6229 7079 and corey.odriscoll@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Samantha Higgs
Senior Team Leader
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Heritage NSW

Date: 28 June 2021