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By email: Navdeep.SinghShergill@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Shergill

Notice of Exhibition of application for Chatswood Education Precinct SSD 9483

Thank you for your referral dated 1 April 2020 inviting comments from the Heritage Council of NSW on the above State Significant Development (SSD) proposal.

The proposed development involves:

- Development of Chatswood Education Precinct through new building works and refurbishment works at Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School.

Chatswood High School and Chatswood Public School are not listed on the State Heritage Register, nor are they in the immediate vicinity of any State Heritage Register items.

Chatswood Public School is a locally listed heritage item under Willoughby Local Environmental Plan 2012. The Statement of Significance on the State Heritage Inventory states: "Chatswood Public School building (built 1883) is locally significant as a grand school building in a setting which gives aesthetic significance to the streetscape. It is socially significant for all the children who attended the school and for its association with the early growth of the area."

The following reports were considered in our assessment:

- *Environmental Impact Statement State Significant Development (SSD 9483) Upgrades to Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School, 5 & 24 Centennial Avenue, Chatswood*, DFP Planning Pty Ltd, March 2020;
- *Appendix 19: Statement of Heritage Impact – High School*, Nimbus Architecture & Heritage, March 2020
- *Appendix 19: Statement of Heritage Impact – Public School*, Nimbus Architecture & Heritage, March 2020
- *Appendix 20: Upgrades to Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School, Archaeological Assessment*, EcoLogical Australia, February 2020;

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following comments:

It is noted that the SEARs issued on 6 August 2018 required:

'9. Heritage

- *Provide a statement of significance and an assessment of the impact on the heritage significance of the heritage items on the site and neighbouring the site in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual.*
- *Address any archaeological potential and significance on the site and the impacts the development may have on this significance.'*

Historic Heritage:

The statement of significance and evaluation of heritage impacts on the values of the site contained in the Statement of Heritage Impacts by Nimbus Architecture & Heritage are concise and follow the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual 2001, Heritage NSW is satisfied with Statement of Heritage Impact for Chatswood Highschool and Chatswood Public School submitted as part of the EIS stage of SSD 9483 meets the SEARs request.

As the site contains a local heritage item, and other local items are in the vicinity, advice should be sought from the relevant local council.

Historical Archaeology:

The investigation of archaeological potential was provided in the abovementioned Archaeological Assessment. That report notes Chatswood Public School was constructed on vacant land in 1895 and is a locally listed heritage item on Schedule 5 of the Willoughby LEP (2012). Chatswood High pus was established in the 1950s and required the demolition of 'Chislehurst' owned by the Hordern family which was constructed in 1892. Some sections of retaining wall previously identified were found to comprise reused older materials. Ecological conclude:

'Occupation-related artefact deposits and previous structural and garden features relating to the late 19th and early 20th century is not considered significant. Evidence relating to the construction and use of both the High School and the Public-School campuses would not meet the heritage significance criteria at either a state or local level. Likewise, evidence relating to the construction and use of Chislehurst would not meet the heritage significance criteria at either a state or local level.

- *There is low potential for archaeological evidence of occupation or past use of either campus.*
- *If any archaeological resource is present in the study area, it is unlikely to be significant.*
- *No further historic archaeological assessment of the study area is considered necessary'.*

Based on the historic and physical research demonstrated in the Assessment report, Heritage NSW concurs with the findings made by EcoLogical. As there is no historical archaeology of significance at either of the schools, it is recommended that an Unexpected Finds condition would be appropriate if the proposal is approved by DPIE, but no actual historical archaeological investigations would be required as part of the proposal.

Should any suspected historical archaeological relics be uncovered during construction works, a suitably qualified archaeologist should be called to assess the finds. If deemed to be 'relics', the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified of the discovery under Section 146 of the *Heritage Act 1977* (which is not suspended by the SSD provisions of the EPA Act).

As this site is not listed on the State Heritage Register and the project will have no impacts to historical archaeology or state significant heritage, Heritage NSW and the Heritage Council do not need to be involved in future referrals related to this project.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Tim Olliver, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer at Heritage NSW on (02) 4927 3203 or Timothy.Olliver@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Stankowski

Senior Team Leader, Regional Heritage Assessments North

Heritage NSW

Department of Premier and Cabinet

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW

29 April 2020