



Our ref: DOC19/921403

Ms Naomi Moss  
Senior Planning Officer  
Transport Assessments  
Dept. of Planning, Industry & Environment

By email: [naomi.moss@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:naomi.moss@planning.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Moss

### **SSI-4951 MOD 1 – WINDSOR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

I refer to an email dated 23 October 2019 from you advising of the above modification and seeking comment.

The following documents have been reviewed for this response:

– Windsor Bridge replacement project, Environmental assessment modification, report prepared by Roads and Maritime Services, September 2019

The document advises that more recent Level of Service (LoS) traffic studies have found that if no action is taken to amend the approved WBRP it is likely there would be major traffic congestion at a number of key intersections during peak periods by 2026, after the new bridge is completed in 2021.

The report also advises two options were considered – the ‘do nothing’ and the preferred option for which the Modification is being sought. Roads and Maritime is proposing to change the line marking to allow two through lanes (one dedicated, one shared left turn) and construct a new northbound merge lane after the Bridge Street and George Street intersection. I note the rationale that it would be most cost effective to complete the works concurrently with the approved project.

It is stated that the impact of the proposed new lane would be an extra 3m wide road within an additional 160 square metres of the Thompson Square parkland that would result in an increase in the magnitude of the landscape character impact and visual impact (and therefore increased heritage impacts), and a reduction in amenity for future users of Thompson Square. As Delegate of the Heritage Council, it is noted that this design change so late in the project’s scope delivers a further substantive heritage impact to the already highly compromised State significant Thompson Square. The Heritage Council remains acutely dissatisfied with the planned and cumulative impacts, and the further likely erosion of effective public heritage interpretation outcomes on the ground.

The location of the proposed modification is also within an area suspected to contain historical archaeological deposits and relics. The project area has been managed under the Detailed Archaeological Salvage Strategy (2017) prepared under condition B3 of the existing project approval. This included a (largely complete) staged salvage program. This

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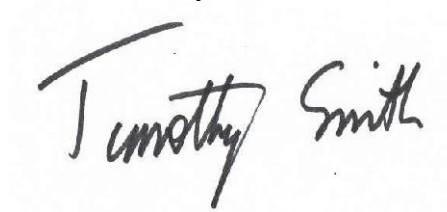
modification is partially within Areas 1 and 4 which were already identified for historical archaeological salvage and within an area nominated for historical archaeological monitoring and recording, or an unexpected finds procedure.

Although encroaching further into the parkland of Thompson Square, the RMS report advises that no additional trees would require removal. A particularly important specimen tree within the parkland is a large *Araucaria cunninghamii* tree (T11). The report notes that a 'tree sensitive' design would be needed and that ideally works would need to stay 3 metres away from this tree to avoid impacts.

As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I can advise the Department of Planning, Industry & Environment that should the proposed modification be approved it is recommended that, if necessary, further conditions be imposed to ensure that the area of the proposed modification would be managed in accordance with the approved DSS and the approved *WBRP Construction Heritage Management Sub Plan* (Appendix B5 of the CEMP) and to impose appropriate measures to be adopted to protect the significant trees within Thompson Square.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM, Senior Team Leader, Specialist Services, at Heritage NSW on 9873 8546 or [siobhan.lavelle@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:siobhan.lavelle@environment.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'T' and 'S'.

**Tim Smith OAM**

Director, Heritage Operations  
Heritage NSW

Department of Premier and Cabinet

**As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW**

7 November 2019