

Ms. Louise Starkey
Senior Planning Officer
Regional Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

By email: louise.starkey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Louise

Advice regarding Environmental Impact Statement – State Significant Development – Mixed Use Development 8-16 Watt Street Gosford – Central Coast LGA (SSD – 10414)

I refer to your email dated 3 September 2020, seeking advice from Heritage NSW (HNSW) for the proposed Mixed Use Development, 8-16 Watt Street, Gosford (SSD 10414), located within the Central Coast Local Government Area.

Heritage NSW (HNSW) of the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) have reviewed the *Environmental Impact Statement* (Barker Ryan Stewart, August 2020) and the *Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment* (RPS Group, 13 March 2020), and are of the view that the supplied documentation does not satisfy Section 12 of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) (issued 23 August 2017) for the project, which stipulate an Aboriginal archaeology report must be prepared in accordance with the Office of Environment and Heritage (now HNSW) Guidelines. HNSW is not satisfied that the Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment meets current regulatory requirements under HNSW Guidelines by adequately identifying and assessing the impacts of the proposal on the Aboriginal cultural heritage values within the development area.

The supplied Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment focuses on the identification and assessment of archaeological (scientific) values and does not demonstrate that Aboriginal cultural heritage values have been appropriately assessed in relation to the development proposal. The Gosford area is known to be a location of Aboriginal cultural significance, with a range of tangible and intangible cultural values identified in the general area. HNSW is not satisfied that a detailed assessment of Aboriginal cultural heritage has been undertaken for this proposal, as required by the HNSW Guidelines and the SEARs.

HNSW guidelines indicate that an archaeological assessment should be integrated with other findings from the assessment of Aboriginal heritage, to support the conclusions and management recommendations in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report.

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) has been undertaken as part of the Aboriginal Archaeological Assessment. Please note that this search is inadequate to assess the impacts of the proposed development on potential areas, objects, places or landscapes of heritage significance to Aboriginal culture and people

To adequately assess the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the lands subject to the proposed development, the proponent must clearly identify all potential areas, objects, places or landscapes of heritage significance to Aboriginal culture and people that may potentially be impacted by the proposal. HNSW recommends that an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment be undertaken, in consultation with relevant Aboriginal parties, to adequately capture the information required to address the SEARs for the project and inform the EIS.

HNSW notes that a formal Aboriginal community consultation process has not been undertaken for the proposed development that satisfies HNSW requirements. In accordance with the SEARs and HNSW Guidelines, consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken for the development in accordance with the *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010* (DECCW 2010), in order to document the significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact Rebecca Yit, Archaeologist at Heritage NSW, on 4927 3244 or rebecca.yit@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Dr Samantha Higgs
Senior Team Leader
Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Regulation - North
Heritage NSW

Date: 24 September 2020