Heritage Council of New South Wales

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Our File No: 10/22079
Our Ref: A1301574

Department of Planning & Infrastructure
Major Projects Assessment
23-33 Bridge St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Emailed to: Mr Peter McManus <Peter.McManus@planning.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr McManus,

RE: Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility, The University of Sydney – SSD 5087-2011

The proposed spatial relationships between the recently proposed St Paul's College University Accommodation, the Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility (AIN building), and the Wilkinson Physics Building are likely to materially affect the significance of the place in terms of heritage impacts to view lines and vistas.

After the University's Main Quadrangle, the Hockey field and the Physics Building are probably the most important 'grouped elements' on the campus.

The Physics Building has its central third building form (Central Pavilion) lowered by Wilkinson to provide connection along the Axis. The additions of Dennison wing and major trees have changed this original connection but it is still one of the important and telling vistas of the University. In the centre of this vista is the Wilkinson (or Hockey) axis, which aligns with the Central Pavilion of the Physics Building and is defined and framed by the Education Building (Jackson Teece) on the north edge of the Hockey field. The view axis continues up to Russell Place and Science Rd. This axis is aligned about 5 degrees west of north.

From the Education Building, it appears that the two 5 storey wings of the proposed Graduate House are not symmetrical (as claimed) about this axis in the St Paul's application. Furthermore, it appears that the AIN building will be seen above the roof of the Physics building and also is not symmetrical about the axis.

In addition, the present landscape character about this vista is likely to be adversely impacted.

These are very important issues involving the heritage of the University of Sydney that need to be resolved.

The Heritage Branch identified that the main heritage issues of the St Paul's College University Accommodation proposal were the following:

- the scale and massing of the proposed new buildings and their impact on the setting of the heritage buildings, particularly Academic House and the outdoor sports courts (with car parking);
- the impact of the proposed development on the landscape character of the College;
- the number and significance of the trees proposed for removal;
- the proposed envelopes for the future buildings on the southern part of the site, known as City Road Precinct and Future Arnott Extension;
- the impact of the development on the surrounding university, especially the setting of the Gate Keeper's Lodge, Madsen Building and the Physics Building; and
- the likely impacts to the landscape character of the place through incremental development not guided by an endorsed master plan for the University of Sydney that fully responds to the heritage values of the place.

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In order to facilitate the establishment of the AIN, it is proposed that St Paul's College sell to the University 4,459m^2 of land on the College's northern boundary, at the rear of the School of Physics. It is also proposed that simultaneously the College will acquire from the University approximately 200m^2 of land to the north of the oval.

Both transactions are mutually beneficial to St Pauls College and the University of Sydney as it is also integral to the execution of the St Paul's College University Accommodation (SSD 5313-2012) master plan.

However, both development applications and their potential impacts are being assessed in isolation and the photomontages submitted with the AIN application do not accurately depict the extent of trees proposed to be removed in the St Paul's master plan.

The Heritage Council recognises the positive contribution that the Master Plan for the University of Sydney could deliver to its setting and Colleges, provided that the picturesque character, domestic scale of St Paul's College and the Wilkinson Axes are respected.

As delegate of the NSW Heritage Council, and in accordance with the Heritage Council's advice, the Director of the Heritage Branch therefore recommends to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that the application for the Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility development application SSD 5087-2011 be deferred for receipt of the following information:

1. **Prior to submission of any application relating to the Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility the applicant shall:**
   - **a) Provide an 'urban' section drawn by the University's architect along the Wilkinson (Hockey) Axis that includes accurate height of all buildings – the proposed St Paul's College Graduate House, the proposed Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility (SSD 5087-2011), the Physics Building, the Hockey Field and the Education Building;**
   - **b) Provide a physical or computer three-dimensional model to examine significant views and vistas, the Wilkinson Axis and building relationships of the site containing the Physics Building, the proposed Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility, and the proposed St Paul's Master Plan.**
   - **c) Provide a photomontage from the Education Building of the Physics Building, which accurately depicts the extent of trees proposed to be removed and buildings constructed in the St Paul's master plan that would form a background to the proposed Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility.**

     Reason: to assess the accumulative visual impacts of the proposed St Paul's master plan and the Australian Institute of Nanoscience and Research Education Facility on the setting of the Physics Building.
   - **d) Provide a copy of the *School of Physics Conservation Management Plan*, 2005 prepared by Otto Cserhalmi and Partners Pty Ltd.**

Furthermore, as delegate of the NSW Heritage Council, the Director of the Heritage Branch recommends to the Department of Planning and Infrastructure that any future approval for the Nanoscience and Research Education Facility development application SSD 5087-2011 be conditioned in the following manner:

Nominated Heritage Consultant:

2. **The nominated heritage consultant shall provide advice on the detail design resolution of new elements and inspect the demolition and removal of material to ensure that no unapproved loss of significant fabric or elements occurs (to minimise impacts on significant fabric and to**

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manage the implementation of the conditions of approval).

3. **All work shall be carried out by suitably qualified tradesmen with practical experience in conservation and restoration of similar heritage items. The nominated heritage consultant shall be consulted prior to the selection of appropriate tradesmen.**

Archival Recording:

4. **Prepare an archival record of the external and internal areas of the Physics Building in accordance with NSW Heritage Branch guidelines titled 'Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture' for approval. A copy shall be submitted to the City of Sydney Council and the Heritage Branch prior to works commencing.**

Site Protection & Works:

5. **Significant built elements are to be adequately protected during the works from potential damage. Protection systems must ensure historic fabric is not damaged or removed.**

6. **New services shall be concealed appropriately to minimise visual impacts. The installation of new services and fit-outs shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimise damage to or removal of historic fabric and shall not obscure historic features. Any penetrations through heritage fabric for supply and waste pipes and mechanical ducts should be prevented.**

Archaeology:

7. **The Applicant must ensure that if intact archaeological deposits and/or State significant relics are discovered, work must cease in the affected area(s) and the Heritage Council of NSW must be notified. Additional assessment and approval may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.**

Other Conditions (Making Good):

8. **All new internal and external finishes and works of making good to the Physics Building shall match the existing original work adjacent in respect of materials used, detailed execution and finished appearance.**

If you have any questions regarding the above matter please contact Michael Ellis at the Heritage Branch, Office of Environment and Heritage on (02) 9873 8572.

Yours sincerely

27/02/2013

for
Petula Samios
Director, Heritage Branch
Office of Environment and Heritage,
AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL

Cc. Greg Robinson, Director, Campus Infrastructure & Services <g.robinson@sydney.edu.au>