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Ms Fiona Gibson
Regional and Key Site Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Gibson

RE: Comment on S96 Modification Application SSD 5093 (MOD 1) M2 Site, North Ryde Station Urban Activation Precinct

I refer to your letter dated 14 July 2015, inviting the Heritage Council of NSW to provide comment on the proposed modification to SSD5093. The proposal seeks to modify development consent to relocate the alignment of an existing gas main onto the adjoining RMS land and road reserve.

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SSD5093 included an Archaeological Assessment (the assessment), Excavation and Monitoring Methodology prepared by Artefact Heritage. The assessment identified a cistern/well on the subject site. It is understood from the assessment that the cistern/well is not in the vicinity of the proposed gas main. . The assessment also concluded that, due to extensive disturbance of the site during construction of the M2 motorway, the subject site has low potential to contain other non-indigenous archaeological remains.

In order to facilitate the management of any unexpected state significant historic archaeological deposits or relics, the following is recommended for inclusion in the Director General's Requirements:

- 1. If substantial 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 under the Heritage Act 1977 may be required prior to works continuing in the affected area(s) based on the nature of the discovery.*

The EIS for SSD5093 included a Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) prepared by Urbis. The HIS concluded that the existing trees along the eastern boundary of the site provide a visual buffer between the subject site and the North Suburban Cemetery (listed as a heritage item in the Ryde Local Environmental Plan). The proposed gas main would be located in the immediate vicinity of these existing trees. It is unclear how excavation for the construction of the gas main may affect the existing trees. If excavation is to occur within the 'drip zone' of these trees or they are to be

removed, the EIS should be amended to include a HIS that assesses the potential visual impact on the North Suburban Cemetery if the visual buffer is removed or adversely impacted by works. If the HIS determines that adverse impact will be caused, measures to minimise and mitigate the impact should be included. The HIS must be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Kate Harrison, Heritage Officer at the Heritage Division, at the Office of Environment and Heritage, on (02) 9873 8586 or kate.harrison@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Rochelle Johnston
Manager, Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment and Heritage

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council

26 July 2015