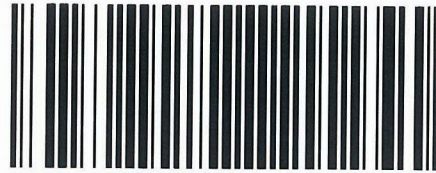




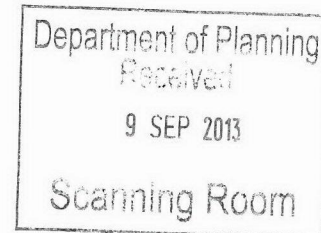
**Office of
Environment
& Heritage**



PCU047767

Your reference: SSD 5363
Our reference: DOC13/40896
Contact: John Martindale 02 6659 8222

Ms Heather Warton
Director, Industry, Social Projects and Key Sites
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Att: Megan Fu, Development Assessments

Dear Ms Warton

Re: Proposed Kempsey District Hospital Redevelopment

I refer to your letter dated 31 July 2013 advising that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) relating to the above proposal has been placed on public exhibition as a major project and requesting comment and advice on recommended conditions of consent from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH). I appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

OEH has statutory responsibilities relating to threatened species, endangered populations and ecological communities, flooding, coastal floodplains and estuaries, Aboriginal cultural heritage and Historic heritage. OEH has reviewed the EIS and provides the following comments on these matters.

Threatened species, endangered populations and ecological communities

OEH notes that the proposed development is located within the existing hospital precinct and largely within areas covered by existing buildings. The precinct is surrounded by roads and existing residential development to the east and north, by a cemetery to the south and the Macleay River to the west. The only potential fauna habitat on site appears to comprise mainly exotic and planted species. OEH confirms that no endangered populations or ecological communities are present. Accordingly, OEH supports the conclusion in the EIS that the proposal is unlikely to adversely affect threatened species and their habitat, endangered populations or ecological communities and/or any wildlife corridors. No mitigation measures or conditions of consent are recommended by OEH.

Flooding, coastal floodplains and estuaries

OEH notes that the proposed location lies above Kempsey Shire Council's 1:100 year flood maps and some 9m above the probable maximum flood level identified in Council's Flood Risk Management Policy. The adjacent Macleay River is subject to negligible tides at this distance upstream and the proposed stormwater strategy and pollution controls, developed in accordance with water sensitive urban design criteria as per the Director General's Requirements, have the support of the Council. Consequently, OEH is of the view that the proposal is unlikely to have an adverse impact upon flooding, coastal floodplains or estuaries. No additional mitigation measures or conditions of consent are recommended by OEH.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

OEH acknowledges the significance of the local environment to the local Aboriginal community and the existence of numerous registered Aboriginal sites in the immediate locality. However, the site is highly disturbed and the field assessment undertaken on 17 January 2013 did not identify any Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Nonetheless, OEH supports the management strategies to be implemented in the event that any Aboriginal objects are subsequently discovered.

If Aboriginal objects are uncovered during the proposed development, the objects must be recorded and managed in accordance with the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NPW Act) and avoided if possible. A suitably qualified cultural heritage specialist and representatives of the local Aboriginal community must be contacted to determine the nature, extent and significance of any finds. The site is to be registered in the OEH Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS) and the management outcome for the site included in the information provided to AHIMS. The proponent must consult with representatives of the local Aboriginal community, and a cultural specialist to develop and implement appropriate management strategies for all objects/sites.


Any management strategy must comply with appropriate legislative provisions. OEH advises that the requirements of the NPW Act have been amended recently and recommends familiarisation by the proponent with these amendments prior to work commencing. Provided the proposed management strategies listed in the EIS and OEH requirements above are included in appropriate consent conditions, OEH has no additional issues to raise with the Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment.

Historic Heritage

The application has been referred to the OEH Heritage Division for the provision of separate comment to your department in relation to historic heritage.

If you require further information or clarification please contact Mr John Martindale, Conservation Planning Officer, on telephone (02) 6659 8222.

Yours sincerely

 5 September 2013

DIMITRI YOUNG
Senior Team Leader Planning - North East
Regional Operations