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File: EF14/12792
Job ID No: DOC14/278065
Your Ref: SSD6626

Ms Amy Watson
Team Leader, Metropolitan Projects
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Watson

RE: Exhibition of Environmental Impact Statement for the Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre Precinct, (SICEEP), Darling Harbour, Sydney – International Convention Centre Hotel (SSD 6626/ SSDA7)

Reference is made to your email dated 14 November 2014 regarding the above matter. The EIS for the project has now been reviewed and as the delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW (the Heritage Council) I provide the following comments.

Please note that these comments do not relate to Indigenous archaeology because it is understood that the project has been separately referred to relevant sections of the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) for specific review.

It is noted that the Project is a State Significant Development (SSD) Application for a mixed use development including three residential buildings above a residential/retail podium, together with above ground car parking and public domain improvements at Darling Square (formerly referred to as 'The Haymarket'), within the North East Plot, Darling Harbour.

It is understood that the proposal does not involve any physical modifications to heritage items. Although there will be a minor impact on views to heritage items in the vicinity, these impacts have been ameliorated by their distance from the site and intervening buildings. Furthermore, the proposed interpretation of the history of Darling Harbour (included in the EIS) could enhance the heritage significance of these items. On balance, the proposal is considered to have no impact on built heritage items in the vicinity.

The Archaeological Assessment Report, which forms part of Appendix E, notes that the subject site has the potential to include archaeological remains that would illustrate many aspects of the evolution of the Darling Harbour/Haymarket area from the early 19th Century to the early 20th Century. Test excavation has confirmed that there is potential for archaeological remains of both State and local significance to exist in the area.

This Archaeological Assessment has identified that potential archaeological remains of State significance were identified as being within the Haymarket development area. These are Dickson's c1815 dam wall and Dickson's 1830 Mill buildings.

It is noted that mitigation strategies have been identified to minimise impacts on State-significant archaeology. In relation to Dickson's c1815 dam wall it is proposed to design buildings with bridging piers to minimise impact on the dam wall. This is considered appropriate.

Potential archaeological remains of local significance were identified within The Haymarket development area. These are:

Residential housing throughout the eastern half of the study area:

- remains of 27 houses and yards established prior to 1880, including later Chinese residents; also includes 15 houses and Australian Inn hotel built by 1865, and the rear yards and cesspits of 19 houses which are beneath Harbour Street.
- 1870s/1880s manufactories
- Cormack cooperage, later Centennial Cooperage
- Biddell Bros confectionery factory
- Rowlands Aerated and Mineral Water works
- Four pub sites.
- Some small shops operated where the tenant lived as well as worked, including Chinese shops and store keepers and warehouses.
- Workshop associated with the Sydney Hydraulic Pumping Station.
- 1850 and 1860s reclamation of the millpond and Darling Harbour.
- Possible remains of 1860s ditch running near the alignment of Lackey Street and illustrated on the 1865 plan.

Based on the above, it is recommended that any approval for this project should include Consent Conditions to manage the heritage issues as outlined above. It is recommended that these should cover matters such as the following:

1. The Applicant must retain Dickson's Dam Wall and Mill buildings *in situ* and minimise all impacts from the project to these state significant archaeological items as much as possible.
2. An archaeological consultant shall be nominated for the works. The consultants shall have appropriate qualifications and experience commensurate with the scope of the Major Project works. The name and experience of these consultants shall be submitted to the Director-General for approval prior to commencement of works.
3. All construction contractors, subcontractors and personnel are to be inducted and informed by the nominated archaeological consultant prior to commencing work on site as to their obligations and requirements in relation to historical archaeological sites and 'relics' in accordance with guidelines issued by the Heritage Council of NSW.
4. All affected historical archaeological 'relics' and/or deposits of Local significance are to be subject to professional archaeological excavation and/or recording before construction works commence which will impact those 'relics'. A Research Design including an Archaeological Excavation Methodology must be prepared in accordance with Heritage Council guidelines. Those documents should be prepared for the approval of the Director-General, Department of Planning & Infrastructure upon receipt of advice from the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment & Heritage.

5. After any archaeological works have been undertaken, a copy of the final excavation report(s) shall be prepared and lodged with the Heritage Council of NSW, the City of Sydney and the Department of Planning & Infrastructure. The proponent shall also be required to nominate a repository for the relics salvaged from any historical archaeological excavations.
6. The information within the final excavation report shall be required to include the following:
 - a/. An executive summary of the archaeological programme;
 - b/. Due credit to the client paying for the excavation, on the title page;
 - c/. An accurate site location and site plan (with scale and north arrow);
 - d/. Historical research, references, and bibliography;
 - e/. Detailed information on the excavation including the aim, the context for the excavation, procedures, treatment of artefacts (cleaning, conserving, sorting, cataloguing, labelling, scale photographs and/or drawings, location of repository) and analysis of the information retrieved;
 - f/. Nominated repository for the items;
 - g/. Detailed response to research questions (at minimum those stated in the Department of Planning & Infrastructure approved Research Design);
 - h/. Conclusions from the archaeological programme. This information must include a reassessment of the site's heritage significance, statement(s) on how archaeological investigations at this site have contributed to the community's understanding of the Site and other Comparative Site Types and recommendations for the future management of the site;
 - i/. Details of how this information about the excavations have been publicly disseminated (for example, include copies of press releases, public brochures and information signs produced to explain the archaeological significance of the sites).
7. The results of the archaeological fieldwork, the history of the site and other should be used to inform an Interpretation Plan to guide the future incorporation of the findings from the works in communicating the significance of the site to future visitors. The Interpretation Plan should be prepared in accordance with the Guidelines issued by the Heritage Council of NSW. The Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the approval of the Director- General, Department of Planning & Infrastructure upon receipt of advice from the Heritage Division of the Office of Environment & Heritage.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Nina Pollock, Heritage Architect at the Heritage Division, OEH, on (02) 9873 8520.

Yours sincerely



Rochelle Johnston
Manager Conservation
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council

18 December 2014