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Mr Karl Fetterplace
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Email: Karl Fetterplace [karl.fetterplace@planning.nsw.gov.au]

Dear Mr Fetterplace

RE: Response to Modification request for Sydney Opera House (SOH), Joan Sutherland Theatre (SSD 7665 MOD 1)

Thank you for your invitation for the Heritage Council to comment on the Modification Request for the above development consent (email 28 August 2018).

We understand that these works are required to facilitate the installation of the approved escalator as part of SSD 7665. The works include the cutting of two original tie beams and construction of a new concrete thrust block.

SOH informed the Heritage Division that these works will be undertaken at the same time as the Concert Hall works, which are yet to be approved (meeting 12 September 2018).

Following a review of the documentation, we provide the below comments and recommended conditions of consent.

General Comments

- The area where the works are proposed, Covered Vehicle Concourse, Monumental Steps and Forecourt, are identified as areas of exceptional heritage significance. The tie beams are an integral component of this area, crucial in restraining the base of the steps and providing a large unencumbered space within the concourse area.
- The interdependence of the tie beams, folded concrete beams and steps is well understood and documented, with intervention to a number of tie beams undertaken when the lower concourse escalators were installed previously. It is therefore unclear why the conflict between the tie beams and escalator pit was only recently identified and a thrust block required.
- The proposed works will have a physical impact to the SOH's original structure and fabric.
- The proposed works provide an opportunity to understand this component of the existing structure of the SOH. Should the modification be approved, it is recommended that archival recording is

undertaken once the tie beams are uncovered to document the existing conditions prior to cutting works being undertaken.

Archaeology

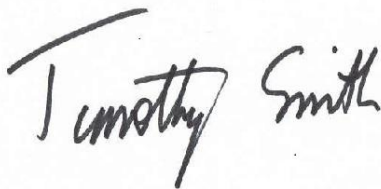
- An archaeological assessment research design and excavation method was provided for the project which indicated that there was a low potential for impact to information of State heritage significance relating to the original shoreline, lime burning and Fort Macquarie. Due to the proposed works requiring large scale excavation within a small area, all archaeological information will be removed. As such, an archaeological salvage excavation program is proposed to mitigate the impact to the archaeology. This is considered an appropriate strategy.

Recommended conditions of consent

- All significant structures, fabric and elements are to be protected during the works from potential damage. Protection systems must ensure they are not damaged or removed. All tradespeople and workers on site must be made aware of the significant fabric on site and the works overseen by a heritage architect appropriately qualified and experienced in working with similar structures and materials.
- A structural assessment must be undertaken within 12 months following completion of the works to ensure any impacts to the structural integrity of the significant folded concrete beams are identified and appropriately addressed.
- An archival photographic recording of all the affected areas is to be undertaken prior to, during and after the cutting of the tie beams to document the changes occurring to the structure, in accordance with the Heritage Division document entitled, *Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture*. The original copy of the archival record shall be submitted to the Heritage Division within one month of the works completion.
- The construction works must be time limited to minimise disruption to the forecourt, both physically and visually.
- All archaeological works should be in accordance with the archaeological method within 'Sydney Opera House Forecourt Excavation Historical Archaeological Assessment and Management Plan', prepared by GML Heritage dated June 2018.
- All works should be overseen by an archaeologist who meets the Heritage Council Excavation Director Criteria for archaeological salvage of State significant sites.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact David Nix, Senior Heritage Officer, Major Projects at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, on (02) 9895 6523 or at david.nix@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Tim Smith OAM
Director Heritage Operations
Heritage Division
Office of Environment & Heritage
13 September 2018