



File: SF18/98938  
Job ID No: DOC18/826949  
Your Ref: SSD8863

Mr David McNamara  
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Dear Mr McNamara

**RE: Response to Exhibition of Sydney Opera House (SOH) Building Renewal – Concert Hall upgrade and new Creative Learning Centre (SSD 8663)**

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Thank you for your invitation for the Heritage Council to comment on the EIS for this component of the SOH Building Renewal project.

Concert Hall

- Acoustic upgrades including reflectors, speakers and wall fabric;
- Accessibility upgrades to front and back of house including provision of new lifts and passageway through stairs surrounding the Hall;

Creative Learning Centre

- Re-purposing of existing office space within the north-western corner of the SOH to a Creative Learning Centre

We understand that the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy (DEE) has determined that these works are a controlled action under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act). DEE will seek information from the Department of Planning and Environment as to whether there is likely to be a significant impact under the *NSW Bilateral Assessment Agreement 2015*.

This requires that the Heritage Council's assessment, in addition to the usual SSD process, will need to consider the relevant National Matters of Environmental Significance, being:

- World heritage values (sections 12 and 12A of the *EPBC Act*)
- National heritage values (sections 15B and 15C of the *EPBC Act*)

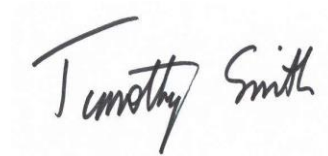
Taking into consideration the complexity and scale of the proposed works, and the Heritage Council's meeting cycle, I request we ask that an extension of time be allowed to ensure due consideration and appropriate advice is given to this project. The Heritage Council considered and supported this request at its most recent meeting of November 2018. The next available Heritage Council meeting to consider

this application is 6 February 2019 which will be the first meeting of the newly reconstituted Heritage Council following membership changes. We therefore request that you agree to our comment and advice on recommended conditions of consent be issued by the end of February 2019.

The Heritage Council's Chair specifically directed me to provide you with this formal response.

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](mailto: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 style with a large, sweeping 'T' and a distinct 'S'.

**Tim Smith OAM**

Director Heritage Operations  
Office of Environment & Heritage  
As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council

28 November 2018