



10 September 2019

Mr David McNamara
Director
Key Sites Assessment
NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Karl Fetterplace

Dear Mr McNamara

**SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE BUILDING RENEWAL PROGRAM – CONCERT HALL UPGRADE AND
NEW CREATIVE LEARNING CENTRE (SSD 8663)**

**RESPONSE TO HERITAGE COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE RESPONSE TO
SUBMISSIONS**

I refer to correspondence received from Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) on 19 August 2019, providing the Heritage Council of NSW's (HC) response (dated 16 August 2019) to our letter of 4 July 2019 (RtS), which was provided in response to HC's previous submission dated 20 February 2019, relating to the above project.

By way of background, we note that the subject proposal SSD 8663 was originally submitted to DPIE on 19 October 2018, and then publicly exhibited over the period from 1 to 28 November 2018. Prior to submission, the subject proposal underwent a significant process of review, refinement and consultation by SOH's design team, Trust advisory bodies including the Conservation Council (CC) and Design Advisory Panel (DAP), the former Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), the HC, and a wide range of stakeholders from the architectural and heritage community.

Following the HC response on 20 February 2019, SOH has once again undertaken a significant review of the proposal in order to resolve key issues raised by the HC. . This resulted in a number of minor changes, but also two significant deductions from the proposal, namely a second lift in the northern foyers and the new intake hood on the western façade of SOH. SOH also undertook a further assessment of the aggregated impacts of the proposal, in collaboration with DPIE, OEH and HC.

In making these changes, SOH also undertook further consultation with CC, DAP, members of the former OEH, and representatives of the HC; with meetings held on 12 April 2019 (teleconference), 23 May 2019 (at OEH, and attended by HC delegate and representatives of DPIE), and 14 June 2019 (OEH and HC delegates). Following this consultation SOH prepared a comprehensive response to HC's submission dated 20 February 2019. This RtS set out the SOH's position in respect of the issues raised, having been carefully considered and discussed during the meetings noted above.

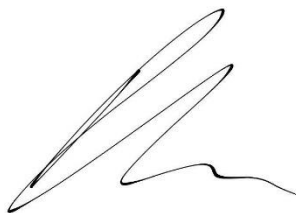
Our comprehensive response was provided to DPIE on 4 July 2019. Since that time, and on the basis of positive discussions with all stakeholders, we have proceeded with detailed planning for the project, including making workforce arrangements and contracting with a head builder and specialist machinery contractor. This planning has been carried out on the basis of a construction closure period commencing in February 2020, less than 5 months from now.

On 19 August 2019 we received a further response from the HC, which provides further comments on matters of State heritage significance. We also understand that further comments on matters of National and World heritage significance will soon be forthcoming, and assume that similar comments will be raised.

HC's letter of 19 August 2019 suggests that the proposal requires some further refinement and makes further recommendations in respect of conditions for SSD 8663. SOH responds by re confirming that our prior letter of 4 July 2019 addresses the issues which have been raised by the HC and sets out our position accordingly. We therefore request that DPIE proceed with its assessment and approval of SSD 8663 on this basis, without any further delay.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Doyle, Project Manager, at the Sydney Opera House on (02) 9250 7383 or at pdoyle@sydneyoperahouse.com.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ian Cashen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ian Cashen
Executive Director, Building, Safety & Security