

Notice of decision – Alteration and additions to the Australian Museum SSD 9452

Section 2.22 and clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*

Application type	State significant development
Application number and project name	SSD 9452 – Alterations and additions to the Australian Museum
Applicant	Australian Museum
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning

Decision

The Executive Director under delegation from the Minister for Planning has, under section 4.38 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (**the Act**) granted consent to the development application subject to the recommended conditions.

A copy of the development consent and conditions is available [here](#).

A copy of the Department of Planning and Environment's Assessment Report is available [here](#).

Date of decision

28 February 2019

Reasons for decision

The following matters were taken into consideration in making this decision:

- the relevant matters listed in section 4.15 of the Act and the additional matters listed in the statutory context section of the Department's Assessment Report;
- the prescribed matters under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*;
- the objects of the Act;
- all information submitted to the Department during the assessment of the development application;
- the findings and recommendations in the Department's Assessment Report; and
- the views of the community about the project (see Attachment 1).

The findings and recommendations set out in the Department's Assessment Report were accepted and adopted as the reasons for making this decision.

The key reasons for granting consent to the development application are as follows:

- the project will provide a range of benefits for the region and the State as a whole, including a total capital investment of \$38,130,569 and 84 jobs;
- project is permissible with development consent, and is consistent with NSW Government policies
- the impacts on the community and the environment can be appropriately minimised, managed or offset to an acceptable level, in accordance with applicable NSW Government policies and standards;
- the issues raised by the community during consultation and in submissions have been considered and adequately addressed through changes to the project and the recommended conditions of consent; and
- weighing all relevant considerations, the project is in the public interest.

Attachment 1 – Consideration of Community Views

The Department exhibited the Environmental Impact Statement for the project from 25 October 2018 until 21 November 2018 (28days) and received 20 submissions, including 9 objections and 11 in support of the project.

The key issues raised by the community (including in submissions) and considered in the Department's Assessment Report are summarised as follows:

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Consideration</i>
Impact on the Pacific collections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocation not supported Lack of consultation 	<p>The Department notes that while the proposal does not seek approval for the removal and/or relocation of the Pacific collections, it is required as a consequence of converting the existing storage space into a large exhibition space to facilitate future large-scale exhibitions, including the upcoming Tutankhamun exhibition.</p> <p>The Department notes that the Pacific collections currently located within the basement, are available for viewing by appointment only and are not on public display.</p> <p>The Department also notes the proposal to relocate the Pacific collections to another storage space would maintain the current viewing arrangement, albeit in a different location. The Department considers this arrangement would maintain public accessibility to the collections and the change to the location of the Pacific collection would provide some members of the public with enhanced access, depending where they live and work, while other members of the public would be required to travel further distances than they do currently.</p> <p>The Department concludes that, on balance, the relocation of the Pacific collections is reasonable given the necessity of the proposed works.</p> <p><i>Recommended conditions/Response</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Applicant to prepare a Pacific collections access strategy in consultation with Pacific communities and OEH and be submitted and approved by the Secretary. The Strategy is to demonstrate consultation and ensure public access is maintained to the Australian Museum's Pacific collections.
The venue is not suitable for the blockbuster exhibition	<p>The proposed development involves general alterations that would improve the functionality and accessibility of the Australian Museum to host a range of exhibitions in the future. The proposed improvement works would facilitate the Tutankhamun exhibition, however they are not exclusively being undertaken for this reason.</p>
Cost of the project	<p>Consistent with the above, the proposed works are not being undertaken solely for the purpose of the Tutankhamun exhibition. The works would result in wider improvements relating to the functionality and accessibility for the ongoing future use of the Museum.</p>
Adverse heritage impact	<p>The Department has considered the heritage impact of the proposal in conjunction with comments from the Heritage Division and the Heritage Impact Statement.</p> <p>The Department considers the impact of the proposed development on heritage is minimal and can be suitably managed through conditions of consent.</p>

	<p><i>Recommended conditions/Response</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skilled and experienced heritage trades people and a suitably qualified and experienced heritage consultant are to be engaged to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approve the stone required for the repair of the Parkes Farmer Wing. ○ Approve the completed project as being in accordance with best practice conservation methods. • A heritage consultant to review and provide input into the Construction Management Plan. • Photographic archival recordings. • A heritage interpretation strategy. • A salvage schedule prepared by a heritage consultant.
Loss of trees	<p>The proposal involves the removal of three trees to facilitate the new bus bay. The trees comprising two moderate category trees located on Council's nature strip and one low category tree located on site.</p> <p>The Applicant has proposed to replace these trees, consistent with the proposed landscape plan.</p> <p><i>Recommended conditions/Response</i></p> <p>Tree replacement is to be carried out in accordance with the landscape plan.</p>
Operational noise impact	<p>The Department notes that the proposal relates to minor alterations and would not change the function of the development. Further, that any operational noise experienced from the development would relate to an existing situation, rather than something that would result out of this proposal.</p> <p><i>Recommended conditions/Response</i></p> <p>Despite the above, the Department recommends a condition of consent requiring any noise emissions from plant, equipment, loading and functions to a maximum of background plus 5 dBA, consistent with recommendations made by the EPA and the <i>Noise Policy for Industry</i> (2017).</p>
View loss to St Mary's Cathedral	<p>The proposed development does not involve alterations beyond the existing maximum building height. The changes to the external envelope are limited to solar panels and landscaping that would not result in any impact to the existing views to the St Mary's Cathedral from surrounding buildings.</p>
Development contributions	<p>The site is subject to the <i>Central Sydney Development Contributions Plan 2013</i>. Section 2.2(c) of the plan identifies circumstances in which exemptions from a levy under section 7.11 of the EP&A Act can be applied, including not-for-profit development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant has sought an exemption from the payment of a development contributions. • Council provided that an overall exemption from contributions is not supported and would be objected to and requested a cost summary report distinguishing costs attributable to each aspect of the

	<p>development, with justification for each component requesting an exemption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Applicant has accepted a condition of consent requiring the payment of development contributions. <p><i>Recommended conditions/Response</i></p> <p>Conditions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cash contribution comprising 1% of the total cost of the development is payable to the City of Sydney pursuant to section 61 of the <i>City of Sydney Act 1988</i> and the <i>Central Sydney Contribution (Amendment) Plan 2002/ Central Sydney Development Contributions Plan 2013</i>.
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