



Mr Cameron Sargent
Team Leader, Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By email – ellen.mannix@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Sargent

**REQUEST FOR SECRETARY'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR
1 WILLIAM STREET, SYDNEY - AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM (SSD 9452).**

Reference is made to your correspondence received on 16 July 2018 requesting input on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) from the Heritage Council of NSW, for the abovementioned development proposal.

It is understood that this proposal relates to alterations and additions to the Australian Museum to create a flexible exhibition space capable of accommodating large exhibitions (including the upcoming Tutankhamun exhibition), as well as improving the day to day operations of the museum. The works specifically include: extension of the Crystal Hall (2015); new openings into the ground level of the Parkes Farmer building (1950s-1960s); new escalators and a lift between the basement and ground levels within the Still building (1988); a new café, kitchen, amenities, education and kids spaces on level 2 within the Still and Vernon buildings (1988 and 1890s, respectively); and reorientation of the stair connecting William Street to the Lower ground level; as well as landscaping.

The subject site is listed on the State Heritage Register as the Australian Museum (SHR 00805). The following State Heritage Register items are in the vicinity of the site:

- Hyde Park (SHR 01871);
- St Mary's Catholic Cathedral and Chapter House (SHR 01709);
- Anzac Memorial (SHR 01822);
- MHAS Sydney 1 – SMS Emden Memorial (SHR 01946);
- Sewer Vent (SHR 01642);
- Museum Railway Station (SHR 01207); and
- St James Railway Station Group (SHR 01248).

Local heritage items are also located on site and in the immediate vicinity.

It is recommended that the draft SEARs are amended as recommended (in bold), and the following additional SEARS are included:

2. Heritage and archaeology

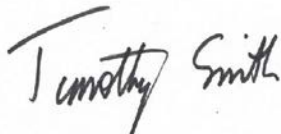
a) A Statement of Heritage Impact (SOHI) prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultant in accordance with the guidelines in the NSW Heritage Manual. The SOHI is to address the impacts of the proposal on the heritage significance of the site and adjacent areas and is to identify the following:

- all heritage items (state and local) within the vicinity of the site **including built heritage, landscapes and archaeology, detailed mapping of these items, and assessment of why the items and site(s) are of heritage significance;**
- compliance with the relevant Conservation Management Plan;
- the impacts of the proposal on heritage item(s) including visual impacts, required BCA and DDA works, new fixtures, fittings and finishes, any modified services;
- the attempts to avoid and/or mitigate the impact on the heritage significance or cultural heritage values of the site and the surrounding heritage items; and
- justification for any changes to the heritage fabric including any options analysis.

b) If the SOHI identifies impact on potential archaeology, an historical archaeological assessment should be prepared by a suitably qualified historical archaeologist in accordance with the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage Guidelines 'Archaeological Assessment' 1996 and 'Assessing Significance for Historical Archaeological Sites and Relics' 2009. This assessment should identify what relics, if any, are likely to be present, assess their significance and consider the impacts from the proposal on this potential resource. Where harm is likely to occur, it is recommended that the significance of the relics be considered in determining an appropriate mitigation strategy. If harm cannot be avoided in whole or part, an appropriate Research Design and Excavation Methodology should also be prepared to guide any proposed excavations.

If you have any questions regarding the above matter, please contact Anna London, A/Senior Team Leader, Regional Heritage Assessments (South) at the Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage on 02 9873 8608 or anna.london@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tim Smith OAM
Director Heritage Operations
 Heritage Division
 Office of Environment & Heritage
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
 26 July 2017