



Office of Environment & Heritage

DOC18/509985
SSD-9452

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

Attention: Ellen Mannix

Dear Mr Sargent

Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements – Alterations and additions to Australian Museum - 1 William Street, Sydney - SSD-9452

Thank you for your letter and the email of 16 July 2018, requesting comments from the Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) on the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the above State Significant Development.

OEH has reviewed the draft SEARs and the Request for SEARs Report and provides the following comments and its recommendations in Attachment A.

Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

OEH notes the draft SEARs do not include a key issue for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage (ACH). It is not clear if the development proposes any ground disturbance at the site. If there is, the SEARs should include the attached OEH Aboriginal Cultural Heritage SEARs, particularly as Aboriginal objects have been found under a site nearby in William Street (AHIMS #45-6-2651).

Biodiversity

In addition to the request for SEARs for this SSD, OEH has also received a request for a waiver of the preparation of a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) requirement under section 7.9(2) of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*. OEH is currently preparing a response for the BDAR waiver.

Landscaping

OEH notes the drawings for the Masterplan for Phase 1 - William Street elevation and the Cutaway Perspective show it is proposed to retain the existing tall gum trees near the base of the ramp and new landscaping is proposed to the existing embankment and below Crystal Hall. OEH supports the retention of the existing gum trees - It is recommended the new landscaping for the Australian Museum uses a diversity of local native provenance species (rather than exotic species) and the draft SEARs are amended to include the following:

Landscape Plan:

- *identifies any native trees or shrubs to be removed, retained or transplanted*
- *includes details on the native vegetation community (or communities) that occurs, or once occurred, on the site, with a list of local provenance species (trees, shrubs and groundcovers) to be used for landscaping*
- *specifies that any landscaping will use a diversity of local provenance species (trees, shrubs and groundcovers) from the native vegetation community (or communities) that occurs, or once occurred, on the site, to improve biodiversity.*

Heritage

A separate response may be provided on heritage matters by the Heritage Division of OEH as delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Janne Grose on **t**:8837 6017 or **e**: janne.grose@environment.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely

S. Harrison 25/07/18

SUSAN HARRISON
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Attachment A – OEH Environmental Assessment Requirements

Aboriginal cultural heritage

1. The EIS must identify and describe the Aboriginal cultural heritage values that exist across the whole area that will be affected by the development and document these in an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report (ACHAR). This may include the need for surface survey and test excavation. The identification of cultural heritage values must be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigations of Aboriginal Objects in NSW (OEH 2010), and guided by the Guide to investigating, assessing and reporting on Aboriginal Cultural Heritage in NSW (DECCW, 2011)
2. Consultation with Aboriginal people must be undertaken and documented in accordance with the Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010 (DECCW). The significance of cultural heritage values for Aboriginal people who have a cultural association with the land must be documented in the ACHAR.
3. Impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage values are to be assessed and documented in the ACHAR. The ACHAR must demonstrate attempts to avoid impact upon cultural heritage values and identify any conservation outcomes. Where impacts are unavoidable, the ACHAR must outline measures proposed to mitigate impacts. Any objects recorded as part of the assessment must be documented and notified to OEH.

(END OF SUBMISSION)

