

Ms Ellen Mannix
Senior Planning Officer
Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

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

Dear Ms Mannix

RE: Response to Submissions – Australian Museum (SSD 9452)

Thank you for your email dated 22 January 2019 requesting comments on the Response to Submissions (RtS) for the proposed alterations and additions at the Australian Museum located at 1 William Street, Sydney, in the City of Sydney local government area. The subject site is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) as the Australian Museum (SHR 00805) and is in the vicinity of various other SHR items.

The following documents have been reviewed in the preparation of this response:

- *Response to Submissions Report* (Report), prepared by Ethos Urban, dated 18 January 2019;
- *Appendix A – Response to Submissions Summary Table*, prepared by Ethos Urban, dated 18 January 2019;
- *Appendix B – Revised Architectural Plans*, Cox Architecture and Neeson Murcutt, dated 18 January 2019; and
- *Appendix D – Heritage Impact Statement – Australian Museum Project Discover* (HIS), Orwell & Peter Phillips, dated January 2019.

The following comments are provided:

- It is noted that in responding to the range of matters raised in the submissions, the Australian Museum proposes to amend the proposed scope of works. The Report finds the overall nature of the changes proposed will result in a development that does not substantially differ from the original application that was publicly exhibited but addresses some of the heritage issues raised previously.

Key heritage issues that are addressed by the applicant are:

- the Museum has decided to remove the proposed extension of Crystal Hall from the application, the recommendation that a detailed schedule of materials and finishes be prepared for the proposed works is no longer applicable;
- the proposed reorientation of the external stair located on the north of the Parkes Farmer wing stair has been removed as part of the amended scheme;
- the plant room is an existing plant room and the services consultant for the project has confirmed that the required equipment will not impact on the building's heritage fabric;
- the amended scheme raises the floor level to match the Vernon Wing Level. The proposed ramp against the rear facade of the Vernon Wing's ground floor is no longer required as the new floor will be at the level of the existing access to the Vernon Wing;
- the proposed rebuilding of the lightwell roof of the Still Addition on Level 2 can be mitigated through the detailed design process where the roof will be detailed to minimise adverse impact on the stone façade of the Parkes Farmer Wing;

- the amended scheme locates the stairs in the glazed link of the Parkes Farmer Wing and the existing glazed curtain wall façade will be replaced. The stair will be detailed to sit free of the new glazed façade and the materials will, as far as possible, reflect the spirit of the original stair;
- If photovoltaic solar cells are required to achieve the nominated Greenstar targets, these will be located on the roofs of buildings that do not have heritage significance;
- the project architects are working in collaboration with Orwell and Peter Phillips (nominated heritage consultant) to progress the detailed design;
- Government Architect NSW (GANSW) will be involved throughout the design development and construction phases to ensure that the commitment to achieving a positive heritage and design outcome for the project is realized; and
- A materials salvage schedule will be developed during the detailed design of the amended scheme and will aim to salvage and re-use materials wherever possible. A condition of consent could be imposed in this regard.

It is considered that with the reduced scope and the inclusion of the recommendations in the revised HIS in the final determination, the heritage fabric and values on the site are likely to be managed appropriately.

As delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW, I provide the following recommendations for conditions that should be included in any approval:

- The nominated heritage consultant should prepare a materials salvage schedule during the detailed design development; and review and provide input in the preliminary and final Construction Management Plans for the project. This plan should include heritage management measures inclusive of, but not limited to: site protection of heritage elements; heritage induction of tradespeople and all personnel involved; monitoring of works by heritage consultant; the implementation of the Salvage Schedule; demolition methodologies and other recommendations of the HIS as required.
- A Photographic Archival Recording should be prepared before, during and following completion of works in accordance with the NSW Heritage Division publications *How to prepare archival records of heritage items* and Photographic Recording of Heritage Items using Film or Digital Capture. A digital copy of the archival record should be provided to the Heritage Division.
- A Heritage Interpretation Strategy should be prepared and implemented to enhance the public's understanding of the heritage significance of the site including its social significance as the first Australian Museum and the combined values of its successive architectural layers.

If you have any questions regarding the above advice, please contact James Quoyale, Senior Heritage Assessment Officer, Heritage Division, Office of Environment and Heritage, at email james.quoyale@environment.nsw.gov.au or on telephone: 9873 8621.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Brown
Regional Manager, Northern Region
 Heritage Division,
 Office of Environment and Heritage
As Delegate of the Heritage Council of NSW
 5 February 2019