

April 28, 2020

Karen Harragon
Director Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Karen,

**RE: Exhibition of State Significant Development Application – Fort Street Public School
Redevelopment (Application No. SSD-10340)**

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences strongly supports the investment by the NSW Government in upgraded facilities for Fort Street Public School. The Museum, as custodian and manager of the neighbouring Sydney Observatory and as an institution with a shared purpose in education, enjoys a close and collaborative relationship with Fort Street Public School.

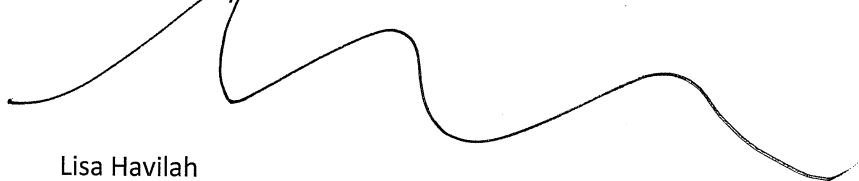
We recognise that the enhanced school facilities and proposed shared-use model that this development facilitates will not only have a significant positive impact on the experience of Fort Street Public School students and staff, but also provide enormous potential for greater engagement with the local community, and for expanded and increased collaboration between the Observatory and Fort Street Public School.

I would like to acknowledge the proactive engagement with the Museum and other Observatory Hill Precinct stakeholders by Schools Infrastructure and Fort Street Public School throughout the scoping and development of this project to date, which has resulted in a design proposal that is sensitive and complementary to its context.

As an adjacent site of State Heritage Significance and an active public museum and education facility, we have identified a range of potential risks and impacts from this development on Sydney Observatory, which are outlined below. We believe that open and ongoing communication will help mitigate concerns and plan against potential risks to the Observatory buildings and its significant scientific equipment. I am confident that through continuing close collaboration and joint planning between the Fort Street Public School redevelopment project team and the Museum, these potential risks and impacts can be mitigated promptly and effectively.

If you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact myself or James Rongen-Hall at james.rongen-hall@maas.museum.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Havilah
Chief Executive

Impact	Phase	Current mitigation	MAAS comments
Noise and vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 	As outlined in SSDA Noise and Vibration Management Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAS requests ongoing engagement and consultation during planning and construction phases to ensure potential subsidence or structural damage to sensitive heritage structures on the Sydney Observatory site are mitigated to the greatest extent possible.
Dust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 	As outlined in SSDA Air Quality Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAS requests ongoing consultation in the planning and construction phases to ensure impacts from demolition and construction dust and particulate matter on Sydney Observatory heritage fabric, particularly the functioning of sensitive heritage telescope machinery, is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.
Light spill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Operations 	As outlined in SSDA External Lighting Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAS acknowledges the proactive engagement by the design team in early lighting concept design, and commends the commitment to consideration of the Dark Sky Planning Guideline 2016 in ongoing design. MAAS requests ongoing consultation and engagement with the design team in the detailed design phase to ensure light spill impacts on Observatory astronomical operations is minimised.
Traffic management and pedestrian safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 	As outlined in SSDA Construction Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAS is concerned that construction traffic will exacerbate the already challenging traffic conditions in the Observatory Hill precinct, and requests ongoing consultation during planning and construction to ensure impacts on the general public and visitors to the Observatory and other institutions in the Precinct can be minimised.
Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design Construction 	As outlined in SSDA Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAAS commends the efforts of the project team in considering and respecting the heritage values of heritage items in the Observatory Hill Precinct, including Sydney Observatory, in developing the concept design. MAAS strongly supports the intention to restore and adaptively reuse the Met Building and Messengers Cottage as part of the development. MAAS requests engagement and information exchange, and offers its expertise wherever it may be of use, during the research, documentation and restoration of the heritage buildings, and recognise that these works may provide useful insights for our ongoing conservation and planned restoration works on the Sydney Observatory site.