

24 June, 2020

Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
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Parramatta NSW 2124

### **Sydney West Metro – State Significant Infrastructure SSI-10038**

The National Trust of Australia (NSW) lodges a submission on the potential heritage impacts on the Parramatta area, associated with the construction of the Sydney West Metro.

The Trust understands that the proposed tunnel route passes through Parramatta Park which is State, National and World Heritage listed and is in proximity to the National Trust's own property Old Government House. Old Government House sits within Parramatta Park. The Park was established in 1858 on the site of the former Parramatta Government Domain. Old Government House is the former "country" residence used by ten early governors of New South Wales between 1800 and 1847.

The Trust seeks assurances that there will be no adverse impacts on Old Government House and the historic landscape of Parramatta Park.

The Trust also understands that, based on analysis of the existing Parramatta archaeological zoning and management plans, the project area could include State significant early colonial evidence in the form of convict huts and occupation evidence of early settlement.

It is also likely to include the highly significant c1860s Ritchie Iron works, which may be of interest as an industrial archaeological site. These remains are referenced in Archaeological Management Unit 3075.

The Trust also has concerns of the heritage impacts of positioning the new Parramatta Metro station in the centre of Parramatta. The location is likely to require full archaeological salvage of any remaining historical archaeological resources in that area, which are assessed as both highly significant and very rare in Parramatta.

While in situ retention of archaeological evidence is proposed, this is highly unlikely to be a feasible option from a construction perspective, even if it is included as a project commitment.

The National Trust is also concerned at the direct impacts of proposed tunnelling on the Parramatta Roxy Theatre which is both listed on the National Trust Register and listed on the State Heritage Register. Chapter 12 of the Environmental Impact Statement (Non-Aboriginal Heritage Settlement Impacts, page 12-3) indicates the following impacts on the Roxy Theatre – "Settlement of 25 millimetres resulting in possible superficial damage which is unlikely to have structural significance".



The Trust questions what monitoring will be put in place to determine the impacts to this rare and historic theatre?

If superficial damage or even significant structural damage does occur, how will that damage be rectified and the rectification funded?

The National Trust is also concerned that once the tunnelling is approved and constructed the above ground stations may be so designed as to require the demolition of heritage listed buildings as has occurred in the Sydney CBD. An apartment building at No 7 Elizabeth Street, Sydney was the only remaining residential block in the CBD that was built between the two world wars.

The 10-storey building was designed by the well-known architect Emil Sodersten. Its interior design was done by Marion Hall Best, who had significant influence in the postwar period.

7 Elizabeth Street was demolished for the metro construction through the Sydney CBD.

The Trust strongly urges that Sydney West Metro station design and placement be carefully designed so as not to impact adversely on rare historic and architecturally significant buildings.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Quint  
Director, Conservation