

ATTACHMENT J

POD/LAMB JOINT LETTER
ON 3D IMAGERY

24 April 2012

RE: Accuracy of building envelope photomontages for Columbia Precinct

The montages were prepared on the direction of Richard Lamb and Associates (RLA). RLA undertook the visual impacts assessment for the project. As a part of that process, RLA identified the locations for which montages were to be prepared and cross-checked the accuracy of the representations when produced.

RLA provided PODGroup with a map on which the required montage locations were shown, as well as photographs from those locations, so the viewing places could be accurately established by PODGroup. PODGroup took the photographs, with one exception (see below).

The locations for views to be represented by montages were chosen to represent the development seen from the critical places in the public domain. They were also chosen in order to contain existing buildings for which there was survey information, so as to accurately locate the building envelopes in the montages, as described below.

The building envelope photomontages produced by PODGroup have been undertaken using a number of procedures that ensured the accuracy of the results.

PODGroup were supplied the architectural drawings, survey plans and survey information by Mayoh Architects. In order to ensure the accuracy of the photomontages the following procedure was undertaken:

1. Based on the supplied architectural drawings and survey plans, PODGroup used 3D Studio Max to create an accurate digital model of the proposed development's building outlines.
 2. The digital survey drawing was imported into 3D Studio Max and the neighbouring buildings and the existing building on site were then modelled, taking into account information found on the survey- in particular building elements visible in the site photograph that corresponded with the survey data. These sources of information were used as reference points to camera match the building to the existing site in the photograph.
 3. PODGroup then imported the site photograph into 3D Studio Max, and applied it as a background in our digital scene. To ensure consistency and minimize variation or discrepancy in the camera match, the focal length of the camera has been fixed to 17mm for all photographs taken by PODGroup. This was the best focal length, which showed the whole context of the new development's building envelope.
- It was the advice of RLA that the focal length chosen should be the same for every photograph and of a wide enough angle to ensure that the computer models of the envelopes would each fit into a single image. This was to ensure consistency between images and also to ensure that no wide angle images were made by "stitching" individual images together to produce a panoramic effect. This can create significant inaccuracies.
4. Only one of the images was taken at a different focal length (20mm). This is the photograph from the railway looking in the distance to the development, taken by RLA. The reason for the different focal length used for this image is that lens used by RLA registers a slightly greater focal length than

the camera used by PODGroup when the same width of field is measured. There is no significant difference in the images caused by the slight difference in the focal lengths.

5. In the final part of the camera matching process, the 3D camera was located in the digital scene so that it matched with the focal length of the actual photograph of the real scene, and the digital models lined up with the background photograph at nominated points cross referenced between the survey and the site photograph. Between 5 to 9 reference points were used in the camera match process. This ensured that the scale, height and position of the proposed building were as accurate as they could be.

PODGroup are confident that through following the above procedures, an accurate representation of the proposed building in context has been created.

RLA have cross checked the images and the process of production of the montages and are satisfied that the representations prepared by PODGroup conform to their instructions and are as accurate as can reasonably be achieved.

Should you have any questions or require clarification, please do not hesitate to contact PODGroup on (02) 9939 1199 or RLA on (02) 9953 0922.

Thank you.

Kind regards,



Judy Teh
Director
PODGroup

Dr Richard Lamb



Richard Lamb and Associates