



Heritage Council

of New South Wales

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Department of Planning
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Ms Karen Jones
Director
Metropolitan & Regional Projects South
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Attn: Caroline Owen

Dear Ms Jones

RE: MP10_0143 Preferred Project Report - Columbia Precinct - Homebush

Reference is made to your letter received on 1 November 2012 regarding the above project. The delay in providing this response is regretted by the Heritage Branch but was exacerbated by the formal close-down of the office over the Christmas period.

It is noted that heritage was not identified as a key issue in the DGRs which were issued for the project in November 2011. The Statement of Heritage Impact report for the project prepared by NBRS dated July 2011 noted that:

There are no heritage items on-site. Four heritage items could be considered to be "nearby" or "in the vicinity". These are:

- *Homebush (Parramatta Road) Railway Underbridge aka Arnotts Biscuit Bridge;*
- *Homebush Railway Station Group;*
- *Electricity Substation No 265; and,*
- *Federation House, 11 Station Street.*

There is very little adverse impact on these heritage items. The application drawings showing the proposal do not indicate an intrusion into the significant views to the landmark railway bridge adjoining the site. As long as significant views to the landmark railway bridge adjoining the site are kept open there are no aspects which could detrimentally impact on identified heritage significance.

The Preferred Project Report dated October 2012, does not discuss heritage impacts and although 'refinement of building setbacks' is referred to for the purpose of improving vehicle clearances, the report provides no information about whether the amended drawings retain the significant views to the Railway Bridge which were previously identified in the SoHI report. The Heritage Branch is therefore unable to assess whether the recommendations of the SoHI report have been adhered to in the redesign process.



The Revised Statement of Commitments (Annexure B) does not mention heritage issues. The Heritage Branch recommends that the proposed Construction Management Plan referred to in SoC No. 5 should include reference to S146 of the NSW Heritage Act, 1977, which is not suspended by Part 3A, and also to the need to notify the Heritage Council of NSW if any archaeological 'relics' are uncovered during the construction process.

I trust these comments will be of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

25-01-2013

Dr Siobhan Lavelle OAM

Acting Manager, Conservation Team

Heritage Branch,

Office of Environment & Heritage

AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL