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File: 13/06834
Our Ref: A1360594
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Ms Karen Jones
Director
Metropolitan & Regional Projects South
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attn: Daniel Gorgioski

Dear Ms Jones

RE: MP11_0001 Environmental Assessment – Sydney Heritage Fleet Facility

Reference is made to your letter received on 4 March 2013 regarding the above project. It is noted that heritage was identified in the DGRs which were issued for the project in February 2011 (issue 19).

The heritage documents which form part of the Exhibited EA have been reviewed by the Heritage Branch, in particular the report: *HIS & Preliminary Aboriginal and Historic Archaeological Assessment Sydney Heritage Fleet Base, Pyrmont, NSW* dated November 2011 and prepared by AHMS Pty Ltd. (Appendix 14).

That report found that the subject site remained largely undeveloped during the nineteenth century, with land reclamation beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing in intervening periods up to the late twentieth century for the construction of the ANZAC Bridge. During parts of the twentieth century the subject site was occupied by timber mills and part of the Colonial Sugar Refinery. A former sea wall has previously been discovered at the site.

The AHMS report found that (p26, Section 5.2)

The proposed development may impact the former sea wall, should it survive, within the subject site. In addition, the proposed works may impact the sandstone walls discovered during excavation works by the RTA at the eastern extent of the subject site adjacent to Bank Street.

It is unlikely that these archaeological features are of heritage significance, and they are unlikely to be defined as 'relics' in accordance with the Heritage Act 1977. It is unlikely that any other potential historical archaeological resources or 'relics' survive at the subject site.

It is unlikely that Aboriginal sites and/or objects survive at the subject due to extensive modifications during the historical period.

Recommendations provided by the AHMS report include the following (p34-35):

If the former sea wall is exposed during excavation works for the proposed development, an archaeologist should be called out to record the location and the extent of the feature and prior to its removal. A brief letter report should be written and submitted to the Heritage Branch at the Office of Environment and Heritage regarding the recording.

No approvals or permits are required from the NSW Heritage Office [sic.] prior to the disturbance or removal of the former sea wall, sandstone wall or any other potential archaeological features and/or deposits, as the proposed development is subject to the Project Approval provisions under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979; and

No further historical archaeological assessment of the subject site appears warranted prior to redevelopment.

The AHMS report also assessed the impact of the proposed new building and footprint and found that the relationship of the new buildings to the topography; the design, scale and forms were unlikely to cause adverse impacts to heritage items in the vicinity of the proposed new facility.

The AHMS report recommended that the impact on views from other heritage items across the bay such as Blackwattle Bay Park, the former Walter Burley Griffin incinerator and Bellevue should be determined through completion of a 'comprehensive visual impact assessment'. This does not appear to have been included in the exhibited EA.

The Statement of Commitments provided in the exhibited EA report includes measures derived from the recommendations of the AHMS report (Commitments 17,18,19). The Heritage Branch agrees with these commitments as S146 of the NSW *Heritage Act, 1977*, is not suspended by Part 3A, and therefore there would be a need to notify the Heritage Council of NSW if any archaeological 'relics' are uncovered during the construction process.

The Statement of Commitments is considered adequate to manage the likely heritage impacts arising from the proposal.

Thank you for referring this proposal for comment. Please contact Siobhan Lavelle using the details on this letter if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



17/04/2013

Vincent Sicari

Manager, Conservation Team

Heritage Branch,

Office of Environment & Heritage

AS DELEGATE OF THE NSW HERITAGE COUNCIL