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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL **ASSESSMENT**

TO ACCOMPANY APPLICATION FOR **COMMERCIAL BUILDING AT 90 REGENT** STREET REDFERN

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1. INTRODUCTION

This assessment has been provided in support of an application for the demolition of an existing building and the construction of an 11 storey commercial building at 90 Regent Street Redfern.

The proposal will act as a major catalyst for redevelopment/regeneration of this Strategic Site in the Redfern Waterloo area. It is envisaged that the 11 storey commercial building will lend itself for much needed educational facilities in the area (such a use being subject a separate development application) and provide an increase in supply of well designed commercial floor space that is in close proximity to the Australian Technology Park and Redfern Railway Station.

The 10 storey building will complement the visual marker of the existing TNT towers and begin to define this strategic site as the commercial core of Redfern.

The site is within the Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) area identified under Schedule 3 of the Major Projects State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP). This listing provides that development within the area identified by the map in Schedule 3 with a Capital Investment Value of more than \$5 million is declared to be a Major Project within the context of Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act) 1979.

The estimated cost of work is more than \$5 million and therefore this Preliminary Environmental Assessment has been prepared to identify key issues for the assistance in the preparation of Director-General Requirements in accordance with Part 3A of the EP&A Act.

2. THE SITE

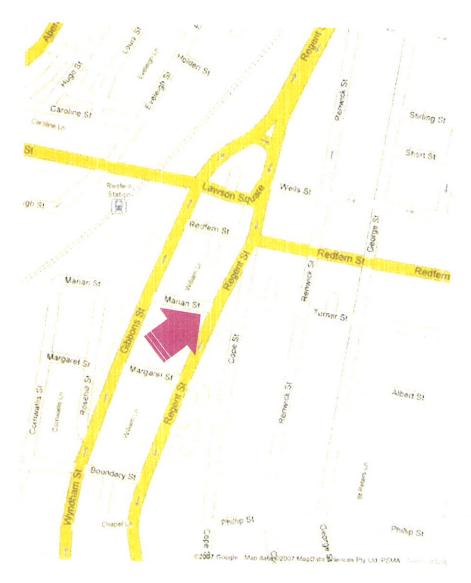
The site, known as 90 Regent Street Redfern (Lot 1 DP 3954) is located on the western side of Regent Street on the corner of Marian Street and William Lane.

The site is rectangular in shape and slopes gently down to the west. The site has an approximate 12.5m frontage to Regent Street and a 31.5m frontage to Marian Lane with an overall site area of 392sqm.

The existing building on the site is situated on the eastern portion of the site and is a two storey Victorian style building (not listed as an item of heritage or within a heritage conservation area). The building occupies approximately 46% of the site with the remainder of the site comprised of a hard stand open air car park. There is no vegetation on the site.

3. THE SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

The subject site is located within an area containing a mix of uses. The building forms part of a row of various retail and commercial uses on the ground floor with residential dwellings above. To the west of the site is a City of Sydney Council depot and to the northwest a multi level carpark used by tenants within the former TNT towers. A multi storey residential flat building is located to the south west and adjoining this building immediately to the east (directly south of the subject site is a service station).



4. THE PROPOSAL

The proposal involves the demolition of the existing building on the site and construction of a 10 storey commercial building with 1 level of basement car parking containing 8 car spaces and service room.

The ground floor comprises 140sqm café / retail space, main lobby for commercial space above on the upper floors. Loading dock and entry / exit to the basement carpark is located along the William Lane frontage. The main lift core and fire stairs are located adjacent to the southern property boundary equidistant from the eastern and western boundaries.

The first and second floors are proposed to be large open plan commercial floor plates completing the podium level of the building.

The third floor is proposed to be office and service areas, large outdoor deck facing Regent Street featuring a swimming pool.

The remaining 6 floors are proposed to be accommodation for short term and student living. This part of the building is set in 5-8 metres from Regent Street and up to 4 metres from William Lane.

The total floor space is 2,598sqm. The plans at Appendix A indicate the areas including the Floor Space Area (FSA) calculations.

5. ZONING

The subject site is within the Business Zone - Commercial Core under State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005. The proposal comprises a mixed use development (being a café, commercial premises) which is a permitted use in this zone.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: KEY ISSUES

6.1 State Environmental Planning Policy (Major Projects) 2005

State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Major Projects) 2005 provides the statutory basis to guide future development on the Redfern Waterloo Authorities Strategic Sites. The site is part of the 'Redfern Railway Station, Gibbons and Regent Streets' Strategic Site. This SEPP replaces existing statutory plans and polices that existed under the former South Sydney Council. Accompanying this SEPP is the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Built Environment Plan (Stage 1).

6.2 Zone Objectives

In accordance with $\underline{\it Clause~9}$ of SEPP (Majors Project) 2005, the site is within the Business Zone – Commercial Core. The development will be consistent with the objectives of the zone as:

 the proposed educational space, commercial offices and ground floor café will be compatible with each other;

- the increased intensity of uses on the site during both night and day will facilitate the development of the town centre;
- the café and commercial space will provide employment generating activities;
- the mixed use building will maximise public transport patronage and encourage walking and cycling as the proposal has very limited offstreet car parking and is in close proximity to public transport, shops, university and CBD;
- contribute to the vitality and safety of the community and public domain as the ground floor café activates the two main street frontages; and
- provide a building that achieves design excellence;

6.3 Floor Space Ratio & Height Controls

In accordance with <u>Clause 21</u> of SEPP (Major Projects) 2005, the site has an 18 storey limit and a floor space ratio (FSR) of 7:1.

The proposal has a height of 10 storeys and an FSR of 6.6:1 which is compliant.

6.4 Design Excellence

In accordance with <u>Clause 22</u> of SEPP (Major Projects) 2005, the proposed development exhibits design excellence. A high standard of architectural design, materials and detailing appropriate to the building type and location will be achieved. The form and external appearance of the building will improve the quality and amenity of the public domain.

The building follows the Redfern Waterloo Authority's Built Environment Plan. The building has been divided into two main components, namely the 3 storey podium which is built to each street frontage and the 6 storey tower that is setback from each street to minimise perceived bulk and scale.

The materials vary between a rendered podium façade punctuated with vertical window openings and a tower form clad in lightweight material punctuated with horizontal cantilevered balconies. The roof is curved to provide an architecturally interesting skyline.

6.5 Sustainable Design Principles

The building meets sustainable design principles in terms of:

(i) Sunlight:

The building's lift core is located adjacent to the southern boundary. This maximises sunlight to penetrate each the floor from the eastern, northern and western facades. Should the southern adjoining properties (No's 92, 94 and 96 Regent Street) consolidate and redevelop for commercial purposes, the subject site's centralised lift core would be able to be combined, thereby allowing an opportunity to provide an open plan office space similar to that proposed, with adequate sunlight penetrating its eastern and western facades.

In terms of overshadowing cast by the proposed building, all surrounding properties to the southeast, south and southwest will receive a minimum of 2 hours of sunlight. It should be noted that the immediately southern adjoining properties are used for non residential purposes.

(ii) Natural ventilation

Each floor will have operable windows and doors leading onto balconies.

(iii) Wind

As the proposed building is lower than 45 metres in height, no wind analysis is required. Nothwithstanding, the building is unlikely to cause detrimental impact upon the amenity of the area by way of wind disturbance as the highest part of the building is setback from all street frontages.

(iv) Reflectivity

The building has a high degree of solid to void ratio with little or no expanses of glazing. Hence reflectivity impacts upon the surrounding area will be minimal.

(v) Visual and acoustic privacy

As the proposed building is intended to be used for non-residential purposes, and the upper floor are likely to be used during normal business hours, visual acoustic privacy impacts will likely be very low. The main upper level outdoor deck space is adjacent to and will overlook Regent Street which in the context of the surrounding buildings is the most appropriate location.

(vi) Safety and security

The ground floor café fronts onto both Regent Street and Marian Street and therefore will activate the public domain. The entry and exit point into the basement carpark will appropriately front onto the rear service lane and the

floors above will have various windows and balconies overlooking the public domain.

(vii) Resource, energy and water efficiency

The proposal will be efficient in terms of energy and water efficiency. Solar panels will be included on the roof of the building to provide supplementary power. Stormwater collection in the basement will be pumped to the roof to allow for gravity feed use throughout the building.

In accordance with <u>Clause 22(3)</u>, the consent authority does not require a design competition for this development as it is not over 12 storeys and is consistent with guidelines issued by the Redfern–Waterloo Authority and approved by the Minister.

6.6 State Environmental Planning Policy No. 55 - Remediation of Land

A Preliminary Environmental Assessment report was done in November 2004. The report concludes that the site is considered suitable for the proposed commercial development given that the site has no history of any potentially land contaminating activities.

6.7 State Environmental Planning Policy No. 11 – Traffic Generating Developments

SEPP 11 aims to ensure that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) is given the opportunity to comment on certain developments, listed in Schedules 1 and 2 of the SEPP, that are likely to have a significant impact on the road network.

As the proposal involves the erection of a building for the commercial purposes exceeding 1000 square meters, the provisions of SEPP No. 11 apply. As such it is understood that this application will be referred to the RTA.

It is envisaged that the majority of people associated with the future use of the building will use public transport. The site is in very close proximity to a major railway station and numerous bus services (both approximately 50 metres away). Combined with this on-street parking during the weekday is time limited and in limited supply which will deter most people coming to the site via private motor vehicle.

The proposal makes provision for only 8 off-street car spaces accessed via William Lane which is not considered to generate a high level of vehicle movements.

7. CONCLUSION

The proposal will act as a major catalyst for redevelopment/regeneration of this Strategic Site in the Redfern Waterloo area and is worthy of support for the following reasons:

- The proposal will provide a building of high quality with minimal impacts on surrounding development and provides a high level of amenity to its future occupants.
- The provision of off-street car parking has been intentionally limited to encourage people to use public transport and the building will incorporate environmental sustainable features including solar panels on the roof and the re-use of stormwater on site.
- The proposal complies with all relevant planning controls including allowable land use, maximum height and floor space ratio.
- The development potential of surrounding commercial properties that immediately adjoin the site will not be compromised.



BUILDING AREA = 3548.100 m²

CAR PARKING

SITE AREA = 392.268 m²

NET FLOOR AREA

Basement $= 359.904 \text{ m}^2$

ground floor $= 237.255 \text{ m}^2$

level 1 $= 352.332 \, \text{m}^2$

 $= 352.332 \, \text{m}^2$ level 2 = 182.945 m² level 3

terraces = 159.488 m²

balcony $= 17.504 \,\mathrm{m}^2$

level 4 - 9 = 245.577 m² balcony

 $= 15.487 \,\mathrm{m}^2$ $= 17.504 \,\mathrm{m}^2$ balcony

balcony

8.560 m²



A

90 REGENT STREET REDFERN

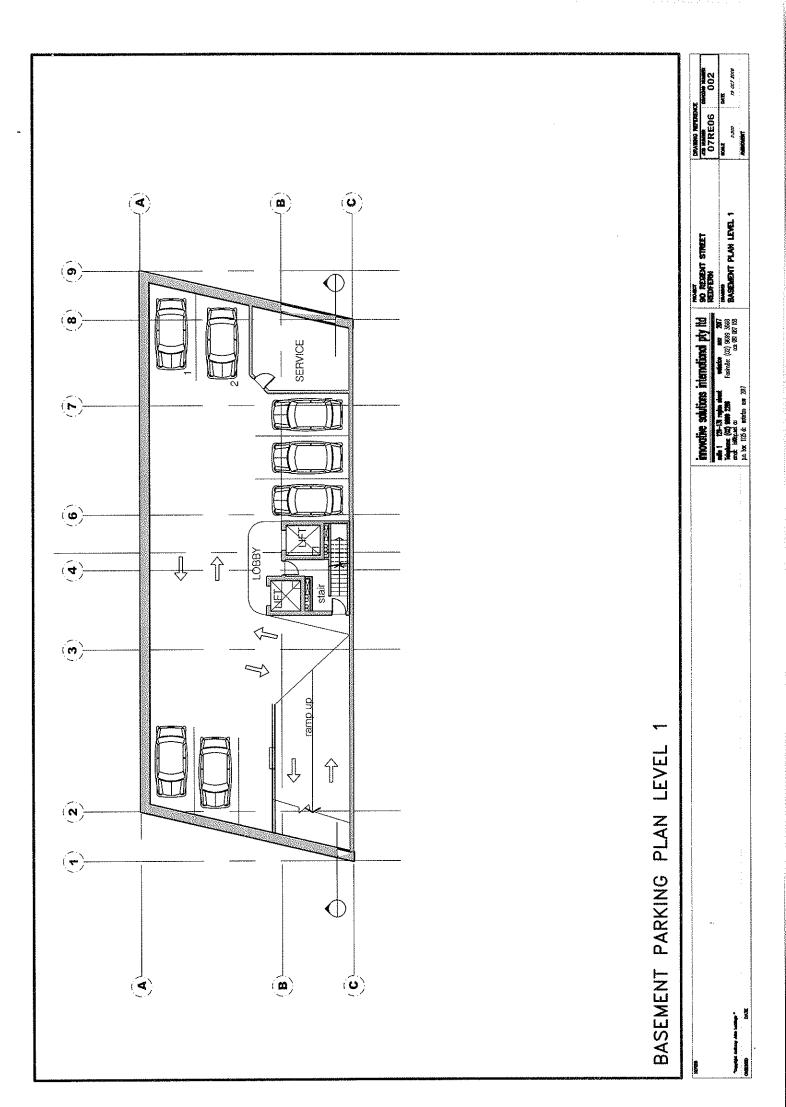
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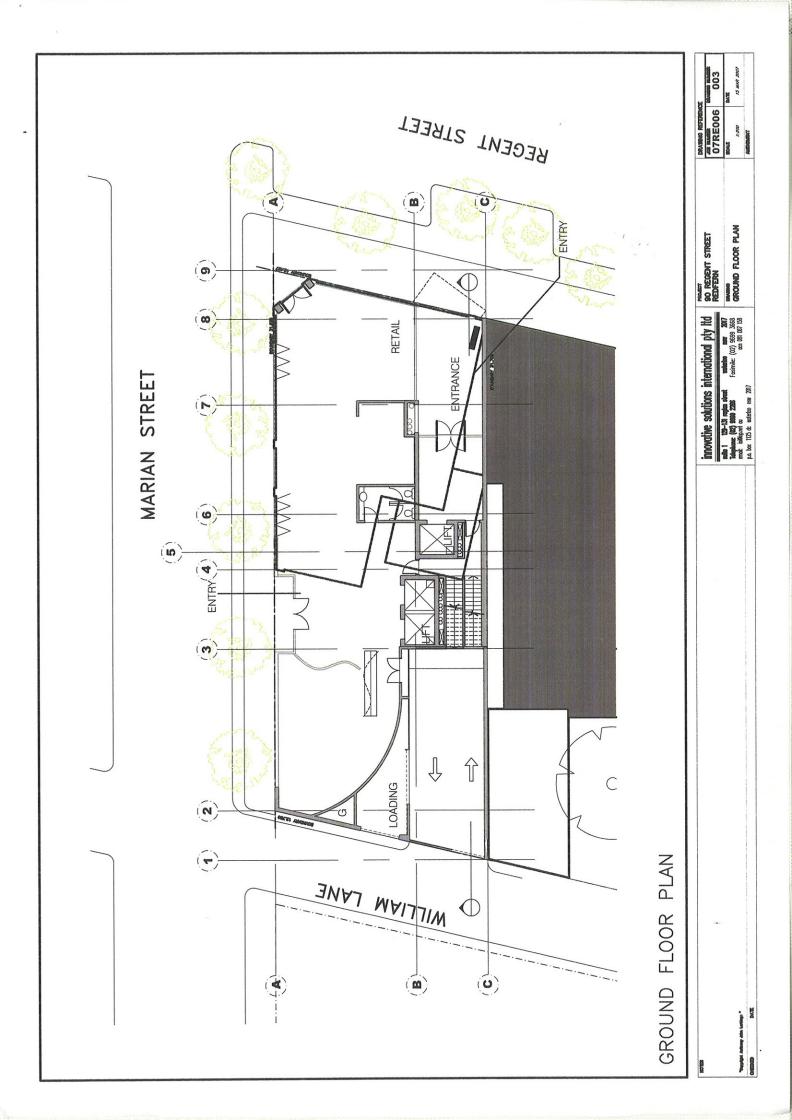
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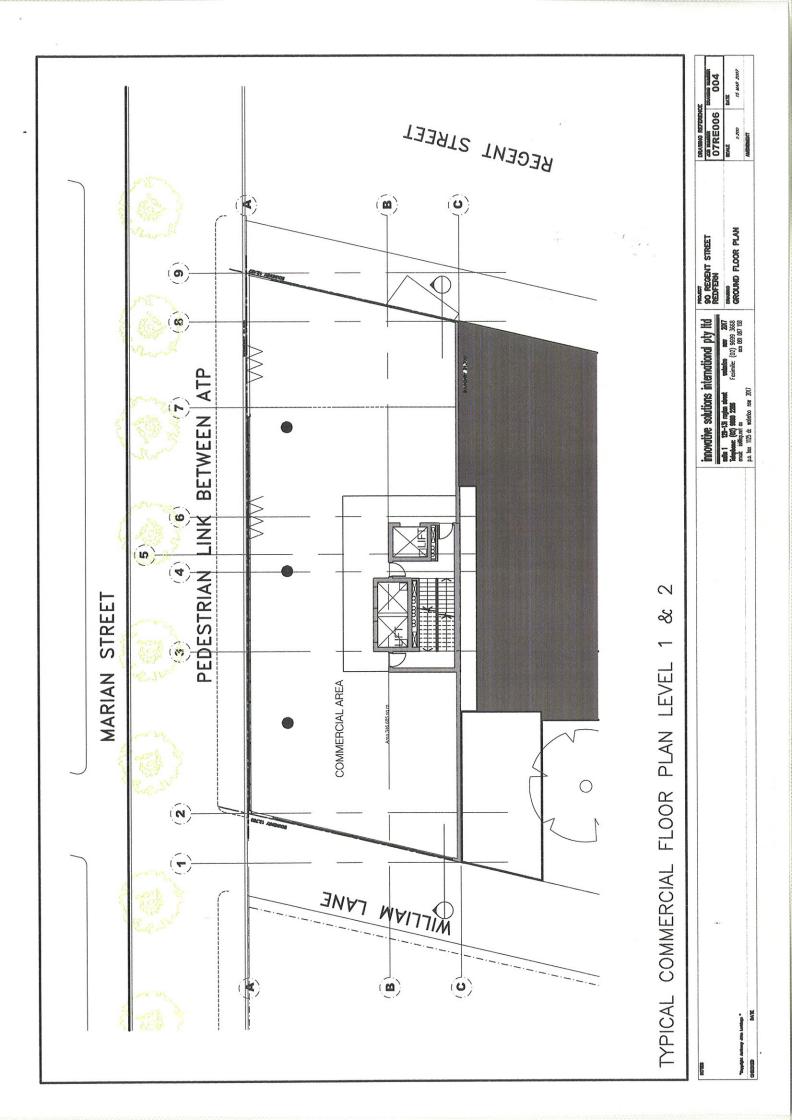
redfern group

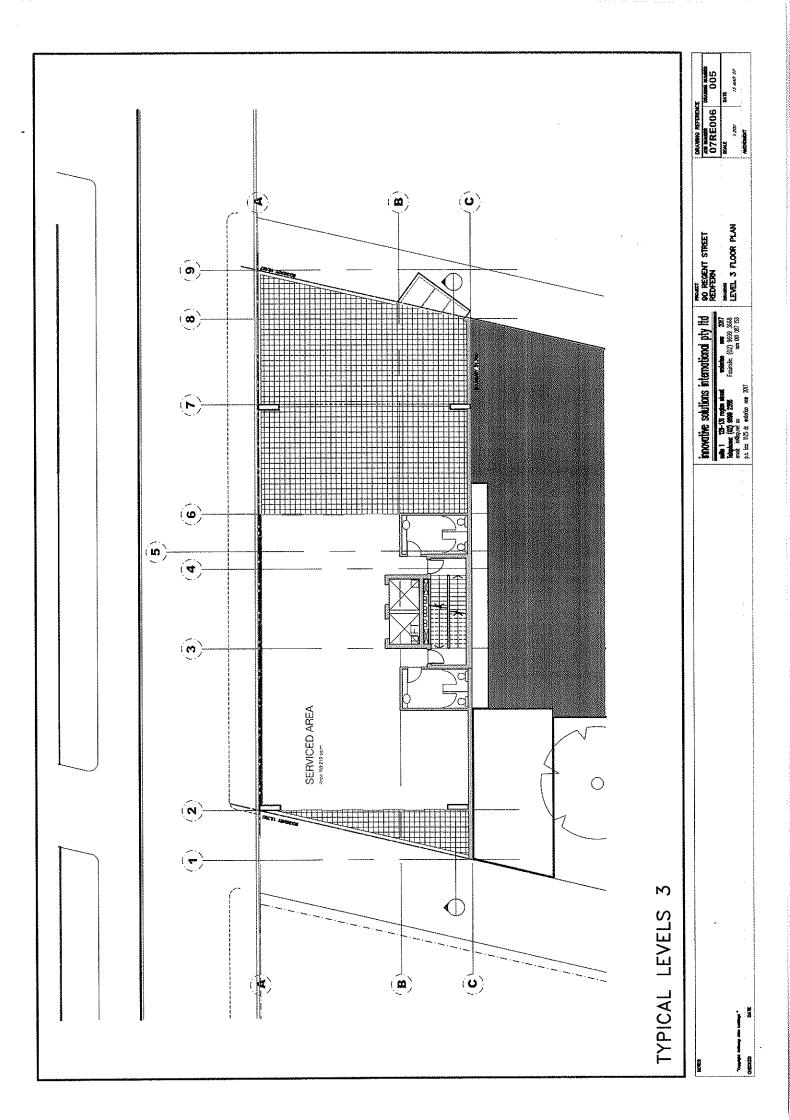
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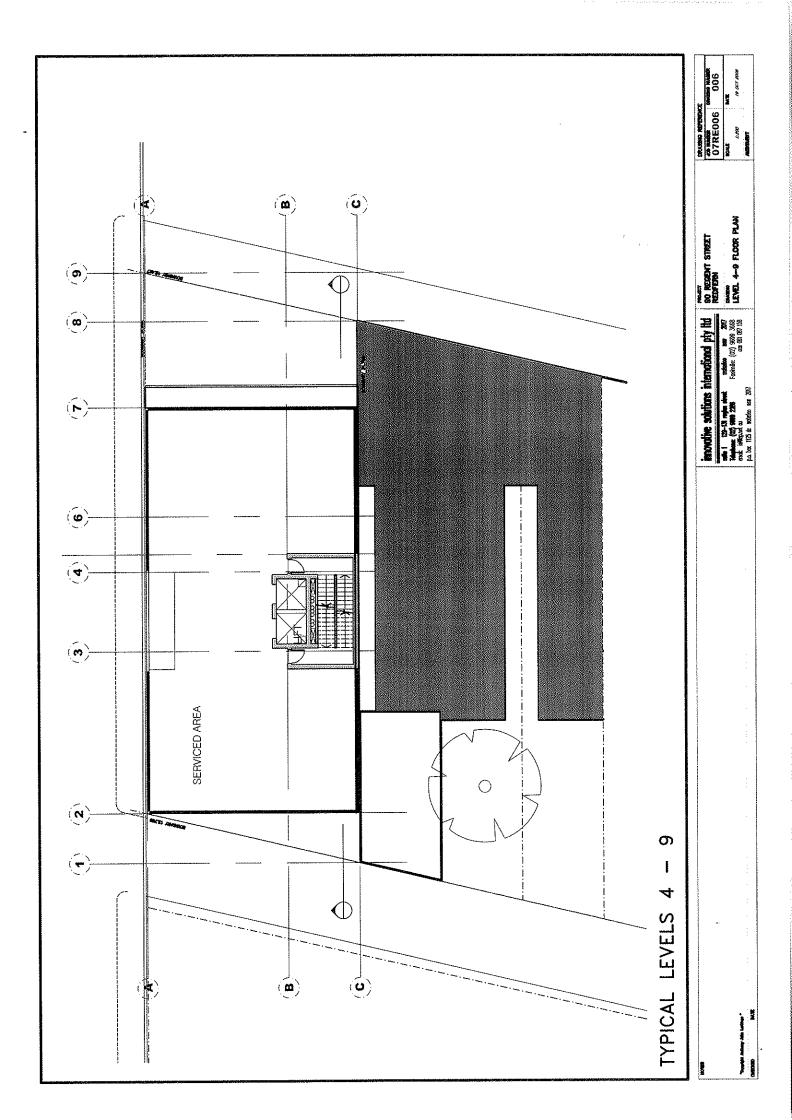
sizes may vary slightly within the building

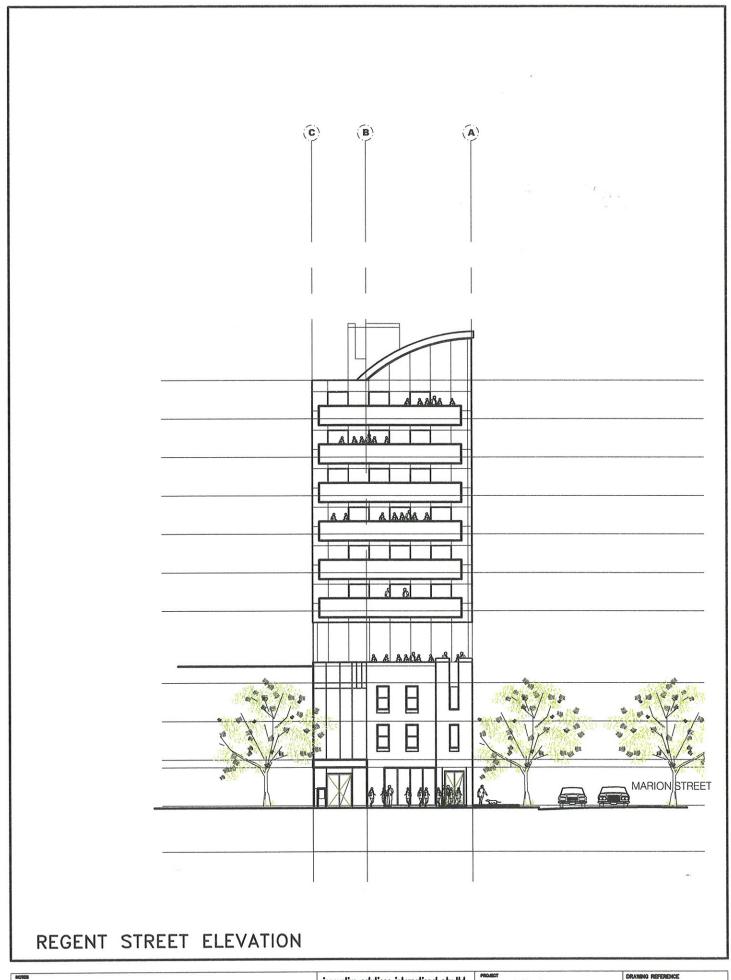




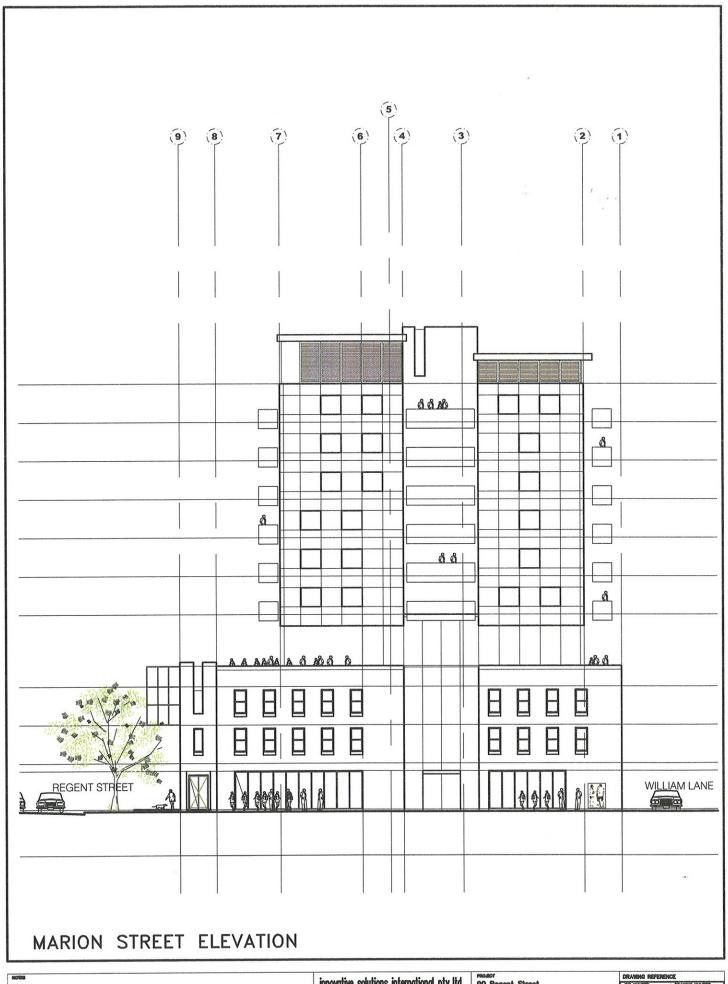




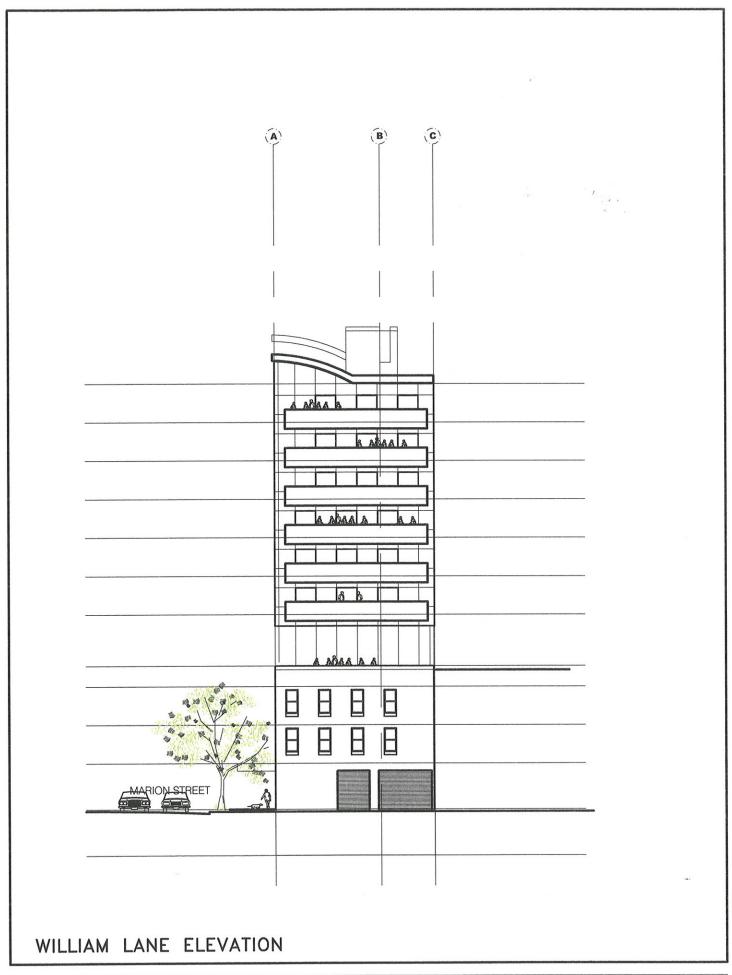




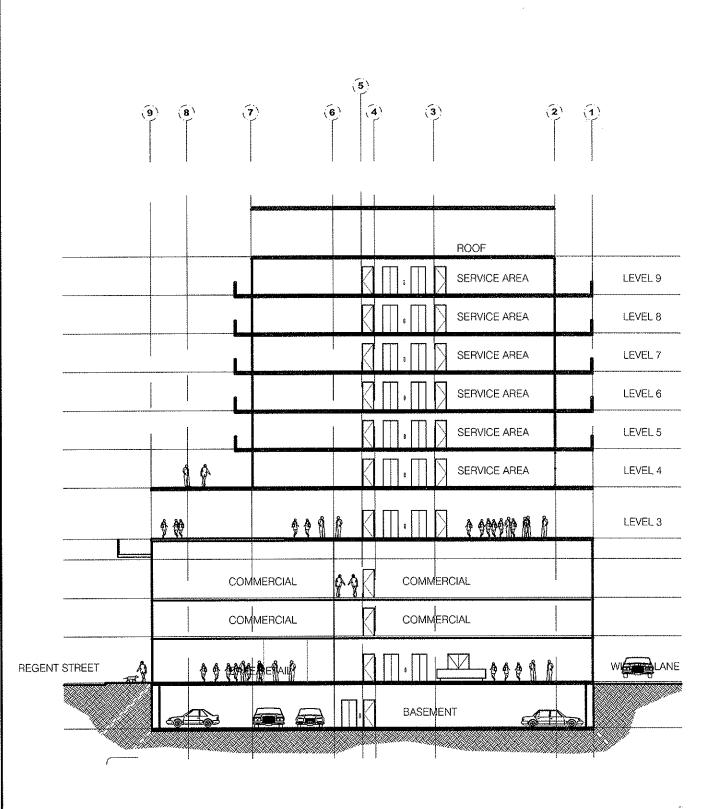
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