



**ANGEL PLACE
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SYDNEY NSW 2000**

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Marcus Haines
Health Infrastructure
c/- TSA Management
Level 15, 207 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Marcus

RYDE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT – REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS – ABORIGINAL & HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY STATEMENT

We refer to the proposed redevelopment of Ryde Hospital, located at 1 Denistone Road, Denistone, NSW, legally described as Lot 10 and Lot 11 in Deposited Plan (DP) 1183279 and Lot A and Lot B in DP 323458 ('the subject area') by Health Infrastructure NSW ('the Proponent').

The redevelopment is proposed to be undertaken in stages in accordance with the following State Significant Development Applications:

- Stage 1 - Concept Proposal and early works under SSD-36778089 (approved)
- Stage 2 – main works under SSD-58210458 (pending approval)

The present letter has now been prepared to accompany a Review of Environmental Factors ('REF'), which seeks approval for the installation of temporary buildings within the subject area to support the proposed Stage 2 works.

PROPOSED WORKS

The REF works would include the construction of four temporary Colorbond-clad structures onsite to house different services necessary for the continued operations of the hospital during redevelopment (approximately 2-3 years). The four temporary structures are as follows:

- TS-TB (IPO/ Engineer's offices / bin storage / Executive offices)
- TS-TC (ICU/CCU / Existing periop & theatre refurbishment)
- TS-TD (Linkways / ramp / loading dock)
- TS-TF (Food services / kitchen / stores and linen)

A site plan of the proposed works is shown in Figure 1.

The following Aboriginal cultural heritage and historical archaeological reports were submitted in support of Stage 1 (SSD-36778089) and Stage 2 (SSD-58210458):

- Urbis 2022, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Concept and Stage 1)* ('ACHA1')
- Urbis 2023, *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment, Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Stage 2)* ('ACHA2')
- Urbis 2022, *Historical Archaeological Assessment, Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Concept and Stage 1)* ('HAA1')
- Urbis 2023, *Historical Archaeological Assessment, Ryde Hospital Redevelopment (Stage 2)* ('HAA2')

The present letter considers the impacts proposed under the REF against the findings of archaeological potential presented in the above reports.

ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE

ACHA1 and ACHA2 were undertaken to determine if any known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places are located within the subject area, or if any unknown Aboriginal objects are likely to be present within the subject area.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) defines 'Aboriginal objects' and 'Aboriginal places' as follows:

- **Aboriginal object** means any deposit, object or material evidence (not being a handicraft made for sale) relating to the Aboriginal habitation of the area that comprises New South Wales, being habitation before or concurrent with (or both) the occupation of that area by persons of non-Aboriginal extraction, and includes Aboriginal remains.
- **Aboriginal place** means any place, which may or may not contain Aboriginal objects, that is declared to be an Aboriginal place under section 84 of the NPW Act because it is or was of special significance with respect to Aboriginal culture.

The assessment undertaken as part of ACHA1 and ACHA2 found no known Aboriginal objects or declared Aboriginal places within the curtilage of the subject area.

An assessment of Aboriginal archaeological potential within the subject area was also undertaken as part of ACHA1 and ACHA2. A comparison of the locations of the proposed works with the assessed archaeological potential of the subject area is mapped in Figure 2.

It can be seen from Figure 2 that the proposed works are confined to an area nil – low potential, meaning Aboriginal objects are unlikely to be found in that area. It follows that the proposed works are unlikely to harm any Aboriginal objects.

Nevertheless, all practicable measures must be taken to avoid harm and conserve any significant Aboriginal objects and/or Aboriginal places, along with their cultural heritage values. The precautionary principle states that full scientific certainty about the threat of harm should never be used as a reason for not taking measures to prevent harm from occurring. The Unexpected Archaeological Finds Procedure and Human Remains Procedure specified in ACHA1 and ACHA2 should therefore be implemented as harm mitigation measures for the proposed works.

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

HAA1 and HAA2 were undertaken to determine if any known historical relics are located within the subject area, or if any unknown historical relics are likely to be present within the subject area.

The *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) defines a 'relic' as:

Any deposit, object or material evidence

(a) which relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being an Aboriginal settlement, and;

(b) is of State or local heritage significance.

The assessment undertaken as part of ACHA2 identified one known potential relic within the curtilage of the subject area, namely the remains of an underground brick cistern associated with Denistone House. The assessment further identified moderate potential for archaeological remains associated with the original Deniston House, which may also meet the requirements of a relic. The locations of these potential relics are mapped in Figure 3.

It can be seen from Figure 2 that the proposed works are confined to an area low historical archaeological potential, meaning historical relics are unlikely to be found in that area. It follows that the proposed works are unlikely to harm any historical relics.

The Unexpected Archaeological Finds Procedure and Human Remains Procedure specified in HAA1 should therefore be implemented as harm mitigation measures for the proposed works.

SUMMARY

The content of the present letter is summarised as follows:

- The proposed works are unlikely to harm any Aboriginal objects as they are confined to an area previously assessed as having nil – low Aboriginal archaeological potential.
- The proposed works are unlikely to harm any historical relics as they are confined to an area previously assessed as having low historical archaeological potential.
- The Unexpected Archaeological Finds Procedure and Human Remains Procedure specified in ACHA1, ACHA2 and HAA1 should be implemented as harm mitigation measures.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned with any queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S Richards", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sam Richards
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Figure 2 – Proposed impacts to Aboriginal archaeological potential



Figure 3 – Proposed impacts to historical archaeological potential