

Mr Michael Edgar
General Manager
The Hills Shire Council
PO Box 7064
BAULKHAM HILLS BC 2153

Dear Mr Edgar

Planning proposal PP_2017_THILL_006_00 – Alteration of Gateway determination

I refer to your request to alter the Gateway determination for planning proposal PP_2017_THILL_006_00, which seeks to facilitate a medium to high-density residential development at 55 Coonara Avenue, West Pennant Hills.

I have determined as the delegate of the Greater Sydney Commission, in accordance with section 3.34(7) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, to alter the Gateway determination dated 31 October 2017, as enclosed. In making this decision, I have carefully considered the views of Council, the proponent and the community, who have made representations directly to the Department.

As requested, the altered Gateway determination has been amended to remove the RU3 zone, supports the inclusion of the R3 Medium Density Residential zone, and supports the dwelling cap of a maximum of 600 dwellings.

The altered Gateway determination provides for a local provision to facilitate the dwelling cap. While the Department supports the overall cap on development over the site, the remaining elements of Council's proposed local provision are not supported as the Department considers existing clause 7.12 of The Hills Local Environmental Plan 2012 (LEP), the most appropriate mechanism to achieve key site outcomes, as this clause implements the methodology for housing mix and diversity within the Sydney Metro Northwest Corridor, which was agreed to by Council and the Minister for Planning.

If Council wishes to achieve these agreed outcomes for housing size, mix and parking, Council may consider seeking an incentive FSR for the site to enable clause 7.12 to apply to any additional residential flat buildings on the site.

The altered gateway determination continues to require the proposal to be updated to seek amendments to the minimum lot size map, floor space ratio map and height of buildings map. Regarding Council's request to specify the minimum lot sizes and maximum height of building controls, the Department considers that the Gateway determination already provides the necessary flexibility for Council to consider and propose appropriate controls for the site as part of the revised planning proposal.

I note however that the Department is supportive of the heights contained in Council's proposal, that is, heights ranging from 9 to 22 metres, to provide for development ranging from 2 to 6 storeys. Controls that facilitate the intended development are considered transparent and will give the community certainty as to the intended outcomes for the site. Any controls that will require consideration of a variation to these controls at the development application stage under Clause 4.6 of the LEP to enable the envisaged development, will not be supported.

The Gateway determination remains unaltered regarding the requirement to consider and propose the RE1 Public Recreation zone. I understand that Council is currently working with the proponent towards the dedication of 2.49ha for potential public open space (including the adjoining car park and a general-purpose community facility room) through a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), and that this VPA is anticipated to be publicly exhibited in conjunction with the revised planning proposal. The proposed public open space should be identified in the revised planning proposal as RE1 Public Recreation. Council may wish to note in the revised proposal that this portion of the site may have an alternative zone should VPA not progress.

The Gateway determination also remains unaltered regarding the requirement to consider and propose appropriate environmental zone (or zones). In proposing appropriate environmental zones, Council is requested to seek the highest level of protection to relevant portions of the site.

The Department has considered Council's concerns regarding the potential acquisition liability in relation to applying the E2 Environmental Conservation zone. Having considered the Department's Practice Note PN09-002, the Department is satisfied that the rezoning of land to E2 does not give rise to the need to compensate a landholder, whether or not the rezoning results in a reduced development potential for the land. Additionally, such a rezoning of land does not trigger any requirement for the State or Council to acquire the land if the land is not also designated for acquisition for a public purpose.

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, I have arranged for Ms Ann-Maree Carruthers, Director, Sydney Region West, to assist you. Ms Carruthers can be contacted on 9274 6270.

Yours sincerely



David Gainsford
Acting Deputy Secretary
Planning Services

13/6/18.

Encl: Alteration of Gateway determination