

3rd June 2019

Myfanwy McNally
City Significant
Development Manager
City of Parramatta
PO Box 32
Parramatta
NSW 2124

PARRAMATTA SQUARE PUBLIC DOMAIN DESIGN COMPETITION

Dear Myfanwy,

I am writing to you in response to your letter of May 31st requesting that GANSW provide an opinion on the need for a design competition for the Parramatta Square Public Domain, in relationship to the requirements Clause 7.10 of the Parramatta LEP.

We have reviewed the documentation provided with your letter. We note that a rigorous design process has been undertaken for the public domain involving a highly regarded design team with a reputation for delivering high quality projects. Whilst this is commendable, we do not consider the process to be equivalent to a design competition for the following reasons:

- the selection of the design team was via competitive tender
- the design itself was not selected through comparative evaluation of three or more design schemes.

This is consistent with advice provided on other projects subject to the same guidelines in this and other jurisdictions.

Nevertheless, in our view the intent of Clause 7.10 is that it applies to buildings of scale, not public domain or small structures. We note to this end that the Director General's Design Excellence Guidelines refer specifically to buildings.

Recommendation

Given the notes above, the Government Architect does not support the need for a design competition for this site. However, given the prominence of the site, its

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significance and the broader design excellence objectives of Clause 7.10, we recommend the following:

A process of independent design review, for example through the Parramatta Design Review Panel is established to ensure the public domain scheme delivers design excellence through to completion of construction. This should include continuing review at regular intervals through documentation and construction stages of the projects, whenever a significant change is being considered (such as would require a Section 96 application) or at the request of the panel themselves.

It should be noted that the recommendations above are specific to this project. They should not be taken as a precedent for the position the GANSW may take for other projects.

Sincerely,



Olivia Hyde
Director of Design Excellence
Acting Deputy Government Architect