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Curating...Project Management...Art Commissioning...Urban Cultural Planning

Re: 10 Dangar St, Approved Public Art Proposal
WATERLINE by Artist Jade Oakley & Richard Briggs

16.04.21

To whom it may concern,

As an independent public art consultant, I confirm that over the past 14 months we have worked collaboratively with the Newcastle City Council Public Art Reference Group (PARG) to address the public art Conditions of Consent 4(a) & 4(b), for 10 Dangar St, Wickham.

During this time, over 4 meetings:

1. The developer, Multipart Property presented PublicArt Works to Council as a specialist public art consultant engaged to meet Conditions 4(a) and 4(b) (20.01.20)
2. Council's Public art reference group (PARG) endorsed the Public Art Brief prepared by myself, which sought competitive concepts from 4 nationally significant public artists, for a high quality wall sculpture, *not* a painted mural. (2.03.2020)
3. Following a presentation by the shortlisted artist, the PARG endorsed the selected artist's public art concept 'Waterline', the Chair Cr Carol Duncan describing the concept as 'remarkable'. (11.8.20)
4. Our understanding is that the PARG have accepted the rationale for making the public art focus entirely on the critical western and southern facades, and not in addition to another major public artwork elsewhere on the development, as this was deemed to be 'the critical arrival experience' (Cr John McKenzie). (11.8.20).
5. The PARG reached an informed understanding that the cost of the approved artwork concept (~169 sqm) would likely be in excess of the 1% overall cost that the developer is required to spend – backed up by a preliminary budget that was provided to the PARG by the artist. (11.8.20)
6. In response to feedback from the PARG, the artistic concept was modified following further community consultation by the artists, and presented again to Council PARG. The PARG have praised the newly introduced indigenous consultation process, and fully endorsed the modified concept (23.3.21)
7. The PARG have granted permission to the developer to proceed with design development of the accepted public art concept. (23.3.21). Cr McKenzie stated 'that he was 'thrilled with the evolution of this project' and 'we are proud to be a part of this project'.

The purpose of this letter is to provide assurance that both Conditions 4(a) and 4(b) of the original consent will be met and further that the current endorsed concept can be achieved under the pending S4.55(2)

modification request, **providing** Council are satisfied that overall there is a 1% capital expenditure on the artwork.

We cite a comparative DA for 854 Hunter St, that has no 'additional' public art expenditure requirement as in Condition 4(b) for 10 Dangar St.

Due to the milestone point achieved by the applicant, it is requested that condition 4(b) be deleted from the consent, or amended to better reflect the status of the process already undertaken with the PARG and the amended proposal.

Alternatively, the following amendment to condition 4a, in conjunction with the deletion of 4b, is sought:

Condition 4: A public art feature is to be designed for the site or surrounding area in consultation with Newcastle City Council. The public artwork is to have a minimum value of 1% of the capital cost of the development. The final details of all artworks within the site and associated costing are to be submitted to Council's Public Art Reference Group for written approval prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate, the written approval be obtained prior to commencement of above-ground works/ground level slabs and the approved artwork(s) be installed prior to the use of the first Occupation Certificate. The required public artwork shall include a mural (or similar) installation, which shall be installed on the external elevation of the ground floor of the southern and western walls (for a length of at least 50% of each wall).

This feature is to provide visual interest for pedestrians and interpret or reflect the local setting, landscape setting and/or cultural setting of the Newcastle area. The feature is to be designed to ensure long-term durability and be resistant to vandalism.

As part of this amendment, it is noted that Condition 94 will also require amendment, as suggested below:

Condition 94: The public art feature/s and murals required by conditions 4 a) ~~and 4 b)~~ are to be installed prior to the issue of the Final Occupation Certificate.

As we now launch into detailed design development of the approved artwork concept for 10 Dangar St, (currently costed at a minimum of \$580k), we wish to ensure that we are not bound to delivering a 'mural' which by definition would in my professional opinion provide for an outcome that is not in keeping with the architectural language of this beautiful building. Further, I provide my professional assurance that the cost of works will maintain a cost of, at a minimum, 1% of the total construction cost of the development.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification or verification of Multipart's public art proposal.

Kind regards



Merran Morrison

Director