



Heritage Council



of New South Wales

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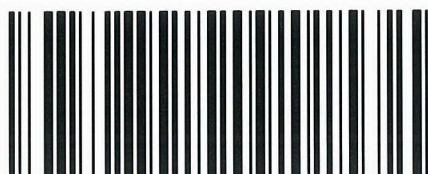
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Ms Ann-Maree Carruthers
Team Leader, Strategic Assessment
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



PCU042894

Dear Ms Carruthers

RE: North-West Rail Link – Corridor Strategy and draft Structure Plans

Reference is made to your letter, dated 21 March 2013, inviting comment on the Corridor Strategy and draft Structure Plans (prepared March 2013) for the North West Rail Link project. The draft Structure Plans outline the proposed stations at Cudgegong Road, Rouse Hill, Kellyville, Bella Vista, Norwest, Showground, Castle Hill and Cherrybrook.

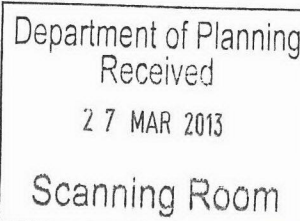
In response to the information provided, please note that the Heritage Branch is providing comment with regard to the future character and built form of the areas surrounding the North West Rail Link. I also draw your attention to our previous comments on the draft Structure Plans (dated 10 January 2013).

Please be advised that these comments do not incorporate the procedures and methodology for undertaking the construction. The Branch has addressed these issues in previous responses to the Department of Planning & Infrastructure (Major Projects Assessment) regarding the draft Environmental Impact Assessment for the project (dated 24 May and 9 November 2012).

In reviewing the Corridor Strategy and draft Structure Plans provided, it is noted that there have been no substantial modifications to the consideration of heritage sites and values since the Heritage Branch was last requested to comment (on plans prepared in October 2012).

In reviewing the draft Structure Plans provided, it is clear that heritage items currently listed on statutory heritage lists (Local Environmental Plans and the State Heritage Register) have been identified and recognised as contributory items to the character of the area.

Your attention is drawn to two inaccuracies in the heritage items identified in the plans. In the Cudgegong Road Structure Plan, Rouse Hill House and Farm is noted as being of state heritage significance. However, the plan does not identify that Rouse Hill House and Farm is listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR No. 002) under the *NSW Heritage Act 1977*. It is recommended that the inclusion of the Rouse Hill House and Farm on the State Heritage Register be identified in the Structure Plan.



It should also be noted that, in the Rouse Hill Structure Plan, the Mean Fiddler Hotel is listed on the State Heritage Register as the Royal Oak Inn (former) (SHR No. 698). Currently the Structure Plan identifies this item as one of "several general heritage items". It is recommended that the inclusion of the Royal Oak Inn on the State Heritage Register be identified in the Structure Plan.

Although the statutorily listed heritage items have been identified in the draft plans, it is recommended that consideration be given to other heritage items that have been identified but are not currently listed—such as sites identified in heritage studies, listed on the National Trust Register or the Australian Institute of Architects Register. Although these are not statutory lists, they do contain heritage items that are deemed to be important to the community and these would, in turn, contribute to the character and built form of the areas surrounding the development.

It is also worthy to note that the information within the draft plans are based on Local Environmental Plans that are somewhat dated. Blacktown Council's LEP is from 1988 and Hornsby Shire Council's LEP is from 1994. The Hills LEP is the only current document, having been gazetted in 2012. With the earlier LEPs, it is likely that sites have been identified but not yet added to the statutory list. It is recommended that the councils be consulted and consideration given to unlisted but significant heritage items.


Thorough community consultation is also recommended to ascertain the listed or unlisted heritage sites and historic character that is considered significant within the community. It is also recommended that local historical societies and Aboriginal groups be consulted.

In reviewing the plans provided, it was noted that there are sections of the North West Rail Link that have not been studied. It is assumed that this is because the track will run underground through these areas. If this is an incorrect assumption, it is recommended that additional Structure Plans be undertaken to cover the full extent of the North West Rail Link project.

The Heritage Branch appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on the project and would be happy to review any further documentation that may address any likely heritage impacts.

If you have any further enquiries regarding this matter, please contact Lucy Moore, Heritage Officer, on (02) 9873 8535.

Yours sincerely



26/03/2013

Vincent Sicari
Manager – Conservation Team
Heritage Branch
Office of Environment & Heritage
Department of Premier and Cabinet

As Delegate of the NSW Heritage Council