

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES

12 August 2021

David Wheeler
Project Director
School Infrastructure NSW

Via email –
david.wheeler26@det.nsw.edu.au

PROJECT: Hastings Secondary College upgrade
RE: SDRP SESSION 02 - 4th August 2021

Dear David,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above project. Please find below a summary of advice and recommendations arising from the design review session held on Wednesday 4th August 2021.

GANSW acknowledges that the scope of the project provides limited opportunity for architectural intervention; the CAPA and PCYC are the only new buildings proposed on campus, and the rest of the interventions are limited to interstitial spaces and the refurbishment of existing buildings. Notwithstanding the limited scope, the design team's presentation is commended, particularly the indigenous cultural components, which have enabled a re-imagining of the project's potential since SDRP01.

The following elements of the design approach are supported:

- The inclusion of a First Nations consultant on the design team, and the engagement with Traditional Custodians and with the Birpai Hastings community.
- The landscape response to Country through planting, the interwoven pathways and the dichotomy of the hinterland and coastal campus motifs, which has provided the opportunity to deepen the school's connection with its particular coastal place.
- The creation of teaching opportunities within the landscape, including the use of Totems, the Yarning Circle, endemic species and the Bush Tucker Garden.
- Reducing the scale of the entry canopy, which has created an expanded landscape setting for the school entry and increased tree canopy opportunity.
- The architectural response and courtyard typology, which is a well considered response to the existing campus, and which will also help to mitigate prevalent wind conditions.

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The following commentary provides advice and recommendations for the project:

Connection with Country

As noted above, the inclusion of a First Nations consultant on the design team, and the engagement with Traditional Custodians and with the Birpai Hastings community is positive.

1. Provide opportunities to share and pass on this knowledge and stories with the school to reinforce the school's strengths and inform its pedagogical approach.
2. It is acknowledged that pathways have been named after influential elders as part of the landscape strategy and as a direction from consultation with local Aboriginal elders. This was considered worthy of further interrogation, as places are traditionally named after Country rather than individuals.
3. Opportunities to embed Country in the landscape have deepened the place based identity for the school, and a commitment to further develop these strategies is recommended.
4. There is opportunity to embed Country within the architectural approach. Consider materiality, texture, colour, detail of building envelopes and circulation.
5. Refer to the draft Connecting with Country framework on the GANSW website.

Masterplan & Landscape

6. Maximise opportunities to pursue a more ambitious canopy cover, which feels underprovided, to increase the site's specific ecology and habitat zones and to reach or exceed the 40% tree canopy target. Consider opportunities provided by remnant spaces, such as the bicycle storage adjacent to building A, or the edges of the active play spaces and new courtyard. It is recommended that opportunities to promote increased tree canopy for areas beyond the immediate project scope, including the edges of the playing fields also be pursued in discussions with SINSW.
7. Acknowledging the presence of koalas on site and in the surrounding area, provide an informed and considered approach to preserving and enhancing koala habitat within the campus.
8. Consider all layers of the specific ecological structure in the whole of site landscape approach, including groundcover, the understorey and shrub layers as well as the canopy.
9. Provide site sections to illustrate detail of the built form and how this relates to the topography and character of these interfaces, including façade operability and materiality.

Built form

10. The introduction of the undulating timber soffit to the entry canopy provides a more informal presentation to Owen Street. It is recommended that this option be progressed if possible as the design develops.
11. Demonstrate how the extensive circular west facing aperture on the PCYC relates to place, in particular micro climate, thermal comfort and glare, and how it is envisaged

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to be protected from western sun. Sole reliance on high performance tinting or glazing is to be avoided.

Sustainability

12. Provide detail and sections through new and refurbished built form to demonstrate how passive design strategies will contribute to the 4 star Greenstar target and ensure that access to natural light and ventilation are provided and maximised for all internal spaces.

Please contact GANSW Design Advisor, Liz Bowra (elizabeth.bowra@planning.nsw.gov.au), if you have any queries regarding this advice.

Sincerely,



Rory Toomey
Chair, SDRP

Distribution:

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