CONSTRAINTS ARISING OUT OF THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Above ground remains of cultural and aesthetic significance are not effected by this excavation.

Below ground remains are to be subject to archaeological investigation and supervision, as outlined in the Varman report of 29 November 2000. Recent excavations at No 16 Hickson Road suggest that it is unlikely that anything of significance will be found during the proposed excavation.

HISTORICAL OUTLINE

The 1998 Architectural Projects Pty Ltd report was used to cull out direct historical references to the study site. Tim McCormick’s ‘First Views of Australia 1788 - 1825’, David Ell Press, 1987, was used for pictorial evidence regarding the early phasing of the site.

Pre-1788

Aboriginal occupation relating to the Cadigal and Eora tribal groups by the beginning of European occupation. The general area would have been used for hunting, fishing and shelter.

1788 - 1802

This period overlaps with the Aboriginal occupation and could be referred to as a period of ‘Contact’. A Contact deposit may contain the remains of items traded with Europeans and traditional tools made from broken glass or ceramics instead of stone. An anonymous sketch dated to 1793/1794 shows the study area as part of scrub land with Aborigines in the foreground. Many of the surviving illustrations of Sydney up to the 1820s show Aborigines standing with spears in groups along the shores of Sydney Cove or fishing from their canoes.

This period saw some minor building (huts) and waterfront activities in the general area. The area was transformed when Robert Campbell began building his wharves and store between 1801 and 1803 on land first leased to Captain Waterhouse (See Grimes’ Plan of Sydney, 1800).

1803 - 1876

This period is dominated by Campbell’s wharf, warehouses and maritime activities, starting with Campbell’s first construction period between 1801
and 1803. An 1802 drawing of the Campbell’s wharf area shows the first part of the storehouse (present north end) without a roof. Other illustrations show that the storehouse was expanded southwards by 1804 and again by 1808. A view published in 1821 but based on a sketch of around 1815 - 1817 shows the warehouses much as they are today apart from the upper storey. These illustrations provide glimpses of the study site. The 1815-1817 view shows rising scrub land above a series of skillion sheds. The warehouses and facilities were extended as late as 1859-1861, testimony to continued, intensive waterfront activities. No evidence has emerged that the study area was ever built upon.

Campbell’s Wharf facilities were sold in 1876 to the Australian Steam Navigation Company but the wharfage site remained intact until the years 1879 to 1884.

1877 - 1912

The study area remained a vacant lot, apart from a few scattered sheds. Between 1908 and 1912, 68 to 76 George Street was excavated down to the level of the present Hickson Road. The original contour of the land was obliterated at this time, destroying any archaeological potential on the George Street side of the study area. At the end of this phase, the north half of the Metcalfe Stores building was begun (68-76 George Street).

1913 - 2001

The north half of the Metcalfe Stores building was completed in 1913. The building has not changed much in appearance since its completion. The ground floor of the structure is now used as a parking area, so it is likely that the floor has been renewed at least once since 1913.
PROPOSED WORKS

It is proposed to run a cable through the north wall of the Metcalfe Stores building from the 16 Hickson Road Substation. The laying of the new cable in the Metcalfe Stores building car park will involve constructing:

1. A trench 15 metres long, 2000mm wide and 1000mm deep.

2. A square pit at the east end of the trench, 2300mm by 2300mm and 2000mm deep.

Based on the excavation of 16 Hickson Road, it is expected that below the present surface of the carpark floor there will be a layer of sandstone rubble or building rubble fill from the construction period. Below the fill, at a depth of between 250mm and 550mm under the floor surface, bedrock should be encountered.

IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED WORKS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The excavation should have negligible impact on the archaeological resource.

The George Street half of the site was previously quarried away to the Hickson Road level, thus it is unlikely that any significant deposits or features survive there. Bedrock should be found between 250mm and 550mm below the present surface.

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY OF THE PROPOSED EXCAVATION WORKS

The same research design is proposed as outlined in the Varman report of 29 November 2000.

The proposed trench and pit will be dealt with as follows under the strict guidance of the excavation director:

1. The operator of the excavating machine is to be briefed on the significance of the site and the methods used to deal with it. The operator will be under the direct supervision of the excavation director.

2. Removal of the fill should be done using a five ton excavator with a small scoop without teeth, starting at the west end and progressing eastward.
3. The fill should be removed in spits of about 150mm levels at a time. Cultural deposits and former structural remains should be found at this stage if they exist.

4. Uncovered features are to be recorded by photograph or measured drawing and samples taken. The excavation director may require the excavator to stop until evaluation and/or recording can be completed.

5. All fill is to be scraped down to bedrock and the bedrock to be examined for former surfaces.

6. Any feature of high significance, not already noted, should be referred to the Heritage Branch and all work on the archaeological site should cease.

7. All relics and samples are to be processed and bagged according to area and depth and accounted for in a catalogue. All findings are to be presented in a report.

Any evidence of Aboriginal occupation should be reported immediately to the National Parks and Wildlife Service. All work should stop until the site is cleared by the Service.
LOCATION OF PROPOSED EXCAVATION (HATCHED AREA)

METCALFE STORES BUILDING

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

TRENCH
15 METERS LONG
2 METERS WIDE
1 METERS DEEP

NOTE: TRENCH RL 890 BELOW EXISTING FLOOR LEVEL
EXCAVATION RL 1000 BELOW EXISTING FLOOR LEVEL

PIT
2.3 METERS LF 2.3 METERS
4.2 METERS DEEP

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