

Local Planning Panel

3 September 2025

Application details

Address: 1 Shakespeare Place, Sydney

Application: D/2024/868

Applicant: Property and Development NSW

Owner: The Council of the City of Sydney, The State of
NSW, Transport for NSW and Trustees of Royal
Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust

Architect: Jane Irwin Landscape Architecture

Proposal

Upgrade of existing northern and western forecourts surrounding the NSW State Library including:

- increase in size of northern forecourt
- road realignment of Shakespeare Place
- upgrades to eastern service area adjoining Hospital Road, and
- to allow events for up to 1,500 people

Recommendation

Approval subject to conditions

Proposal



Photomontage - proposed northern forecourt and road realignment



Photomontage - proposed northern forecourt



Photomontage - proposed western forecourt

Reason reported to LPP

The application is reported to the LPP for determination as part of the site is owned by Council

Notification

- 2,378 owners and occupiers notified
- 12 submissions received

Submissions

- construction noise and detours
- high cost of works/misuse of government funding
- unnecessary increase in public space
- traffic impacts from reduction of traffic lanes
- amenity impacts from large events and event management
- impacts to local businesses

Submissions

- unacceptable canopy cover
- impacts of facade lighting on surrounding residential uses
- impacts of proposed kiosk in western forecourt
- screening of car park on eastern frontage
- truth telling and retention of colonial statues
- consideration of plant hygiene and biosecurity processes to protect the Botanic Gardens
- changes in property boundaries, land ownership and management

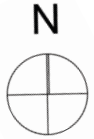
Submissions



subject site

submitters

Site





northern frontage of the Mitchell Library and Shakespeare Place



northern frontage of the Mitchell library and public forecourt



western frontage of Mitchell Library to Macquarie Street and adjacent public forecourt



eastern frontage of the Mitchell Library and Hospital Road

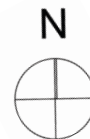
CITY OF SYDNEY



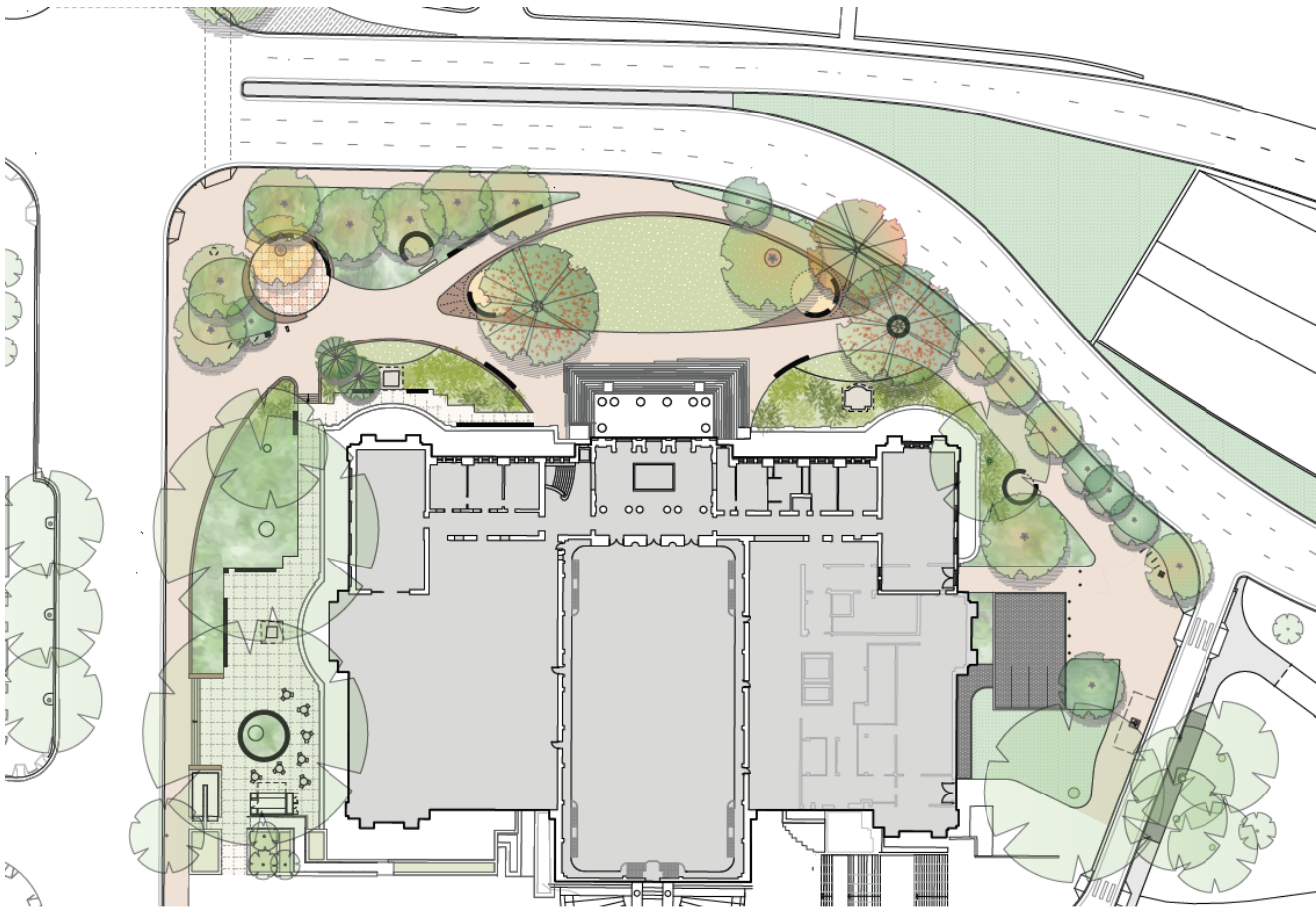
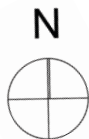
proposed tree removal and existing kerb line



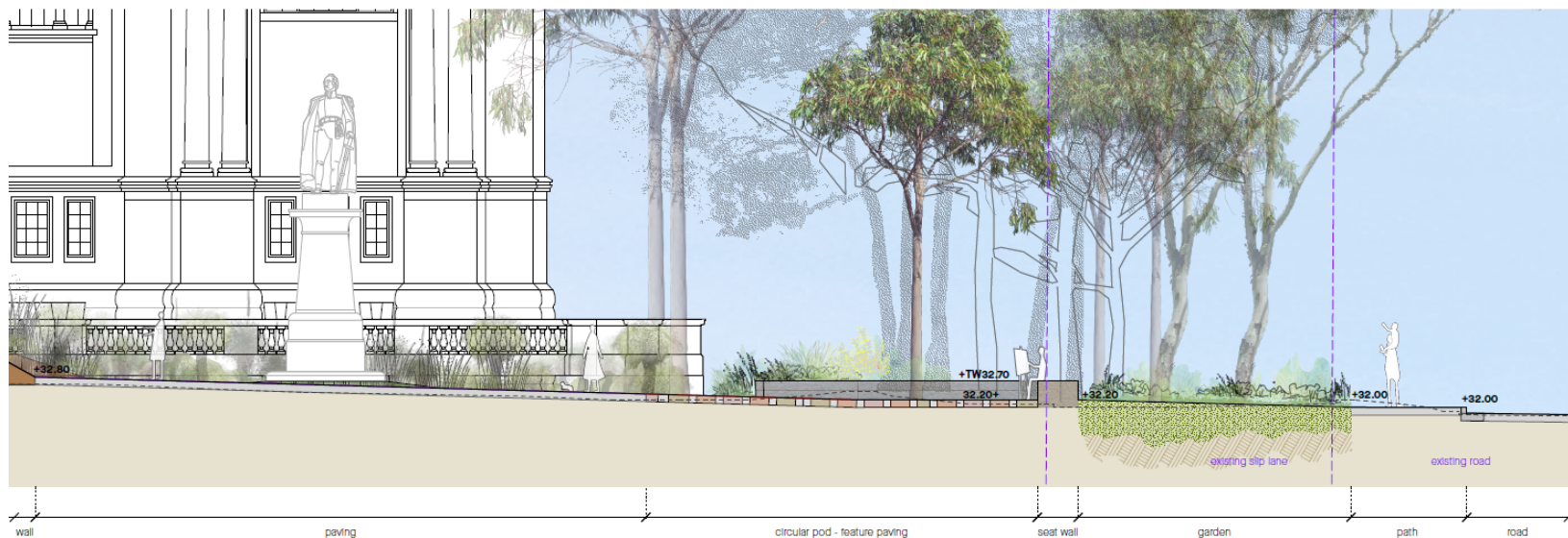
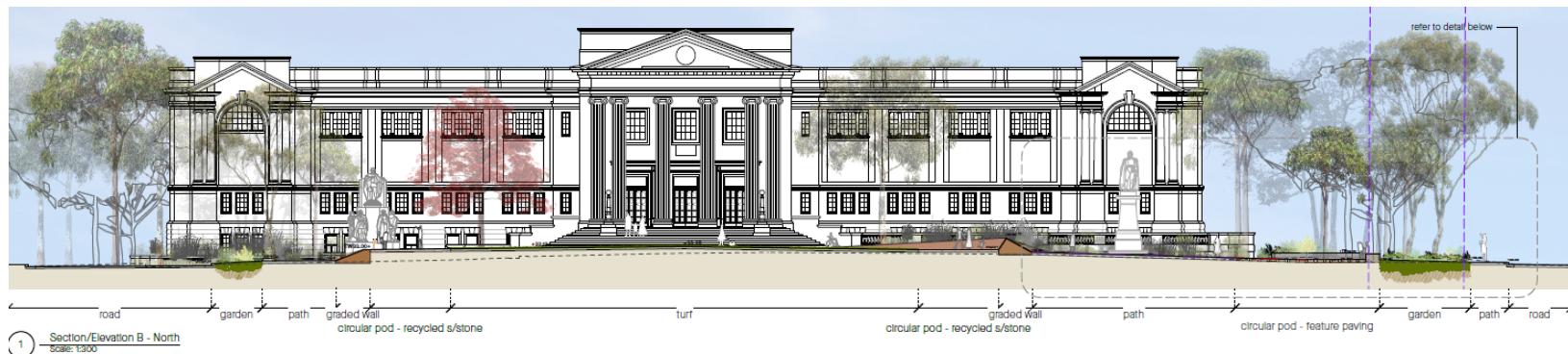
- 1 Existing island removed - decreases the amount of required crossings for pedestrians
- 2 Removing the existing Plane tree can be offset with ample opportunities for replacement tree planting in the project
- 3 Traffic signals are relocated
- 4 Pedestrian crossing is relocated and shortened, improving road safety
- 5 The removal of the slip lane from Macquarie St provides an additional 210m² of public space
- 6 A reduction in eastbound lanes to 2 reduces the emphasis on private vehicles as a priority, and encourages more sustainable mode share
- 7 A reduction in westbound lanes to 3 reduces the emphasis on private vehicles as a priority, and encourages more sustainable mode share. Proposed speed limit reduction to 40km/h (30km in the long term)
- 8 Removal of the possibility of unsafe U-turn movement, provisions for emergency vehicles to be considered
- 9 Re-alignment of the road creates an additional 1730m² of Public Space
- 10 Planted median
- 11 This option will require an extension of the existing northern crossing of Macquarie St at Bent St



proposed road realignment



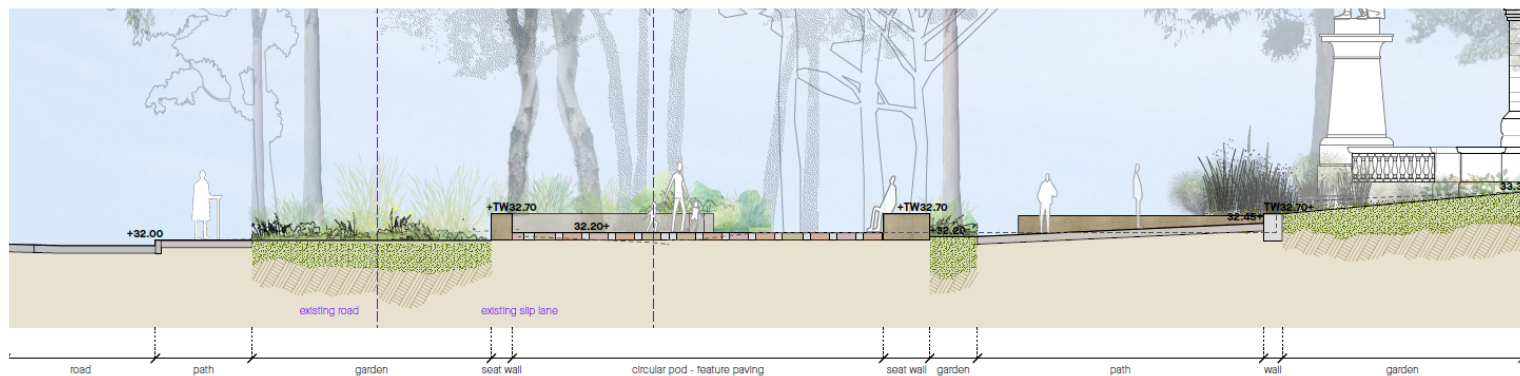
proposed landscaping



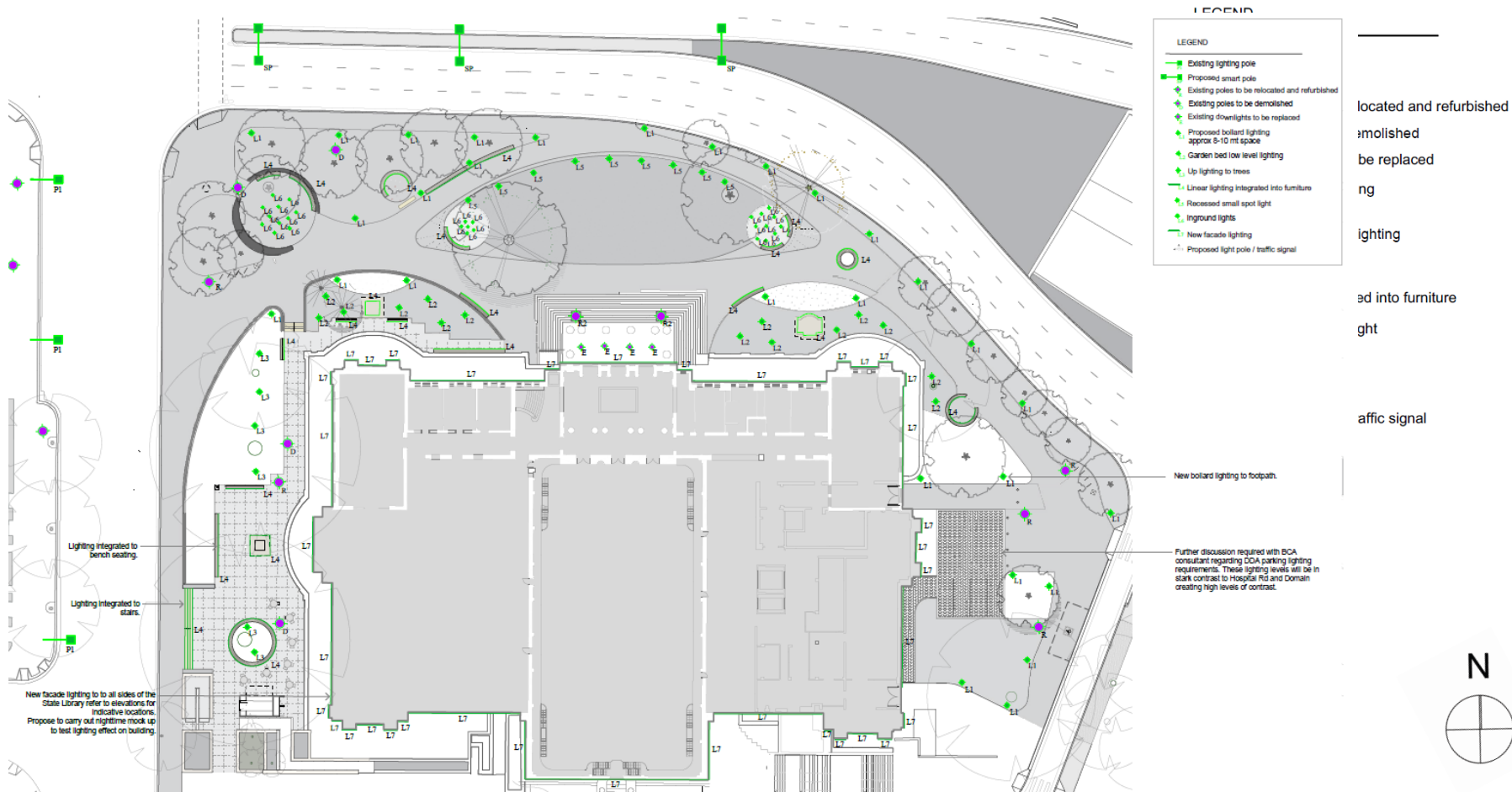
proposed northern elevation and detail



1 Section/Elevation A - West
Scale: 1:250



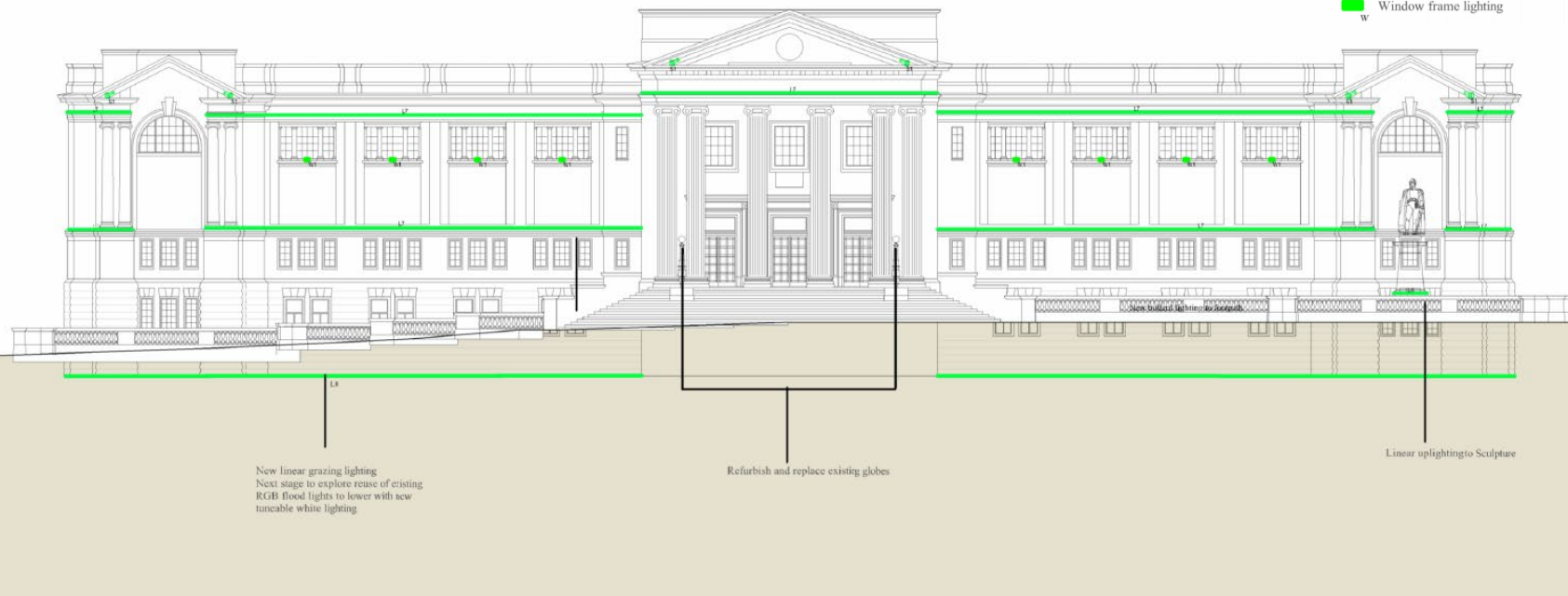
proposed western elevation and detail



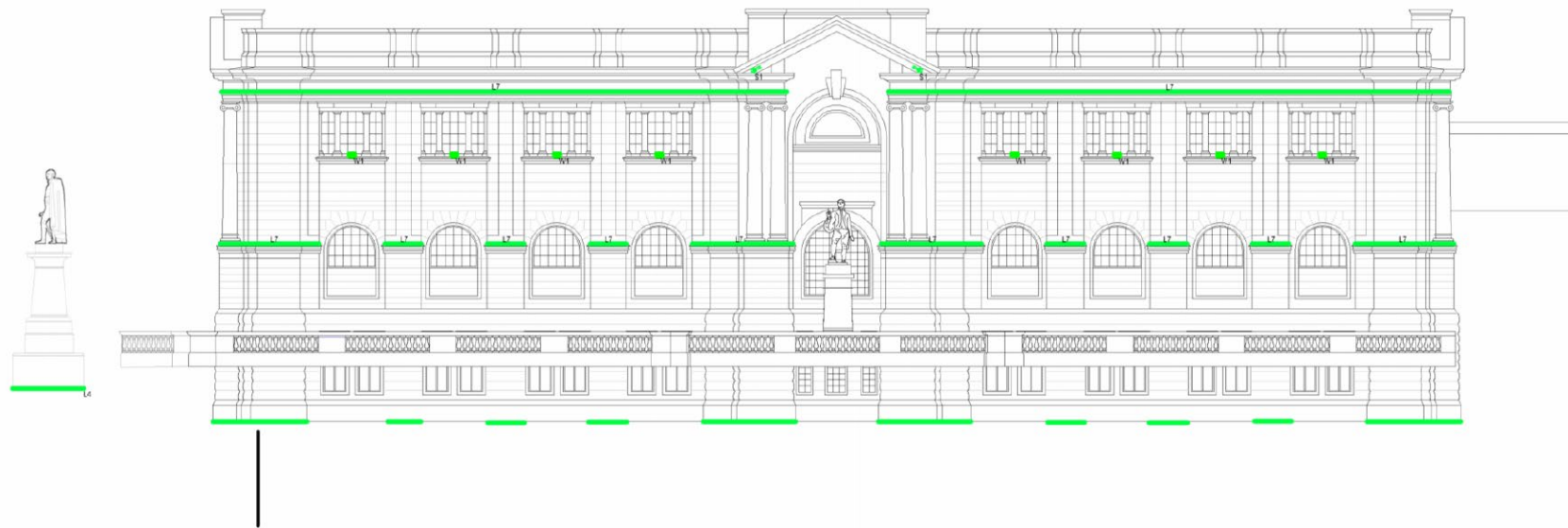
proposed landscape and building lighting

LEGEND

-  Adjustable spot lights
-  Linear lighting integrated into furniture
-  Tunable white facade lighting
-  Linear grazing lighting
-  Window frame lighting



proposed northern elevation building lighting



New linear grazing lighting
 Next stage to explore reuse of existing
 RGB flood lights to lower with new
 tunable white lighting

proposed western elevation building lighting



Photomontage - proposed northern perspective

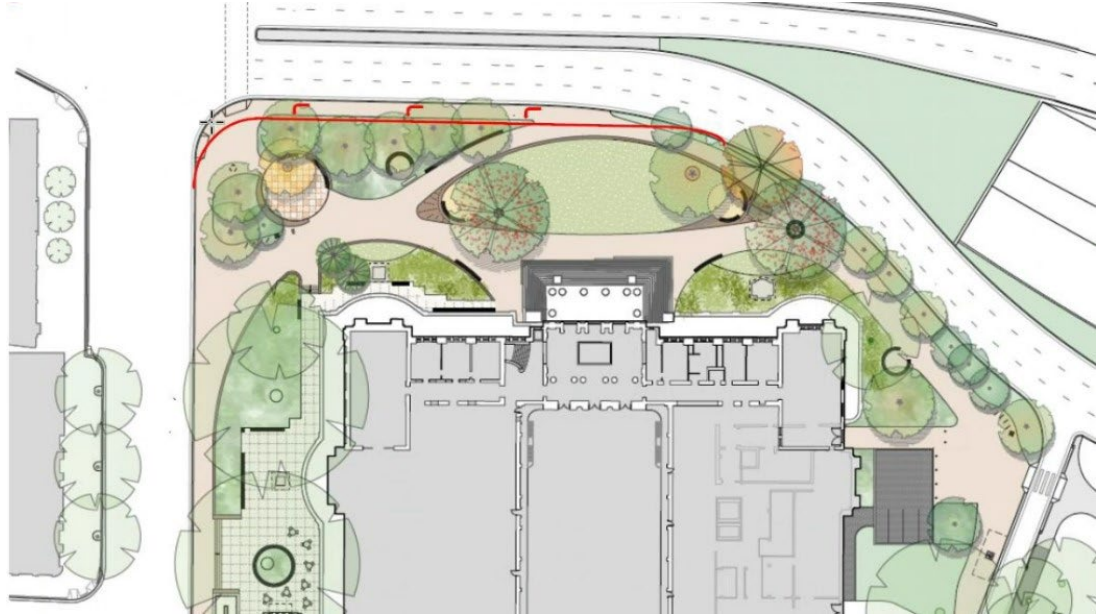
Compliance with key controls

- Heritage Act 1977 – state heritage item – General Terms of Approval issued
- Roads Act 1993 – major road realignment – General Terms of Approval issued
- SLEP 2012 – No impact on Sun Access Plane
- SDCP 2012 – consistent with requirements for public domain, CPTED and urban ecology

Issues

- Road design
- Heritage
- Events

Road design



- Transport for NSW support proposed realignment subject to amendments
- forecasting indicates additional lanes will be required to support expected traffic flow

Road design

- Bent Street removal of right turn lane onto Macquarie Street
- increase in width of footpath of Bent Street
- introduction of dedicated westbound left turn lane from Shakespeare Place onto Macquarie Street
- recommended amendments supported
- minor amendment to size of northern forecourt, slight scale reduction
- improved pedestrian footpath on Bent Street

Heritage

- The State Library of NSW (SLEP item no. I1950 and SHR 01071) - state significance
- The Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain (SLEP item no. I1653 and SHR 01070) - state significance
- St James Railway Station Group (SHR 01248) - state significance
- Shakespeare Place (SLEP item no. I1949) - local significance
- Governor's Domain and Civic Precinct - national significance

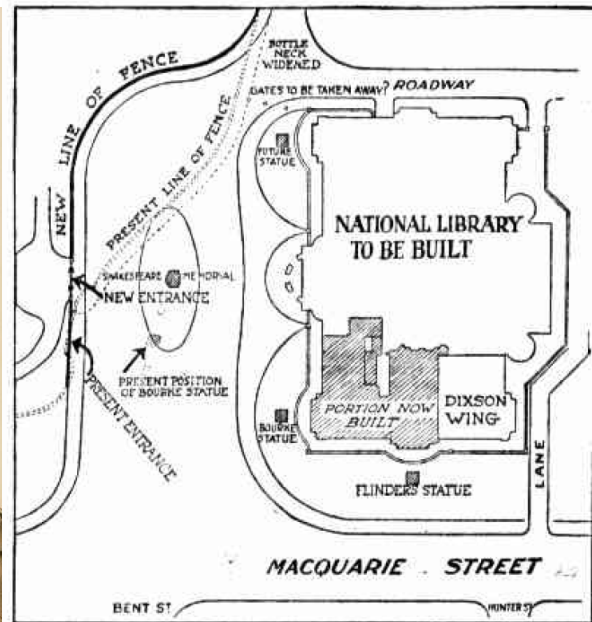
Heritage

- varying degrees of positive and negative impacts on curtilages, setting, landscape, views and vistas
- impacts on national listing deemed acceptable
- General Terms of Approval issued for state-listed items
- most significant impact on Shakespeare Place
- construction of Cahill Expressway created significant detrimental impacts on setting of Shakespeare memorial statue
- relocation of statue removes it from approximate original location but improves views and public appreciation of statue
- opportunities for interpretation around new location of statue for education



Images of the Shakespeare Memorial 1912-1926 by Bertram Mackennal circa 1927 - Art Gallery of NSW

THE GATES OF LEARNING



The National Library front and the entrance to the Domain and Botanic Gardens as they will be, according to the plan drawn by the Government architect. The shaded portion shows the existing Mitchell Library building. This with the Dixon wing to be added to it, will eventually form a wing of the National Library. The Botanic Garden fence will be set back as shown on the plan, and the "bottle neck" entrance to the Domain widened. The main entrance to the National Library will be just opposite the Shakespeare statue.



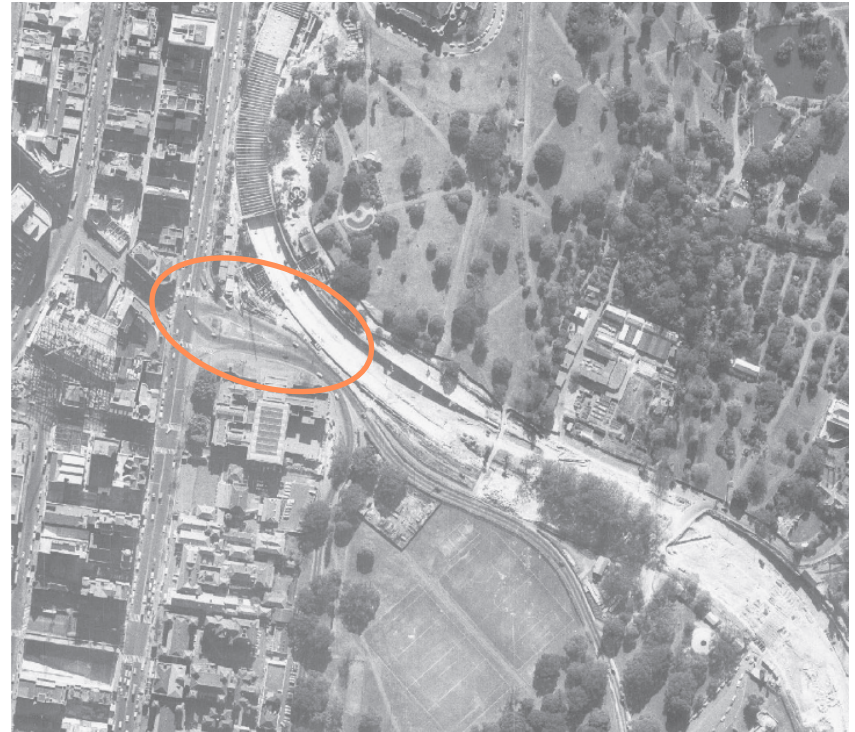
Shakespeare Place, Image by Max Dupain



Cahill Expressway construction, repositioning Shakespeare Memorial Sculpture, Sydney, 1962, City of Sydney Archives



aerial photograph 1934-1951



aerial photograph 1960



Relocation of Shakespeare memorial statue

Events

Application seeks consent for:

- Regular events
 - 52 occasions per year
 - 7.00am to 10.00pm
- Special events
 - 6 occasions per year
 - 7.00am to 12.00 midnight
- Maximum capacity 1,500 people

Events

Event Management Plan addresses:

- bump-in and bump-out requirements
- location of temporary sanitary facilities
- compliance with acoustic report recommendations
- consultation with stakeholders and coordination with Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust

Events

- site capable of supporting events
- hours consistent with recommendations of SDCP 2012
- 5-year time-limited consent recommended for events - consistent with consent granted for events in The Domain

Recommendation

Approval subject to conditions