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Department approves retention of heritage building

The Department of Planning has approved a modification on the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Ku-ring-gai site to retain the 3,800 square metre gymnasium building for possible education uses.

Department Deputy Director-General Tom Gellibrand said UTS had requested the modification to the site's approved concept plan.

This modification sought to retain the gymnasium building, which was previously approved to be demolished.

Mr Gellibrand said the gymnasium's retention would have a positive impact on maintaining the overall heritage significance of the site.

"The Department will now be amending the relevant planning instrument for the site to extend its heritage area to include the gymnasium," he said.

"The gymnasium could be used for high-school education uses – which will be a boost for the site – however negotiations are ongoing."

The modification, which was publicly-exhibited, also included reconfiguring the layout of some precincts at the site following the retention of the gymnasium.

The concept plan approved in 2008 supported the redevelopment of the site for residential purposes, along with continued education and commercial uses and dedication of open space and conservation land.

Further details are available in the Department's assessment report available at <http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au/files/53261/Assessment%20Report%20for%20UTS%20Campus%20Redevelopment%20Modification%20No.2.pdf>

Media unit contact: Mark Skelsey 9228 6275 (0439) 931 098