Resolution brokered on construction work for College of Fine Arts redevelopment

The NSW Department of Planning has helped resolve the issue of construction traffic access to the University of NSW’s College of Fine Arts (CoFA) in Paddington, paving the way for the $33 million redevelopment of the campus.

UNSW has told the Department that construction vehicles will now predominantly use Greens Road, as requested by the local community, rather than the much narrower Selwyn Street.

In March, UNSW lodged a modification with the Department of Planning, including for the approval role of its Construction Traffic Management Plan to be transferred from City of Sydney Council to the Department of Planning.

Department Development Assessment Deputy Director-General Richard Pearson said the Department was legally bound to consider this modification, which was publicly-notified on the Department’s website.

“Following a great deal of consultation between the Department of Planning, the University, Council and the local community, an agreement has been reached between all parties that Greens Road will be the main thoroughfare for construction traffic,” he said.

“This agreement will substantially reduce potential amenity impacts on local residents and, at the same time, will not unreasonably restrict the University from carrying out the much-needed redevelopment of the campus.”

Mr Pearson said the Department, in determining the modification, had not supported the proposed amendment to transfer approval of the Construction Traffic Management Plan to the Department.

“The council will remain the approval authority for the Construction Traffic Management Plan,” he said.

“However, to ensure that there is an avenue to resolve any further disputes, a condition has been placed on the approval that if agreement is not reached between the UNSW and council, the proponent can refer the issue to the Director-General of Planning.”

It is expected that the Construction Traffic Management Plan will now be re-lodged with the council, with Greens Rd as the primary construction route.


Media unit contact: Mark Skelsey (02) 9228 6275 or 0439 931 098