Sandstone Precinct concept plan approved

The Department of Planning and Environment has approved a concept plan for a new hotel and tourist services in the Sandstone Precinct near Circular Quay.

The Sandstone Precinct comprises the adjacent Lands and Education Buildings on Bridge St, Sydney.

The Stage 1 Concept Plan includes:

- use of the buildings for predominantly hotel accommodation,
- concept approval for a three storey addition on top of the Education Building,
- a potential link between the two buildings under Loftus Street, and
- potential hotel-related support services under the buildings, and under Farrer Place and Gresham Street.

Government Property NSW, which owns the properties, is undertaking an Expression of Interest process for the leasing and potential development of the sites.

A spokesperson for the Department of Planning and Environment said the successful applicant in this process would then be able to submit a Stage 2 detailed development application for the proposal.

“The preservation of the heritage of the precinct was a key consideration of the Department’s assessment of the concept plan,” the spokesperson said.

“The assessment found the proposal will boost the buildings' longevity and allow the ongoing use of the buildings consistent with conservation and heritage plans endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council.

“In addition, the future addition on top of the Education Building will be further explored in the Stage 2 application to ensure it is compatible with the heritage significance of the area.

“The conditions of approval also require the establishment of a Design Review Panel, comprising a minimum of three independent design experts, to guide the detailed design of the project prior to the lodgement of the Stage 2 application,” the spokesperson said.

The Environmental Impact Statement for the application was exhibited from December 2014 to early February and there were 26 public and agency submissions. Those submissions related to issues like potential heritage and archaeological impacts and the built form and have been incorporated into the conditions of approval.

For more information, visit: majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au

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