



## COMMISSION APPROVES COLLEGE'S MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

27 August 2019

A prestigious Sydney college has received conditional approval for a multi-million-dollar makeover of its library to reflect the institution's Scottish heritage.

The Scots College at Bellevue Hill, in Sydney's east, lodged a State Significant Development (SSD) application to transform the "neo-brutalist, monolithic and solid mass" of its existing Stevenson Library Building into a Scottish Baronial architectural style to represent its cultural roots.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment referred the matter to the Independent Planning Commission for determination amid community opposition.

A Panel of three Commissioners, comprising Dr Peter Williams (Panel Chair), Carol Austin and Soo-Tee Cheong, was appointed to consider the application and make a determination.

The Commissioners met with the Applicant, Department and Woollahra Municipal Council and conducted an inspection of the site and surrounding area.

They also held a public meeting to listen to the community's concerns about the proposed \$28.86-million renovations to the Stevenson Library, which centred around student numbers, built form, associated view loss and traffic impacts.

After carefully considering all the evidence and weighing the public interest, the Commission has today (Tuesday 27 August 2019) determined to approve the SSD application, subject to conditions.

In its Statement of Reasons for Decision, the Commission found:

- whilst there are existing issues associated with operational traffic and parking, the Application is unlikely to result in an increase in operational traffic or parking
- the construction traffic impacts associated with the Application can be managed and/or mitigated to an acceptable level with the implementation of the recommended conditions of consent
- the Application does not seek or allow for an increase in student or staff numbers
- the Application will provide for a more accessible and improved learning facilities within The Scots College

.../2

- the Application will provide for up to 418 construction jobs, and
- the Application is generally consistent with the planning priorities set out in the Greater Sydney Region Plan and Eastern City District Plan

The Commission concluded the Application is in the public interest because “it will allow for the provision of improved learning facilities... update an existing educational facility allowing it to become more accessible and inclusive... (and) generate up to 418 construction jobs.”

**The Commission’s Statement of Reasons for Decision can be read in full here:**

<https://www.ipcn.nsw.gov.au/projects/2019/05/stevenson-library-building-the-scots-college>

***Disclaimer***

*This media statement has been prepared by the Commission’s media unit for general information only. It does not form part of the Commission’s Statement of Reasons for Decision, and should not be read as part of, or as a substitute for, that Statement of Reasons for Decision.*