26 July 2012

Mr Cameron Sargent
Team Leader
Metropolitan and Regional Projects North
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

ATTN: KATE MACDONALD

Dear Mr Sargent

RE: MP 10_0171, Mixed Use, Residential, Retail and Commercial Development – 330 Church Street, Parramatta

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I provide this letter as a submission on behalf of Australia ICOMOS.

ICOMOS – the International Council for Monuments and Sites – is a non-government professional organisation that promotes expertise in the conservation of cultural heritage. ICOMOS is also an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee under the World Heritage Convention. Australia ICOMOS, formed in 1976, is one of over 100 national committees throughout the world. Australia ICOMOS has over 500 members in a range of heritage professions. We have expert members on a large number of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, as well as on expert committees and boards in Australia. We have a particular interest in Australia’s world heritage sites.

We have previously expressed a concern that there have been insufficient assessments of visual and heritage impacts for the proponent to make an assertion that the visual impacts will not have a significant impact. While we note the recent decision by the Commonwealth Environment Minister, no further assessments have been undertaken and our concern remains unchanged. This is particularly so in the context of the 2010 ICOMOS assessment report for the Australian Convict Sites, which specifically referred to landscape contexts and the threat from potential development in peripheral areas.

We reiterate that there are best-practice heritage policies and processes that should be applied to identify possible impacts on heritage values. Without the application of such investigations, we believe that the current proposal continues to present a significant challenge to our World Heritage and Australian National Heritage, and for New South Wales, and this development should not proceed without the surety of the outcomes of such assessments.
We further understand that there is a proposal to establish a strategic plan for development in Parramatta. Australia ICOMOS would welcome the opportunity to provide input to such a plan.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

DR JANE HARRINGTON
President