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10-12 Redmyre Road  
Strathfield NSW 2135

To whom it may concern,

## **HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT FOR REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS - MERIDEN SENIOR CAMPUS**

This Heritage Impact Statement (HIS) has been prepared to accompany a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for and on behalf of Meriden Anglican School (the School). This HIS has been prepared to assess the potential heritage impacts of the proposed installation of new fire doors to select building with the Meriden Senior School Campus.

### **SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

Meriden School is located across three campuses in Strathfield. The campus which is the subject of this REF involves the Senior School Campus which is located at 10-28 Redmyre Road, Strathfield. The legal description of the Senior School Campus is Lot 101 of DP 862040. The proposed REF works are located in the Administration Building, the Sport Centre and the Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama.



Figure 1 – Aerial of Senior School Campus outlined in red and the location of works outlined in blue.

Source: Near Map, December 2021 with Urbis overlay

The Administration Building (also known as the Ethel B. Wallis Building) is a single storey rectangular brick building with a gabled roof. Originally constructed in 1954 to a design by architects Peddle Thorpe and Walker, the building was converted from its original use as a gymnasium in 2013-2015 and currently services and a two floor Administration Building. The fire doors that are subject to change within this building are located on the southern elevation of the building. The existing fire doors are both glazed doors set within metal framing and were installed during the redevelopment works in the mid 2010s.

The Sports Centre is located in the south-east centre of the campus. The building was completed in 2015 and is a three storey contemporary building with a primary frontage to Margaret Street. The first doors that are subject to change within this building are located in the north-east portion of the Sports Centre on the lower and upper ground floors.

Located in the south-west corner of the campus, the Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama was recently completed and is a four storey, with basement levels, building with a primary façade to Margaret Street. The fire door that is subject to change within this building is located within Basement Level 2 of the building. For the purposes of this REF the fire doors are referred to as Doors A to E, as pictured below.



Figure 2 – Door A, Administration Building, Lower Ground Floor  
Source: Meriden School, 2022



Figure 3 – Door B, Sports Centre, Lower Ground Floor  
Source: Meriden School, 2022



Figure 4 – Door C, Administration Building, Upper Ground Floor  
Source: Meriden School, 2022



Figure 5 – Door D, Sports Centre Ground Floor  
Source: Meriden School, 2022





Figure 6 – Door E, Sports Centre, Upper Ground Floor

Source: Meriden School, 2022

**HERITAGE CONTEXT**

The whole of Meriden Senior School (10-28 Redmyre Road) is listed as a locally significant heritage item under the *Strathfield Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012* (item no. 187). The listing description of the heritage item is ‘Meriden School’, and the heritage map (refer below) shows that the curtilage of the heritage item extended across the whole of Lot 101 in DP 862040. Therefore, the whole of the Senior Campus is considered to be the ‘heritage item’.

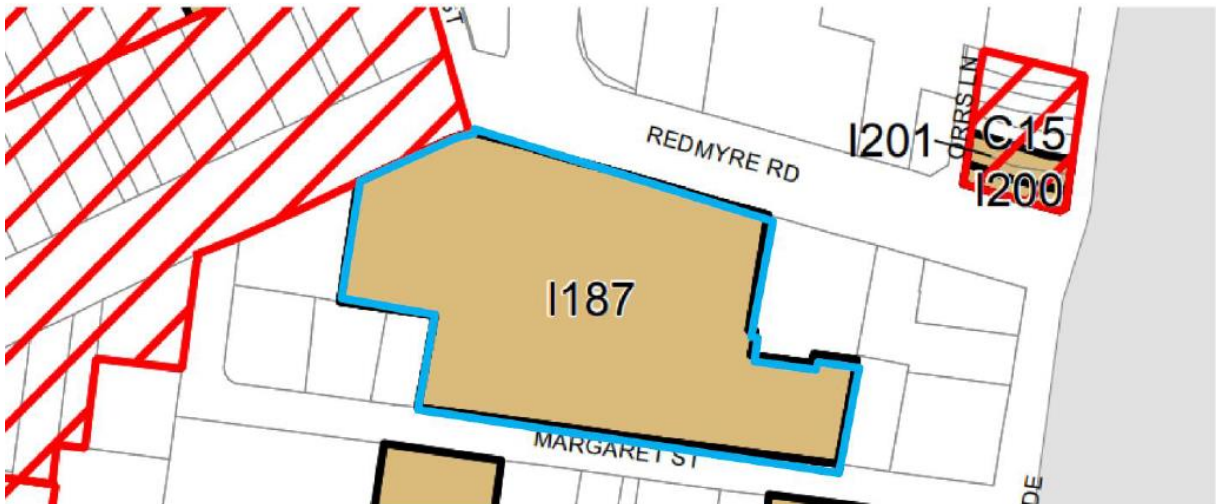


Figure 7 – Extract of heritage map with the subject site outlined in blue.

Source: *Strathfield LEP 2012, Heritage Map\_005*

Notwithstanding the listing description, the Senior Campus contains a range of buildings and landscapes from various periods. There are school administration buildings, classrooms and sporting facilities dating from various periods throughout the twentieth century.

A Heritage Assessment of the whole of the Senior Campus was undertaken by Paul Davies in 2013. Within this assessment, the existing Administration Building (Ethel B. Wallis Building) was noted as being of moderate significance to the overall campus, as follows:

*The Gymnasium is considered to be of moderate heritage significance. It is a modest example of a Peddle Thorp & Walker designed building from 1954, which remains essentially intact except for the loss of its original eastern annexe (replaced by the Pottery Room (element 9) in 2010). The building has some historical and social significance as a memorial to Ethel B Wallis. It is not however an outstanding example of the work of Peddle Thorp and Walker and is capable of some change.<sup>1</sup>*

The Heritage Assessment, did not provide individual statements of significance the other buildings that form part of this REF, including the Sports Centre and the Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama, which are all considered to be of Little or Neutral significance as “All Other Elements on the Site”:

*All other elements on the site are considered to be of Little or Neutral significance... These elements are not of aesthetic significance and are primarily utilitarian school building or tennis courts, which show no particular design excellence or historical significance.<sup>2</sup>*

None of these buildings subject to this REF are identified in the statement of significance for the site, as extracted from the NSW Heritage inventory listing for the place:

*In 1897 Mrs. Monkton established a school in her home in Agnes St. The house was called Meriden. When her husband died she moved to a small cottage in Woodward Ave, in 1907. In 1908 Miss Bertha Turner purchased the school and established it as the Meriden Private School for Girls. It was later moved to a site on The Boulevard and finally to Redmyre Road. She bought the property next door and in 1926 she returned to England and the school was purchased by Strathfield citizens headed by Mr. Maitland Brown. In 1929 it was taken over by the Church of England. The main building is a two storey symmetrical brick school that is the focal point of the vista along Raw Square. It has a slate roof, arched fanlights to ground floor windows, projecting brick bays to either end, iron gates and hedge to Redmyre Road. Meriden School is of local significance for its social and historical associations in the development of Strathfield.*

Urbis concurs with the above statements of significance, and we have had regard to this established significance in the discussion of potential heritage impact in this letter.

## **PROPOSED WORKS**

The proposed works include the installation of hold-open devices and signage to six (6) fire doors located across the Senior School Campus. These include:

- Two (2) doors in the Administration building:
  - 2 with fire door signage - Doors A and C
  - 1 with hold-open device – Door C
- Four (4) doors in Sports Centre - all with fire door signage and hold-open devices including Doors B, D and E)
- One (1) door in Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama including fire door signage and hold-open device to Door F

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<sup>1</sup> Paul Davies Pty Ltd, *Heritage Assessment, Meriden Anglican School for Girls Senior Campus* (October 2013) p. 33.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

The location of the installation of the proposed hold-open devices and fire door signage is indicated in the reference images below, as extracted from the *Consultant's Advice* provided by Omnii date 9 September 2022. Refer to this letter for further information on the proposed works.

**Senior School Campus  
Lower Ground Floor**

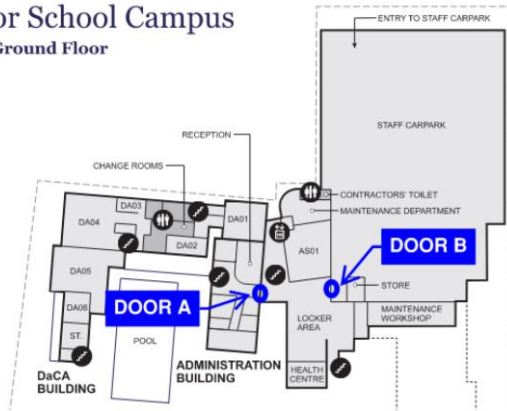


Figure 8 – Location of Doors A and B, in Administration Building and Sports Centre, respectively

Source: Omnii, September 2022

**Senior School Campus  
Ground Floor**

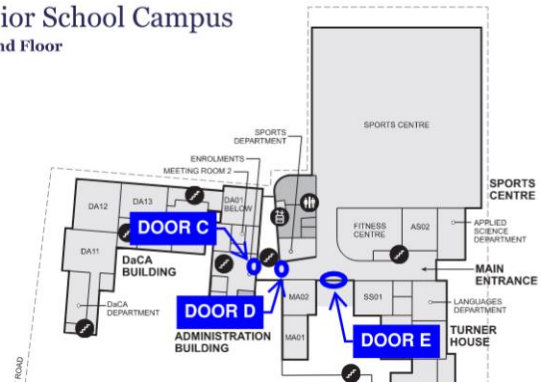


Figure 9 – Location of Doors C, D and E

Source: Omnii, September 2022

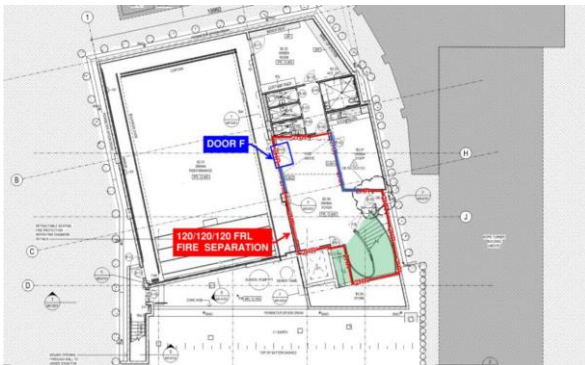


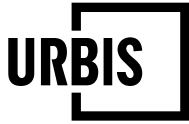
Figure 10 – Location of Door F in Basement Level 2 of Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama.

Source: Omnii, September 2022

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT

This impact assessment has had regard to the potential heritage impacts of the proposed hold-open devices and fire door signage to the Administration Building, Sports Centre and Greenhalgh Centre for Music and Drama and the significance of the listed heritage item 'Meriden School' under the *Strathfield LEP 2012*. The works are overall considered to be minor and are required to assist the school operationally to be able to hold-open the subject doors to facilitate pedestrian traffic flow between classes and to reduce wear and tear on the subject doors.

The proposed addition of hold-open devices to both the Sports Centre and Greenhalgh Centre of Music and Drama will have no impact on any significant fabric of the campus, given that both of these buildings are of recent construction, 2015 and 2022, respectively and are considered to be of Little and/or Neutral significance to the overall heritage significance of the site.



The proposed installation of the hold-open devices and fire door signage at the Administration Building too will have no heritage impact. While the building has been identified as being of Moderate significance to the site, the subject fire doors are a recent addition having been installed in 2015 at the time of the adaptive reuse of the building from gymnasium to administrative use. The installation of hold-open devices, whether their installation is to the floor or ceiling, will have no impact on any significant fabric as the existing floors and ceilings at both levels are all contemporary fabric and are considered to be of neutral significance. The proposed installation of signage to both of these doors too will have no heritage impact. The installation of the small format signage to these glazed doors will not obscure or impact upon any significant fabric.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, the proposed works are necessary and appropriate from a heritage perspective to ensure that the operational requirements of the school are met and will require no changes to any identified significant fabric of the site. The works will have no detrimental impact on the heritage significance of Meriden School and will ensure the ongoing historic use of the buildings for the school's use.

The proposed works are considered necessary, minor and acceptable, and are supported from a heritage perspective.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Keira Kucharska".

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