

Reserve Bank Head Office Building Asbestos Remediation and Refurbishment

Application Number: **02685**

Commencement Date:

Status: **Locked**

14/11/2024

1. About the project

1.1 Project details

1.1.1 Project title *

Reserve Bank Head Office Building Asbestos Remediation and Refurbishment

1.1.2 Project industry type *

Commonwealth

1.1.3 Project industry sub-type

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1.1.4 Estimated start date *

31/03/2025

1.1.4 Estimated end date *

20/12/2030

1.2 Proposed Action details

1.2.1 Provide an overview of the proposed action, including all proposed activities. *

The proposed action is primarily a response to the remediation of hazardous materials.

In summary:

- Remediation of extensive asbestos contamination through removal of all contaminated structural concrete slabs and concrete material enclosing the steel structure above Level 2.
- Remove all tower and podium façade elements (precast panels, stone cladding and aluminium reveal) affected by asbestos contamination.
- Remove all engineering services contaminated by asbestos.
- Remove the contaminated single-skin brickwork lift core walls, ensuring compliance with fire and seismic code requirements.
- Façade reconstruction – employing an improved façade system to meet contemporary building codes, sustainability requirements and which closely interprets the original ‘tartan pattern’.
- Relocate the lift and services core to the south to facilitate contemporary workplace layouts.
- Install an electrical substation (required) in the Basement.
- Retain and conserve the ground floor Banking Chamber, including original elements such as the louvered aluminium ceiling panels, the tellers’ desk and the cheque writing tables.
- Protect and conserve Bim Hilder wall enrichment and Margel Hinder sculpture at ground level.
- Reconstruct the Board Room and Governor’s Suite in their original location, including reinstatement of original finishes and elements.
- Restore the Malcolm Munro Garden on Macquarie Street.

Further details are provided in the Assessment of Likely Impacts on Commonwealth Heritage Values - at Attachment A-HIS, Section 5, pages 31- 53 and Attachment B - HIS, Section - Appendix C, page 164.

1.2.2 Is the project action part of a staged development or related to other actions or proposals in the region?

Yes

1.2.3 Is the proposed action the first stage of a staged development (or a larger project)?

Yes

1.2.5 Provide information about the staged development (or relevant larger project).

In 2018 the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA or the Bank) engaged specialist consultants to investigate the feasibility of upgrading its current premises to enable the Bank to continue to occupy the premises for the next twenty-five years, as opposed to relocating the head office to new premises. A scheme was developed that adapted the building to address statutory building requirements and upgrade of the internal spaces to meet current operational requirements and to meet contemporary levels of workplace amenity.

This work had commenced, at which time the extent of the asbestos contamination became clear. Work was halted, the extent of hazardous materials in the building was properly determined following which the Bank investigated their options in light of the new information.

After assessing a range of possible options, it was decided by the RBA to continue maintain the banking function on the site; the proposed action allows to upgrade the building to support the operations of the Bank for a longer period than originally envisaged and to ensure a safe working environment through the removal of all contaminated materials.

1.2.6 What Commonwealth or state legislation, planning frameworks or policy documents are relevant to the proposed action, and how are they relevant? *

The RBA, established under the Reserve Bank Act 1959, is a Corporate Commonwealth Entity. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), under the EPBC Act 1999, and the Public Works Committee Act 1969 (PWC) are the consent authorities for works. The DCCEEW supported the completion of the Bank's workplace refurbishment project (ref 2020/8870) in February 2021. PWC approval was granted in March 2020, and the expanded asbestos remediation and refurbishment scope was discussed and supported in April 2024.

Although the Bank operates independently of local or state authorities, it consults with them on major works impacting heritage values. The City of Sydney's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2012 lists the RBA head office as having heritage value, but the Bank is not necessarily influenced by this requirement.

In regard to construction policies, the design will meet the requirements of the National Construction Code (NCC) and all other relevant building codes and standards applicable in New South Wales (NSW).

1.2.7 Describe any public consultation that has been, is being or will be undertaken regarding the project area, including with Indigenous stakeholders. Attach any completed consultation documentations, if relevant. *

The Bank has consulted a range of stakeholders with the proposal in keeping with Commonwealth Heritage Management principles, the RBA Heritage Strategy and the policies contained in the Heritage Management Plan (HMP) prepared for the place.

A summary of the stakeholder consultation undertaken to date in developing the proposed action is included below.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works - April 2024

Outcome: The consultation meeting and site inspection confirmed that the proposed approach is supported. Regular updates have been requested at the end of each financial year.

New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment - May 2024

Outcome: No further consultation is needed, as the proposal is confirmed not to trigger the threshold for State Significant Development.

Heritage NSW, DCCEEW - June 2024

Outcome: Having reviewed the proposal, it has been confirmed by Heritage NSW that no consultation meeting is needed, as the site is not listed on the State Heritage Register.

DCCEEW - Sep + Oct + Nov 2023 June + Sept + Oct 2024

Outcome: A site inspection and numerous consultation meetings were held in late 2003 to clarify the approval process and the preparation needed for a new referral under the EPBC Act 1999.

June 2024 consultation offered general inputs for the proposal, subject to a detailed review of the referral and supporting documents to fully assess the proposal.

Draft referral document submitted in Sept 2024 to ensure the proposed development complies with heritage conservation standards and regulations.

Museums of History NSW - Jul 2024

Outcome: The Bank's proposal is acknowledged, and the commitment to preserving the building's heritage. It is confirmed that the minor increase in overshadowing of the western forecourt for 45 minutes on 22 June each year will not alter or permanently damage the World Heritage values of Hyde Park Barracks.

City of Sydney - Aug 2024

Outcome: The proposal received positive feedback for its redevelopment plans and heritage conservation approach, with suggestions to manage construction impacts with consideration of the council's Code of Practice for construction hours and noise within the CBD rules.

A 1:500 model was requested for the city model located at Town Hall House, a digital model for inclusion in the City digital model, the 2019 Head Office Building HMP and the completed DCCEEW heritage referral report.

Owners of adjoining neighbours and commercial properties - Aug 204 + ongoing

Outcomes: There is support for the proposal from those consulted to date, while awaiting responses from remaining neighbours to attend a briefing meeting.

1.3.1 Identity: Referring party

Privacy Notice:

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable.

By completing and submitting this form, you consent to the collection of all personal information contained in this form. If you are providing the personal information of other individuals in this form, please ensure you have their consent before doing so.

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) collects your personal information (as defined by the Privacy Act 1988) through this platform for the purposes of enabling the department to consider your submission and contact you in relation to your submission. If you fail to provide some or all of the personal information requested on this platform (name and email address), the department will be unable to contact you to seek further information (if required) and subsequently may impact the consideration given to your submission.

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Confirm that you have read and understand this Privacy Notice *

1.3.1.1 Is Referring party an organisation or business? *

Yes

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Referring party organisation details | |
| ABN/ACN | 16002247565 |
| Organisation name | NBRS & PARTNERS PTY LTD |
| Organisation address | 2061 NSW |
| Referring party details | |
| Name | Samantha Polkinghorne |
| Job title | Director |
| Phone | 0426252774 |
| Email | samantha@nbrs.com.au |
| Address | 4 Glen Street, Milsons Point |

1.3.2 Identity: Person proposing to take the action

1.3.2.1 Are the Person proposing to take the action details the same as the Referring party details? *

No

1.3.2.2 Is Person proposing to take the action an organisation or business? *

Yes

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Person proposing to take the action organisation details | |
| ABN/ACN | 50008559486 |

Organisation name RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA

Organisation address 2000 NSW

Person proposing to take the action details

Name Neil MacLeod

Job title Senior Project Manager

Phone +61 2 955 19152

Email macleodn@rba.gov.au

Address 65 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

1.3.2.14 Are you proposing the action as part of a Joint Venture? *

No

1.3.2.15 Are you proposing the action as part of a Trust? *

No

1.3.2.17 Describe the Person proposing the action's history of responsible environmental management including details of any proceedings under a Commonwealth, State or Territory law for the protection of the environment or the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources against the Person proposing to take the action. *

The RBA is committed to supporting and reporting on its emissions under the Australian Public Service (APS) Net Zero 2030 strategy. The 2023/2024 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory results can be found in the RBA's annual report 2024 Reserve Bank Annual Report | Part 3: Management.

1.3.2.18 If the person proposing to take the action is a corporation, provide details of the corporation's environmental policy and planning framework

The RBA is committed to improving its operations to reduce environmental impact. It aims to achieve net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, in line with the APS Net Zero 2030 strategy. The Policies align with the principles of ecologically sustainable development outlined in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999. These principles are captured in RBA's environmental policy and can be found on its website Environmental Statement | RBA

1.3.3 Identity: Proposed designated proponent

1.3.3.1 Are the Proposed designated proponent details the same as the Person proposing to take the action? *

Yes

Proposed designated proponent organisation details

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ABN/ACN | 50008559486 |
| Organisation name | RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA |
| Organisation address | 2000 NSW |

Proposed designated proponent details

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Name | Neil MacLeod |
| Job title | Senior Project Manager |
| Phone | +61 2 955 19152 |
| Email | macleodn@rba.gov.au |

Address

65 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

1.3.4 Identity: Summary of allocation

Confirmed Referring party's identity

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ABN/ACN | 16002247565 |
| Organisation name | NBRS & PARTNERS PTY LTD |
| Organisation address | 2061 NSW |
| Representative's name | Samantha Polkinghorne |
| Representative's job title | Director |
| Phone | 0426252774 |
| Email | samantha@nbrs.com.au |
| Address | 4 Glen Street, Milsons Point |

Confirmed Person proposing to take the action's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| ABN/ACN | 50008559486 |
| Organisation name | RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA |
| Organisation address | 2000 NSW |
| Representative's name | Neil MacLeod |
| Representative's job title | Senior Project Manager |
| Phone | +61 2 955 19152 |
| Email | macleodn@rba.gov.au |
| Address | 65 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia |

✔ Confirmed Proposed designated proponent's identity

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

1.4 Payment details: Payment exemption and fee waiver

1.4.1 Do you qualify for an exemption from fees under EPBC Regulation 5.23 (1) (a)? *

No

1.4.3 Have you applied for or been granted a waiver for full or partial fees under Regulation 5.21A? *

No

1.4.5 Are you going to apply for a waiver of full or partial fees under EPBC Regulation 5.21A?

No

1.4.7 Has the department issued you with a credit note? *

No

1.4.9 Would you like to add a purchase order number to your invoice? *

No

1.4 Payment details: Payment allocation

1.4.11 Who would you like to allocate as the entity responsible for payment? *

Referring party

2. Location

2.1 Project footprint



2.2 Footprint details

2.2.1 What is the address of the proposed action? *

65 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia

2.2.2 Where is the primary jurisdiction of the proposed action? *

New South Wales

2.2.3 Is there a secondary jurisdiction for this proposed action? *

No

2.2.5 What is the tenure of the action area relevant to the project area? *

Freehold

3. Existing environment

3.1 Physical description

3.1.1 Describe the current condition of the project area's environment.

The RBA Head Office building at 65 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW is a twenty-two storey building including three levels of basements. The lower levels of the tower contain the public areas and a cantilevered podium, while the basement levels were designed to accommodate strong rooms, storage and secure loading and parking areas. The tower levels were generally taken up with office accommodation, the twentieth floor was designed to provide a function space with extensive glazing to take advantage of panoramic views to the north and northeast.

The building is situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of the major banking and financial precinct of Martin Place with Macquarie Street, Sydney, the premier civic and government hub of NSW. The building is aligned in an east-west direction with its main entrance addressing Martin Place and a vehicular entrance accessed from Phillip Street.

The area immediately to the north, south and west of the RBA building is characterised by medium- and high-rise commercial buildings, while the eastern side of Macquarie Street generally occupied by two and three storey public buildings dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The proposed action primarily takes place within the envelope of the building, with the addition of a new services spine to the south of the southern elevation.

3.1.2 Describe any existing or proposed uses for the project area.

The proposed action will support the historic and ongoing banking function of the RBA Head Office and maintain its landmark role at the eastern end of Martin Place as a significant civic building.

3.1.3 Describe any outstanding natural features and/or any other important or unique values that applies to the project area.

65 Martin Place is located in the central business district of the City of Sydney and is surrounded by historic and contemporary urban development. There are no natural features on the site nor in the vicinity of the site.

3.1.4 Describe the gradient (or depth range if action is to be taken in a marine area) relevant to the project area.

The proposed action does not alter the existing buildings relationship with sea level. There is no additional excavation proposed below the existing basements.

3.2 Flora and fauna

3.2.1 Describe the flora and fauna within the affected area and attach any investigations of surveys if applicable.

The character of the site, Martin Place and the surrounding streets is best described as urban. The level of development on and around the site has removed any evidence of local local flora or fauna.

3.2.2 Describe the vegetation (including the status of native vegetation and soil) within the project area.

There is no natural vegetation on the site. The proposal does include the refurbishment of the historic Malcolm Munro Garden (1965), these works will enhance the garden, return an original design feature to the building and make an improved contribution to the public domain.

3.3 Heritage

3.3.1 Describe any Commonwealth heritage places overseas or other places recognised as having heritage values that apply to the project area.

The proposed action does not involve any Commonwealth heritage places overseas.

Under the EPBC Act 1999, the RBA is obliged to prepare a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for each of its properties that demonstrate Commonwealth Heritage value. An HMP for the Reserve Bank Head Office building at 65 Martin Place, Sydney, was prepared in 2020 which established the basis for the significance of the place expressed against the criteria. Below is an excerpt summarizing the Commonwealth Heritage Values of the project area contained in Appendix A_HIS, Section 4.3 Identified Heritage Values, pages 24-29.

Criterion (a) (Processes)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The Reserve Bank building (1964) designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting. The Reserve Bank building is of historical significance in its ability to demonstrate the changing functions and role of the Reserve Bank of Australia, particularly that of the head office, since 1964. The International style of the building represents the post war cultural shift within the banking industry, away from the traditional architectural emphasis on strength and stability towards a more contemporary and international style.

The two foyer art works are of historical and aesthetic significance. The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions

by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves.

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and air conditioning.

The provision of two residential flats, for use by visitors to the bank; squash courts; and firing range were relatively uncommon for the time (all removed 2001). The two doors to the main strongroom were at the time of construction the largest and most technically advanced in the southern hemisphere.

Attributes

Original and subsequent fabric that demonstrates continuity of use by the Reserve Bank.

Criterion (b) (Rarity)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and air conditioning.

The provision of two residential flats, for use by visitors to the bank; squash courts; and firing range were relatively uncommon for the time (all removed 2001).

Attributes

Remnant evidence of original services, and remnant evidence of the former residential flats.

Criterion (c) (Historical values)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Not listed for demonstrating Criterion C.

Criterion (d) (Characteristic values)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of:

- (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or
- (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

The Reserve Bank building (1964) designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia. It is a significant example of a 1960s office building notable as being a well-designed

example of the International style; its construction using high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting.

Attributes

The architectural attributes that demonstrate the International Style.

Criterion (e) (Aesthetic characteristics)

The place has significant heritage value because of a place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Through its prestigious design and function as Australia's central bank, the building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and character of Martin Place, Macquarie Street and Phillip Street.

Attributes

The multi-storey form and the quality of external finishes to the building.

Criterion (f) (Technical achievement)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at particular period.

The Reserve Bank building is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia for its use of high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks.

The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves.

The variety of moveable heritage items located throughout the building including furniture, china, flat wear, silverware, napery and accessories, pottery, tapestry and artworks are significant having been specifically designed or purchased for the building as well as being of artistic merit in their own right.

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and air conditioning.

The two doors to the main strongroom were at the time of construction the largest and most technically advanced in the southern hemisphere.

Attributes

Technical aspects of its construction, mechanical and electrical services and strongroom doors, all furnishings and the moveable objects of design listed above.

Criterion (g) (Social value)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The building has social significance being regarded by the Australian community as the home of the Reserve Bank function and the place where significant economic policy is carried out on behalf of the Nation.

Attributes

Continued use of the building by the Reserve Bank for the above purpose.

Criterion (h) (Significant people)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves.

The Reserve Bank head office building is associated with successive governors of the Reserve Bank: Dr. H. C. Coombs; J.G. Phillips (KBE); H.M. Knight (KBE DSC); R.A. Johnston (AC); B.W. Fraser and I.J. Macfarlane. The building is also associated with personnel of the Commonwealth Department of Works, Banks and Special Projects branch, responsible for the building's design in particular: C. McGrowther; Professor H. I Ashworth; C.D. Osborne; R.M. Ure; F.C. Crocker; G. A. Rowe; as well as E.A. Watts (builders for both stages of construction) and Frederick Ward (furniture designer).

Attributes

The artworks of Bim and Margel Hinder, evidence of use by successive Governors of the Reserve Bank, and remaining Fred Ward furniture.

Criterion (i) (Indigenous tradition)

The place has significant heritage value because of the place's importance as part of indigenous tradition.

Not listed for demonstrating Criterion (i).

3.3.2 Describe any Indigenous heritage values that apply to the project area.

65 Martin Place is located on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

The site is not generally recognised for having any Indigenous values.

3.4 Hydrology

3.4.1 Describe the hydrology characteristics that apply to the project area and attach any hydrological investigations or surveys if applicable. *

The proposed action will not change the existing hydrology characteristics of the project area; with all existing (engineered) stormwater flow systems to be retained.

4. Impacts and mitigation

4.1 Impact details

Potential Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES) relevant to your proposed action area.

| EPBC Act section | Controlling provision | Impacted | Reviewed |
|------------------|---|----------|----------|
| S12 | World Heritage | No | Yes |
| S15B | National Heritage | No | Yes |
| S16 | Ramsar Wetland | No | Yes |
| S18 | Threatened Species and Ecological Communities | No | Yes |
| S20 | Migratory Species | No | Yes |
| S21 | Nuclear | No | Yes |

| EPBC Act section | Controlling provision | Impacted | Reviewed |
|------------------|--|----------|----------|
| S23 | Commonwealth Marine Area | No | Yes |
| S24B | Great Barrier Reef | No | Yes |
| S24D | Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas | No | Yes |
| S26 | Commonwealth Land | Yes | Yes |
| S27B | Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas | No | Yes |
| S28 | Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency | Yes | Yes |

4.1.1 World Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.1.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.1.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The proposed action is unlikely to have either a direct or indirect action on any items of World Heritage, identified to be Hyde Park Barracks as the proposed works are contained within the boundaries of the site and the subject property is sufficiently distanced from the World heritage items identified in Appendix A_HIS, Section 6.7, pages 76-78.

In summary:

The RBA building is located approximately 180metres away from the Hyde Park Barracks complex.

Works to the building would not alter significant views to and from the Hyde Park Barracks or within the proposed buffer zone associated with the Australian Convicts Sites identified on the UNESCO inscribed property map.

The works to the RBA Head Office building would be wholly contained within the legal boundary of the site, and would not permanently remove, destroy, damage or alter the Hyde Park Barracks, its building fabric or any archaeological aspects of the place.

4.1.2 National Heritage

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | National heritage |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| No | No | First Government House Site |
| No | No | Governors' Domain and Civic Precinct |
| No | No | Hyde Park Barracks |

4.1.2.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.2.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The Reserve Bank Head Office building is located on a separate site located approximately 180 metres from Hyde Park Barracks and works to the RBA building are located outside the proposed buffer zone associated with Hyde Park Barracks.

We note the proposed works:

- would not affect significant views to the Barracks from the buffer zone or within Barracks Square;
- would not involve the permanent damage or removal of Hyde Park Barracks, its setting or its components;
- would not alter the significance of Hyde Park Barracks individually or as one of a group of Australian Convict Places.

Extensive sun shading studies have been undertaken which identify that the overrun associated with the relocated lift position will extend approximately 1.2 metres above the existing roof level of the RBA building, resulting in a minor increase in overshadowing. The relocation of the passenger lifts is a result of addressing seismic structure deficiencies. The proposal has been designed to meet the requirements of the *Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012* and *Sydney Development Control Plan 2012*. The proposed lift overrun would result a seasonal, temporary overshadowing of Hyde Park Barracks for up to forty-five minutes on the 22nd of June, not taking into account the additional impact of surrounding trees.

Consultation with the Museums of History NSW (MHNSW) in July 2024 included discussion of the temporary overshadowing. It was confirmed by MHNSW that the minor increase in overshadowing of the western forecourt will not alter or permanently damage the World Heritage values of Hyde Park Barracks.

For these reasons the action is unlikely to have a direct or indirect impact on the heritage values of Hyde Park Barracks.

4.1.3 Ramsar Wetland

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

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4.1.3.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.3.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve or impacts upon any Ramsar Wetlands.

4.1.4 Threatened Species and Ecological Communities

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

Threatened species

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|---|---|
| No | No | <i>Acacia terminalis</i> subsp. Eastern Sydney (G.P.Phillips 126) | Sunshine Wattle (Sydney region) |
| No | No | <i>Anthochaera phrygia</i> | Regent Honeyeater |
| No | No | <i>Ardenna grisea</i> | Sooty Shearwater |
| No | No | <i>Asterolasia elegans</i> | |
| No | No | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | Blue Whale |
| No | No | <i>Botaurus poiciloptilus</i> | Australasian Bittern |
| No | No | <i>Caladenia tessellata</i> | Thick-lipped Spider-orchid, Daddy Long-legs |
| No | No | <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| No | No | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Red Knot, Knot |
| No | No | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Curlew Sandpiper |
| No | No | <i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i> | Gang-gang Cockatoo |
| No | No | <i>Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami</i> | South-eastern Glossy Black-Cockatoo |
| No | No | <i>Carcharias taurus</i> (east coast population) | Grey Nurse Shark (east coast population) |
| No | No | <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> | White Shark, Great White Shark |
| No | No | <i>Caretta caretta</i> | Loggerhead Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Chalinolobus dwyeri</i> | Large-eared Pied Bat, Large Pied Bat |
| No | No | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> | Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover |
| No | No | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | Green Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Climacteris picumnus victoriae</i> | Brown Treecreeper (south-eastern) |
| No | No | <i>Cryptostylis hunteriana</i> | Leafless Tongue-orchid |
| No | No | <i>Dasyornis brachypterus</i> | Eastern Bristlebird |
| No | No | <i>Dasyurus maculatus maculatus</i> (SE mainland population) | Spot-tailed Quoll, Spotted-tail Quoll, Tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) |
| No | No | <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea antipodensis</i> | Antipodean Albatross |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| No | No | <i>Diomedea antipodensis gibsoni</i> | Gibson's Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea epomophora</i> | Southern Royal Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea exulans</i> | Wandering Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> | Northern Royal Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Epinephelus daemeli</i> | Black Rockcod, Black Cod, Saddled Rockcod |
| No | No | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | Hawksbill Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Erythrotriorchis radiatus</i> | Red Goshawk |
| No | No | <i>Eubalaena australis</i> | Southern Right Whale |
| No | No | <i>Eucalyptus camfieldii</i> | Camfield's Stringybark |
| No | No | <i>Falco hypoleucos</i> | Grey Falcon |
| No | No | <i>Fregetta grallaria grallaria</i> | White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Tasman Sea), White-bellied Storm-Petrel (Australasian) |
| No | No | <i>Galeorhinus galeus</i> | School Shark, Eastern School Shark, Snapper Shark, Tope, Soupfin Shark |
| No | No | <i>Gallinago hardwickii</i> | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| No | No | <i>Genoplesium baueri</i> | Yellow Gnat-orchid, Bauer's Midge Orchid, Brittle Midge Orchid |
| No | No | <i>Grantiella picta</i> | Painted Honeyeater |
| No | No | <i>Heleioporus australiacus</i> | Giant Burrowing Frog |
| No | No | <i>Hippocampus whitei</i> | White's Seahorse, Crowned Seahorse, Sydney Seahorse |
| No | No | <i>Hirundapus caudacutus</i> | White-throated Needle-tail |
| No | No | <i>Isodon obesulus obesulus</i> | Southern Brown Bandicoot (eastern), Southern Brown Bandicoot (south-eastern) |
| No | No | <i>Lathamus discolor</i> | Swift Parrot |
| No | No | <i>Limosa lapponica baueri</i> | Nunivak Bar-tailed Godwit, Western Alaskan Bar-tailed Godwit |
| No | No | <i>Litoria aurea</i> | Green and Golden Bell Frog |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|--|
| No | No | <i>Macquaria australasica</i> | Macquarie Perch |
| No | No | <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> | Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel |
| No | No | <i>Macronectes halli</i> | Northern Giant Petrel |
| No | No | <i>Melanodryas cucullata cucullata</i> | South-eastern Hooded Robin, Hooded Robin (south-eastern) |
| No | No | <i>Natator depressus</i> | Flatback Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Neophema chrysostoma</i> | Blue-winged Parrot |
| No | No | <i>Notamacropus parma</i> | Parma Wallaby |
| No | No | <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i> | Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew |
| No | No | <i>Pachyptila turtur subantarctica</i> | Fairy Prion (southern) |
| No | No | <i>Persicaria elatior</i> | Knotweed, Tall Knotweed |
| No | No | <i>Petauroides volans</i> | Greater Glider (southern and central) |
| No | No | <i>Petaurus australis australis</i> | Yellow-bellied Glider (south-eastern) |
| No | No | <i>Phascolarctos cinereus</i> (combined populations of Qld, NSW and the ACT) | Koala (combined populations of Queensland, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory) |
| No | No | <i>Pimelea curviflora</i> var. <i>curviflora</i> | |
| No | No | <i>Prostanthera densa</i> | Villous Mintbush |
| No | No | <i>Prototroctes maraena</i> | Australian Grayling |
| No | No | <i>Pseudomys novaehollandiae</i> | New Holland Mouse, Pookila |
| No | No | <i>Pterodroma leucoptera leucoptera</i> | Gould's Petrel, Australian Gould's Petrel |
| No | No | <i>Pterodroma neglecta neglecta</i> | Kermadec Petrel (western) |
| No | No | <i>Pteropus poliocephalus</i> | Grey-headed Flying-fox |
| No | No | <i>Pycnoptilus floccosus</i> | Pilotbird |
| No | No | <i>Rhincodon typus</i> | Whale Shark |
| No | No | <i>Rhodamnia rubescens</i> | Scrub Turpentine, Brown Malletwood |
| No | No | <i>Rhodomyrtus psidioides</i> | Native Guava |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| No | No | <i>Rostratula australis</i> | Australian Painted Snipe |
| No | No | <i>Seriolella brama</i> | Blue Warehou |
| No | No | <i>Sphyrna lewini</i> | Scalloped Hammerhead |
| No | No | <i>Stagonopleura guttata</i> | Diamond Firetail |
| No | No | <i>Sternula nereis nereis</i> | Australian Fairy Tern |
| No | No | <i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> | Magenta Lilly Pilly, Magenta Cherry, Daguba, Scrub Cherry, Creek Lilly Pilly, Brush Cherry |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche bulleri</i> | Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche bulleri platei</i> | Northern Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche carteri</i> | Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche cauta</i> | Shy Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche eremita</i> | Chatham Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche impavida</i> | Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche melanophris</i> | Black-browed Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche salvini</i> | Salvin's Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thalassarche steadi</i> | White-capped Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Thesium australe</i> | Austral Toadflax, Toadflax |
| No | No | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | Common Greenshank, Greenshank |

Ecological communities

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Ecological community |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| No | No | Coastal Swamp Oak (<i>Casuarina glauca</i>) Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland ecological community |
| No | No | Coastal Swamp Sclerophyll Forest of New South Wales and South East Queensland |
| No | No | Coastal Upland Swamps in the Sydney Basin Bioregion |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Ecological community |
|----------------------|------------------------|--|
| No | No | Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub of the Sydney Region |
| No | No | River-flat eucalypt forest on coastal floodplains of southern New South Wales and eastern Victoria |
| No | No | Western Sydney Dry Rainforest and Moist Woodland on Shale |

4.1.4.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.4.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

| |
|---|
| No aspects of the proposed action involve or impacts upon any Threatened Species or Ecological Communities. |
|---|

4.1.5 Migratory Species

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| No | No | Actitis hypoleucos | Common Sandpiper |
| No | No | Anous stolidus | Common Noddy |
| No | No | Apus pacificus | Fork-tailed Swift |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| No | No | <i>Ardenna carneipes</i> | Flesh-footed Shearwater, Fleshy-footed Shearwater |
| No | No | <i>Ardenna grisea</i> | Sooty Shearwater |
| No | No | <i>Balaenoptera edeni</i> | Bryde's Whale |
| No | No | <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> | Blue Whale |
| No | No | <i>Calidris acuminata</i> | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper |
| No | No | <i>Calidris canutus</i> | Red Knot, Knot |
| No | No | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i> | Curlew Sandpiper |
| No | No | <i>Calidris melanotos</i> | Pectoral Sandpiper |
| No | No | <i>Calonectris leucomelas</i> | Streaked Shearwater |
| No | No | <i>Caperea marginata</i> | Pygmy Right Whale |
| No | No | <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> | Oceanic Whitetip Shark |
| No | No | <i>Carcharias taurus</i> | Grey Nurse Shark |
| No | No | <i>Carcharodon carcharias</i> | White Shark, Great White Shark |
| No | No | <i>Caretta caretta</i> | Loggerhead Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i> | Greater Sand Plover, Large Sand Plover |
| No | No | <i>Chelonia mydas</i> | Green Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Cuculus optatus</i> | Oriental Cuckoo, Horsfield's Cuckoo |
| No | No | <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> | Leatherback Turtle, Leathery Turtle, Luth |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea antipodensis</i> | Antipodean Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea epomophora</i> | Southern Royal Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea exulans</i> | Wandering Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Diomedea sanfordi</i> | Northern Royal Albatross |
| No | No | <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> | Hawksbill Turtle |
| No | No | <i>Eubalaena australis</i> | Southern Right Whale |
| No | No | <i>Fregata ariel</i> | Lesser Frigatebird, Least Frigatebird |
| No | No | <i>Fregata minor</i> | Great Frigatebird, Greater Frigatebird |

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Species | Common name |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| No | No | Gallinago hardwickii | Latham's Snipe, Japanese Snipe |
| No | No | Hirundapus caudacutus | White-throated Needletail |
| No | No | Lagenorhynchus obscurus | Dusky Dolphin |
| No | No | Lamna nasus | Porbeagle, Mackerel Shark |
| No | No | Limosa lapponica | Bar-tailed Godwit |
| No | No | Macronectes giganteus | Southern Giant-Petrel, Southern Giant Petrel |
| No | No | Macronectes halli | Northern Giant Petrel |
| No | No | Mobula alfredi | Reef Manta Ray, Coastal Manta Ray |
| No | No | Mobula birostris | Giant Manta Ray |
| No | No | Motacilla flava | Yellow Wagtail |
| No | No | Natator depressus | Flatback Turtle |
| No | No | Numenius madagascariensis | Eastern Curlew, Far Eastern Curlew |
| No | No | Phaethon lepturus | White-tailed Tropicbird |
| No | No | Rhincodon typus | Whale Shark |
| No | No | Sternula albifrons | Little Tern |
| No | No | Thalassarche bulleri | Buller's Albatross, Pacific Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche carteri | Indian Yellow-nosed Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche cauta | Shy Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche eremita | Chatham Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche impavida | Campbell Albatross, Campbell Black-browed Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche melanophris | Black-browed Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche salvini | Salvin's Albatross |
| No | No | Thalassarche steadi | White-capped Albatross |
| No | No | Tringa nebularia | Common Greenshank, Greenshank |

4.1.5.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.5.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve or impacts upon any Migratory Species.

4.1.6 Nuclear

4.1.6.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.6.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve, is in the vicinity of nor impacts upon any Nuclear sites.

4.1.7 Commonwealth Marine Area

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—
4.1.7.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.7.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve, impacts or is in the vicinity of a Commonwealth Marine Area.

4.1.8 Great Barrier Reef

4.1.8.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.8.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve or is in the vicinity of the Great Barrier Reef.

4.1.9 Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas

4.1.9.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on this protected matter? *

No

4.1.9.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

No aspects of the proposed action involve, or is in the vicinity of, a water resource that relates to or impacts a large coal mining development or coal seam gas site.

4.1.10 Commonwealth Land

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

| Direct impact | Indirect impact | Commonwealth land area |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| No | No | Commonwealth Land - |
| No | No | Commonwealth Land - Commonwealth Bank of Australia |
| No | Yes | Commonwealth Land - Reserve Bank of Australia |

4.1.10.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

Yes

4.1.10.2 Briefly describe why your action has a direct and/or indirect impact on these protected matters. *

Likely indirect impacts on heritage values are those arising from removal of original and later fabric required to remediate extensive and embedded hazardous materials through the building structure, the façade and services.

The scope of works has been categorised in the following way for clarity, in no necessary order as they are all intrinsically linked.

1. Hazardous materials removal
2. Concrete encasement to the existing steel structure and façade reconstruction
3. Services upgrade – including Lift and electrical substation
4. Protection and conservation of heritage elements

Section 6.9 of the HIS provides a detailed assessment against the Significant Impact Guidelines 1.1 and identifies the key components of the action, likely impacts, severity of impact (assuming no avoidance or mitigation) and the action response.

4.1.10.4 Do you consider this likely direct and/or indirect impact to be a Significant Impact? *

No

4.1.10.6 Describe why you do not consider this to be a Significant Impact. *

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water provides the following guidance with regards to 'significant impacts':

A 'significant impact' is an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment, which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts. You should consider all of these factors when determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on matters of national environmental significance. [1]

The proposed action is essentially the remediation of a hazardous materials situation which is contained to the structure, façade and services of a single building in an urban setting. The methods available to remove and manage the contamination are governed by strict environmental and construction standards, which will only be required for the duration of the project. The reconstruction works are equally subject to stringent regulatory frameworks, such as the National Building Code.

The site meets the criteria for seven of the eight Commonwealth heritage values, (a)(Processes), (b) (Rarity), (d)(Characteristic values), (e)(Aesthetic characteristics), (f)(Technical achievement), (g)(Social value) and (h)(Significant people).

Please refer to section 4.3 of the accompanying HIS for detailed analysis of the individual heritage values and how the site meets the relevant criteria.

Section 6.9 of the HIS assesses the proposed action against the Whole of Environment guidelines.

In summary the proposed action is contained to the site, is limited to only affected building components, is managed using processes which sit within existing regulatory frameworks and is limited to a set duration period based on the extent of the works.

For these reasons, whilst there is an impact, the proposed action does not satisfy the criteria for a *Significant impact*.

4.1.10.7 Do you think your proposed action is a controlled action? *

No

4.1.10.9 Please elaborate why you do not think your proposed action is a controlled action. *

The background to the proposed action is directly related to the removal of hazardous materials so as to provide a safe work place and enable the Reserve Bank of Australia to continue to function on this site. The potential impact from the works on the Commonwealth heritage values have been considered in detail at all stages of the process so as to avoid *Significant impacts*. Where impacts are unavoidable mitigation measures have been identified to manage the situation accordingly.

The key components of the action have been identified as follows, and have been assessed against *Matters of National Environmental Significance: Significant impact guidelines 1.2* in Section 6.9 of the HIS

- Remediation of hazardous materials
- Structural concrete works
- Hybrid core
- Façade reconstruction
- Protection and conservation of heritage elements

The proposed action is contained to an existing building and can be appropriately managed within known building codes, regulatory requirements and heritage best practice. For these reasons we believe that the action can be categorised as 'Not a controlled action - particular manner' as set out in the *EPBC Act*.

We consider that 'Not a controlled action - particular manner' is applicable as the action is not subject to *Significant impacts* and the series of mitigation measures outlined at Section 7.1 of the HIS provide clear direction on an appropriate manner the action would be carried out in.

4.1.10.10 Please describe any avoidance or mitigation measures proposed for this action and attach any supporting documentation for these avoidance and mitigation measures. *

The project has been subject to specialist review and input at all stages of the process, so as to ensure that any impacts have been avoided wherever possible, and where not unavoidable, mitigation measures can be implemented.

The following mitigation measure have been designed to cover three key outcomes:

1. ensure that appropriate skilled oversight, involvement and reporting is undertaken at all stages of the project,
2. ensure that affected aspects of the building are recorded for archival and interpretation purposes, and
3. interpretation to ensure communication is effective and the historical record is complete.

The mitigation measures proposed are listed below, refer to section 7.1 of the HIS for detail description.

Mitigation Measure 1: Engage suitably experienced heritage consultant.

Mitigation Measure 2: Protect built heritage fabric.

Mitigation Measure 3: Engage suitably experienced specialist materials conservators.

Mitigation Measure 4: Record façade system.

Mitigation Measure 5: Update Heritage Management Plan

Mitigation Measure 6: Heritage Interpretation Strategy

Mitigation Measure 7: Final Report - Heritage

Mitigation Measure 8: Moveable heritage furniture management plan.

Mitigation Measure 9: Stone conservation report.

Mitigation Measure 10: Existing services record.

Mitigation Measure 11: Heritage induction guidelines

Mitigation Measure 12: Engage suitably qualified remediation advisor and contractor.

Mitigation Measure 13: Construction and hazardous materials management plan

Mitigation Measure 14: Waste Management Plan

4.1.10.11 Please describe any proposed offsets and attach any supporting documentation relevant to these measures. *

No offsets are proposed for this action.

4.1.11 Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas

You have identified your proposed action will likely directly and/or indirectly impact the following protected matters.

A direct impact is a direct consequence of an action taken – for example, clearing of habitat for a threatened species or permanent shading on an ecological community as the result of installing solar panels.

An indirect impact is an 'indirect consequence' such as a downstream impact or a facilitated third-party action.

—

4.1.11.1 Is the proposed action likely to have any direct and/or indirect impact on any of these protected matters? *

No

4.1.11.3 Briefly describe why your action is unlikely to have a direct and/or indirect impact.

*

The site is located wholly within Australia.

4.1.12 Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency

4.1.12.1 Is the proposed action to be taken by the Commonwealth or a Commonwealth Agency? *

Yes

4.1.12.2 Briefly describe the nature and extent of the likely impact on the whole of the environment. *

The Whole of Environment Assessment (WoEA) identifies and assesses the potential impacts of the proposed action on Commonwealth Heritage values. It ensures these values are preserved and protected, with a focus on managing toxic substances, promoting the wellbeing of people and communities, and preserving Commonwealth heritage values.

The primary environmental concern is the heritage significance of the existing building, for which detailed mitigation measures have been developed. Other potential impacts, such as health risks and pollution from handling contaminated materials, are minimal due to strict adherence to established procedures by qualified contractors. Temporary disruptions to the building's appearance and access will occur, but the final development will protect the key Commonwealth heritage values of the site through alignment with the original design intentions for the RBA building, including its façade, garden, materiality and artworks.

Refer to Section 6.9 of the HIS for a detailed Whole of Environment Assessment.

4.2 Impact summary

Conclusion on the likelihood of significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will likely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

None

Conclusion on the likelihood of unlikely significant impacts

You have indicated that the proposed action will unlikely have a significant impact on the following Matters of National Environmental Significance:

- World Heritage (S12)
- National Heritage (S15B)
- Ramsar Wetland (S16)
- Threatened Species and Ecological Communities (S18)
- Migratory Species (S20)
- Nuclear (S21)
- Commonwealth Marine Area (S23)
- Great Barrier Reef (S24B)
- Water resource in relation to large coal mining development or coal seam gas (S24D)
- Commonwealth Land (S26)

- Commonwealth Heritage Places Overseas (S27B)
- Commonwealth or Commonwealth Agency (S28)

4.3 Alternatives

4.3.1 Do you have any possible alternatives for your proposed action to be considered as part of your referral? *

No

4.3.8 Describe why alternatives for your proposed action were not possible. *

Following the uncovering of an unacceptably high and unforeseen level of site contamination through the building, options for alternative actions were investigated by the RBA. Detailed consideration of the requirements for the banking function and the issues that had unexpectedly arisen resolved into the following four possible outcomes:

Option 1: Full remediation, requiring

- Full asbestos removal, demolition back to superstructure from L2 to roof.
- Bank staff temporarily decanted to nearby building.
- Reconstruct concrete structure, façade and expand rear building services spine for new lifts
- Banknotes & archives temporarily exit HO & reinstated on completion.

Option 2: Sell & lease back, involving

- Sale to a developer and contracts to be a long-term tenant (circa 50 years).
- Banknotes temporarily exit HO and reinstate on completion.

Option 3: Sell & lease elsewhere, involving

- Sale to a developer and lease space it needs in Sydney CBD.
- Construct a new banknote facility.

Option 4: Sell & buy elsewhere, requiring

- Sale to a developer and lease space it needs in Sydney CBD.
- Construct a new banknote facility.

It was decided by the RBA that Option 1 (Full remediation) was the preferred course of action.

The investigations also assessed alternative treatment of the asbestos in the building, including encapsulation and removal of selected elements, as a means of reducing the level of contamination in the building. For the reasons set out below these options were considered unacceptable.

1.0 Encapsulate the existing hazardous material embedded in the building and avoid any works that may disturb it and cause a health hazard.

Encapsulation would knowingly leave a health hazard within the building, which is not a desirable WH&S situation for all those working in the building and visitors.

Any maintenance works or physical changes to the building would need to take the hazardous material into account. This would impact an ability to make changes and an ability to effectively maintain the building.

The extent of hazardous material would materially hamper the approved, and any future, upgrades to the workspace and building services within the building.

Retaining hazardous materials in the building structure would further shorten the useful life by limiting and constraining opportunities to create a desirable and fit-for-purpose workplace.

2.0 Remove selected elements to reduce the extent of hazardous materials in the building. Encapsulate all retained material

While this approach would reduce the level of hazardous material in the building, it would not significantly lessen the restrictions on changes to the building due to the location and extent of affected fabric.

This would knowingly leave a health hazard within the building, which is not a desirable WH&S situation for staff working in the building and visitors.

Any maintenance works or physical changes to the building would need to account for the hazardous material. This would impact the ability to make any changes and adequately maintain the building in the future.

The extent of hazardous material would continue to hamper the existing and future, upgrades to the Workplace and engineering services within the building.

Retaining the hazardous materials in the building structure would further shorten the life of the building by constraining opportunities to create a desirable and fit-for-purpose workplace

For these reasons it was determined that alternative actions were not possible.

5. Lodgement

5.1 Attachments

1.2.1 Overview of the proposed action

| | Type | Name | Date | Sensitivity | Confidence |
|-----|----------|---|------------|-------------|------------|
| #1. | Document | Att A_HIS.pdf Assessment of Likely Impact on Commonwealth Heritage Values | 15/11/2024 | No | High |
| #2. | Document | Att B_HIS App C.pdf Schedule of original materials and protection methodologies prepared by specialist materials conservator | 15/11/2024 | No | High |

5.2 Declarations

Completed Referring party's declaration

The Referring party is the person preparing the information in this referral.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| ABN/ACN | 16002247565 |
| Organisation name | NBRS & PARTNERS PTY LTD |
| Organisation address | 2061 NSW |
| Representative's name | Samantha Polkinghorne |
| Representative's job title | Director |
| Phone | 0426252774 |
| Email | samantha@nbrs.com.au |
| Address | 4 Glen Street, Milsons Point |

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

By checking this box, I, **Samantha Polkinghorne of NBRS & PARTNERS PTY LTD**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to this EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Person proposing to take the action's declaration

The Person proposing to take the action is the individual, business, government agency or trustee that will be responsible for the proposed action.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| ABN/ACN | 50008559486 |
| Organisation name | RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA |
| Organisation address | 2000 NSW |
| Representative's name | Neil MacLeod |

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Representative's job title | Senior Project Manager |
| Phone | +61 2 955 19152 |
| Email | macleodn@rba.gov.au |
| Address | 65 Martin Place, Sydney, 2000, NSW, Australia |

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, **Neil MacLeod of RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA**, declare that to the best of my knowledge the information I have given on, or attached to the EPBC Act Referral is complete, current and correct. I understand that giving false or misleading information is a serious offence. I declare that I am not taking the action on behalf or for the benefit of any other person or entity. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

Completed Proposed designated proponent's declaration

The Proposed designated proponent is the individual or organisation proposed to be responsible for meeting the requirements of the EPBC Act during the assessment process, if the Minister decides that this project is a controlled action.

Same as Person proposing to take the action information.

Check this box to indicate you have read the referral form. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *

I, **Neil MacLeod of RESERVE BANK OF AUSTRALIA**, the Proposed designated proponent, consent to the designation of myself as the Proposed designated proponent for the purposes of the action described in this EPBC Act Referral. *

I would like to receive notifications and track the referral progress through the EPBC portal. *