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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**NEWCASTLE**  
AUSTRALIA

Mr Jim Betts  
Secretary  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Attention: Matthew Rosel (Senior Planning Officer)

Dear Matthew,

**University of Newcastle Honeysuckle City Campus, Stage 1A (SSD 9510)**

**RE: Response to Submissions – Design Excellence**

We write in response to the Department's correspondence, dated 13 February 2020, in relation to Design Excellence for Stage 1A of the University of Newcastle's Honeysuckle City Campus Development (SSD 9510).

It is recognised that the Stage 1A Principal Design Consultant (PDC) engagement was the result of a competitive procurement process. This competitive procurement process included the evaluation of three weighted elements: commercial, technical, and a conceptual design response. Following the detailed evaluation of all proponent's submissions, EJE Architecture were evaluated as the successful proponent to perform the role. Aspects of EJE Architecture's conceptual design response were supported by the University's Design Evaluation Panel (the Panel) in the selection of the PDC. These key design aspects included: transparent façade, double height spaces, mass timber structure and exposed servicing which were further developed upon engagement.

The Panel acknowledges that following consultation with key users and stakeholders, the design and scale of the building presented by the successful tenderer needed to be modified significantly to be fit for purpose. The design also required amendment to align with the available project budget, which at no point has been reduced since the competitive procurement process was conducted. Notwithstanding, it should be noted that the winning architect from the procurement process, EJE Architecture, were retained and the current design has been prepared by this firm in consultation with the University's Design Excellence strategy. In addition, the Panel has worked with the design team on the modified building design and is satisfied that it continues to achieve design excellence.

The Panel understands the State Design Review Panel's (SDRP) concerns were predominately regarding the lack of resolution of the public domain and the buildings relationship to the wider context of the campus. Through further detailed design interrogation, resulting in the final design presented as part of the response to submissions, the Panel feels that the concerns raised by the SDRP and the Department have been appropriately resolved.

Sincerely,

Brian Jones  
Director Infrastructure & Facilities Services  
(On behalf of the Panel)

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