

General Purpose Standing Committee No.4

Enquiry into Museums and Galleries in NSW

Questions on Notice for Joe Agius, Cox Architecture

Question

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So you did very preliminary hand sketches and volumetric studies.

Mr AGIUS: Correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: How much were you paid?

Mr AGIUS: I could not tell you off the top of my head.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What is the ballpark figure?

Mr AGIUS: I am happy to take that question on notice.

Answer

Cox Architecture's total fee, including the fees of its sub-consultants was \$94,500.

Question

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Ms Neeson, going to the riverbank site, the Phillip Street site, is it your recollection that you were involved in doing hand sketches and volumetric studies that went about 10 storeys? Could it be more or could it be less?

Ms NEESON: The focus was on the volumetric study for the museum itself and the potential interrelationship and interaction with the public domain. It just so happened on the riverbank site that there was

higher capacity, if you like unused area, that could then be taken up for other uses. The prime focus was actually

on the volumetric sketching of the museum itself.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What do you mean "unused area" that could accommodate other uses? Are you talking about unused area at the ground level or are you talking about unused airspace?

Ms NEESON: No, floor space.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What kind of unused area are we talking about? How much unused area?

Ms NEESON: I was not involved in the actual volumetric CAD massing, so I am not really in a position to answer that.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: One of you must have been involved in the volumetric CAD massing. How much?

Mr AGIUS: Again, I would have to take that question on notice if you want a specific figure.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: I do.

Answer

The committee should refer to the relevant LEP / DCP for an understanding of development controls on the sites considered.

Question:

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: How many museum designs containing priceless, irreplaceable collections has your company worked on?

Mr AGIUS: I am working on one at the moment.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: So that is two?

Mr AGIUS: No, look—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Prior to the Powerhouse brief then, how many have you worked on?

Mr AGIUS: There are so many I will have to take that question on notice if you want a precise number.

Answer

Tendering for projects to the NSW Government is onerous, exhaustive and highly competitive. The KPMG team won the tender to undertake this project through a competitive process, based on criteria which included the team's knowledge and experience. Re-visiting the tendering process is not within the scope of this inquiry hence on reflection, I will not elaborate on the response I have provided.

Question

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: And the opportunity that you said was that you can build the museum and put the collection at levels from the Phillip Street level up because that is at and above the one in 100 level for flooding. That was your evidence earlier.

Mr AGIUS: That is correct.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Is that international best practice for the protection of something as priceless as the Powerhouse Museum collection? Yes or no? Have you not looked at international best practice?

Mr AGIUS: I would have to take that question on notice to give it its due consideration. I suspect it is international best practice. As I mentioned, there are many other institutions that are on similar sites. In responding to your question properly I would need to investigate those instances.

Answer

I confirm the work undertaken for this project, and hence the advice we have provided, is consistent with world's best practice.

Question

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Do you know what the final site size was once you excluded the number 34 and that row of Victorian terraces?

Ms NEESON: I cannot recall that area.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Would you give it to us on notice?

Ms NEESON: Yes, we can give that to you on notice. **Answer 15,170 m²**



Question

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: On notice, so we can educate the other members of the Committee, send us a little box diagram, not from the project, but could you quickly give us an example of the sort of work that we are talking about?

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Maybe you could provide them on notice to the Committee. That would be the simplest. Why do we not do that?

The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW: That is what he asked.

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: That is what I asked.

Mr AGIUS: Do you mean for a similar project?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: Yes.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Why do we not get the ones for this project so we can see? We do not have to speculate. You could provide them on notice.

The Hon. WALT SECORD: I think that is a good idea.

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Agius, there is nothing to prevent you providing them on notice, is there?

The Hon. GREG PEARCE: You would have to take that on notice.

Mr AGIUS: I will have to take that on notice and obviously seek advice in regard to that.

The CHAIR: You are really talking about the concept sketches and developing the volumetric concepts, et cetera. Can we have copies of those sketches?

The Hon. SHAYNE MALLARD: He has taken it on notice.

Mr AGIUS: Again, I would have to take that request on notice—

The CHAIR: I do not expect you to draw them now.

Mr AGIUS: —and seek advice in regard to what we can and cannot give you. .

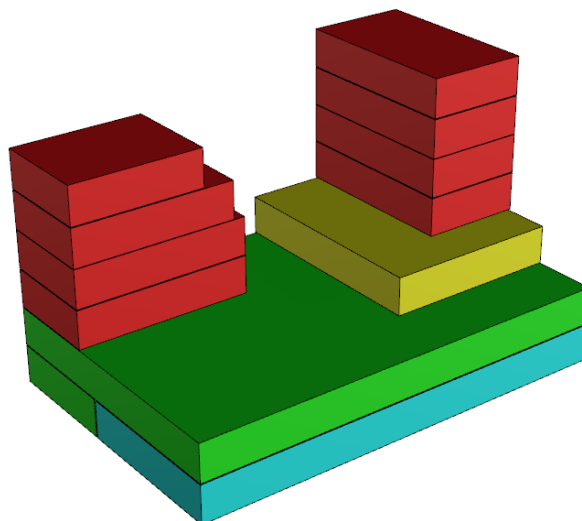
The CHAIR: Sorry, say that again.

Mr AGIUS: I said, I would have to take that question on notice and seek advice as to what we can and cannot legally give you.

The CHAIR: Take that on notice.

Mr AGIUS: Sure

Answer – The below diagram is a typical block and stack diagram. Colours are indicative of different uses.



Question

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: What was the final space, the exhibition space that was required to be accommodated? That is such a crucial figure; you would remember that?

Mr AGIUS: Again, I hesitate to give you a number, because I really should confirm the precise number to ensure—

Mr DAVID SHOEBRIDGE: By all means, give it to us on notice.

Mr AGIUS: —that I am giving you the correct advice.

Answer

As this information is included within the Cabinet-in-confidence report I am constrained from providing it to you.