

19 August 2026

Sue Hawkins

Team Leader, State Heritage Register Listing

Heritage NSW | Conservation Programs, Heritage and Regulation Group

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

RE: Notice of intention to consider listing Australia Square, Sydney (1961-64) on the State Heritage Register |

Dear Sue,

The Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) supports the listing of Australia Square (1961-64) for inclusion on the State Heritage Register, a project already recognised on our Register of Significant Buildings. In our assessment, this project exceeds the threshold for State heritage significance and clearly meets the criteria of historic, associational, aesthetic/creative/technical, and social significance.

As the inaugural large-scale collaboration between Harry Seidler, Pier Luigi Nervi and Alexander Calder, with the property developer Dick Dusseldorf of Civic and Civic (later Lend Lease), Australia Square represents a landmark in the development of post-war modernism in NSW, if not Australia. The architectural and engineering integrity of the complex remains exceptionally high, demonstrating an exemplary synthesis of structural innovation and public art.

The project's plaza, framed by a drum-shaped tower and rectangular street-edge aligned building raised on pilotis, was intentionally designed as a pedestrian-only urban space, establishing a precedent for later commercial developments. This urban strategy positions Australia Square as a foundational work in the shaping of Sydney's modern urban identity.

Yours Sincerely



Elizabeth Carpenter

NSW Chapter President

Australian Institute of Architects



Tammy Dickson

Executive Leader

Australian Institute of Architects