

8 July 2025

ST SOPHIA CHURCH – 411A BOURKE STREET, SURRY HILLS

Dear Asmita,

In response to Point 3 of the RFI, this was an issue discussed in depth between Heritage 21, the architect and heritage stone mason. We are of the opinion that there is a high possibility that the condition of the stone masonry on the base course would likely be of very poor quality. This is due to capillary rise and the ingress of soluble salts. The cementitious render would prevent any evaporation from this area, and it is highly possible the base course would exhibit deterioration patterns such as sanding and contour scaling. By removing this render, more problems could be created, and more extensive stone replacement works may be required. However, we also acknowledge that the historical presentation was exposed sandstone masonry at the base course. We are happy to be guided by Heritage NSW on this, and we are able to remove the render, if desired by the Council.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,



Emily McSkimming

Associate

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