

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2022/1516
Date:	28/09/2022
Responsible Officer:	Michael French
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 1 DP 214956 , 30 Herbert Avenue NEWPORT NSW 2106

Reasons for referral

This application seeks consent for the following:

- Construction / development works within 5 metres of a tree or
- New residential works with three or more dwellings. (RFB's, townhouses, seniors living, guesthouses, etc). or
- Mixed use developments containing three or more residential dwellings.
- New Dwellings or

Officer comments

The application seeks consent for retaining walls, decking, associated landscape works and tree removal.

The Arborist's Report prepared by Peake Arboriculture and Landscape Plans prepared by Serenescapes are noted.

The Arborist's Report indicates that two trees are required to be removed to accommodate the proposed works.

One tree is an exempt species, *Brachychiton acerifolia*, and the other a non-exempt tree, *Eucalyptus punctata*.

Removal of the exempt *B. acerifolia* is not objected to.

Concern is raised regarding the proposed removal of the *E. punctata*.

The site is mapped on Council's GIS system as Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest Endangered Ecological Community and mapped on the NSW DPI Biodiversity Values Map. *E. punctata* is a species associated with Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest. The tree is indicated to be 26m height.

The Arborist's Report notes that decay was noted at the base of the tree, however no detailed assessment of the extent of decay and structural compromise that the tree is susceptible to has been provided.

The Report assigns the tree a Medium Retention Value. Assessment of the tree against the IACA Tree Retention Matrix provided in the Report would suggest that the tree should be assigned a High Retention Value, the tree having a Safe Useful Life Expectancy of 10-40 years, being an indigenous species, being part of an Endangered Ecological Community, being visually prominent and being appropriate for the site conditions.

Removal of the tree based on the information provided is not supported in consideration of the above.

It is recommended that assessment of the extent of decay and structural impacts of any decay be assessed via a resistograph test or similar by a Consulting Arborist with minimum qualification AQF Level 5 and that all avenues to enable retention of the tree be investigated by the Arborist.

At this stage, the proposal is not supported with regard to landscape issues.

The proposal is therefore unsupported.

Note: Should you have any concerns with the referral comments above, please discuss these with the Responsible Officer.

Recommended Landscape Conditions:

Nil.