

**GEOTECHNICAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR PITTWATER**  
**FORM NO. 1 – To be submitted with Development Application**

Development Application for \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant

Address of site 110 Woorarra Avenue, North Narrabeen

*The following checklist covers the minimum requirements to be addressed in a Geotechnical Risk Declaration made by geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist or coastal engineer (where applicable) as part of a geotechnical report*

I, Ben White on behalf of White Geotechnical Group Pty Ltd  
(Insert Name) (Trading or Company Name)

on this the 28/2/22 certify that I am a geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist or coastal engineer as defined by the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 and I am authorised by the above organisation/company to issue this document and to certify that the organisation/company has a current professional indemnity policy of at least \$10million.

I:

**Please mark appropriate box**

- ☒ have prepared the detailed Geotechnical Report referenced below in accordance with the Australia Geomechanics Society's Landslide Risk Management Guidelines (AGS 2007) and the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- ☒ am willing to technically verify that the detailed Geotechnical Report referenced below has been prepared in accordance with the Australian Geomechanics Society's Landslide Risk Management Guidelines (AGS 2007) and the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- ☐ have examined the site and the proposed development in detail and have carried out a risk assessment in accordance with Section 6.0 of the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009. I confirm that the results of the risk assessment for the proposed development are in compliance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 and further detailed geotechnical reporting is not required for the subject site.
- ☐ have examined the site and the proposed development/alteration in detail and I am of the opinion that the Development Application only involves Minor Development/Alteration that does not require a Geotechnical Report or Risk Assessment and hence my Report is in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 requirements.
- ☐ have examined the site and the proposed development/alteration is separate from and is not affected by a Geotechnical Hazard and does not require a Geotechnical Report or Risk Assessment and hence my Report is in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 requirements.
- ☐ have provided the coastal process and coastal forces analysis for inclusion in the Geotechnical Report

**Geotechnical Report Details:**


Report Title: Geotechnical Report 110 Woorarra Avenue, North Narrabeen  
Report Date: 28/2/22  
  
Author: BEN WHITE  
  
Author's Company/Organisation: WHITE GEOTECHNICAL GROUP PTY LTD

**Documentation which relate to or are relied upon in report preparation:**

Australian Geomechanics Society Landslide Risk Management March 2007.

White Geotechnical Group company archives.

I am aware that the above Geotechnical Report, prepared for the abovementioned site is to be submitted in support of a Development Application for this site and will be relied on by Pittwater Council as the basis for ensuring that the Geotechnical Risk Management aspects of the proposed development have been adequately addressed to achieve an "Acceptable Risk Management" level for the life of the structure, taken as at least 100 years unless otherwise stated and justified in the Report and that reasonable and practical measures have been identified to remove foreseeable risk.

Signature   
Name Ben White  
Chartered Professional Status MScGEOLAusIMM CP GEOL  
Membership No. 222757  
Company White Geotechnical Group Pty Ltd

**GEOTECHNICAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR PITTWATER**  
**FORM NO. 1(a) - Checklist of Requirements for Geotechnical Risk Management Report for Development Application**

Development Application for	_____
	Name of Applicant
Address of site	<u>110 Woorarra Avenue, North Narrabeen</u>

The following checklist covers the minimum requirements to be addressed in a Geotechnical Risk Management Geotechnical Report. This checklist is to accompany the Geotechnical Report and its certification (Form No. 1).

**Geotechnical Report Details:**

Report Title: Geotechnical Report <u>110 Woorarra Avenue, North Narrabeen</u>
Report Date: <u>28/2/22</u>
Author: <u>BEN WHITE</u>
Author's Company/Organisation: <u>WHITE GEOTECHNICAL GROUP PTY LTD</u>

**Please mark appropriate box**

- ☒ Comprehensive site mapping conducted 18/2/22  
(date)
- ☒ Mapping details presented on contoured site plan with geomorphic mapping to a minimum scale of 1:200 (as appropriate)
- ☒ Subsurface investigation required
  - ☐ No Justification \_\_\_\_\_
  - ☒ Yes Date conducted 18/2/22
- ☒ Geotechnical model developed and reported as an inferred subsurface type-section
- ☒ Geotechnical hazards identified
  - ☐ Above the site
  - ☒ On the site
  - ☒ Below the site
  - ☐ Beside the site
- ☒ Geotechnical hazards described and reported
- ☒ Risk assessment conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
  - ☒ Consequence analysis
  - ☒ Frequency analysis
- ☒ Risk calculation
- ☒ Risk assessment for property conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- ☒ Risk assessment for loss of life conducted in accordance with the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- ☒ Assessed risks have been compared to "Acceptable Risk Management" criteria as defined in the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009
- ☒ Opinion has been provided that the design can achieve the "Acceptable Risk Management" criteria provided that the specified conditions are achieved.
- ☒ Design Life Adopted:
  - ☒ 100 years
  - ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
specify
- ☒ Geotechnical Conditions to be applied to all four phases as described in the Geotechnical Risk Management Policy for Pittwater - 2009 have been specified
- ☒ Additional action to remove risk where reasonable and practical have been identified and included in the report.
- ☐ Risk assessment within Bushfire Asset Protection Zone.

I am aware that Pittwater Council will rely on the Geotechnical Report, to which this checklist applies, as the basis for ensuring that the geotechnical risk management aspects of the proposal have been adequately addressed to achieve an "Acceptable Risk Management" level for the life of the structure, taken as at least 100 years unless otherwise stated, and justified in the Report and that reasonable and practical measures have been identified to remove foreseeable risk.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Ben White

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chartered Professional Status MScGEOLAusIMM CP GEOL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Membership No. 222757

\_\_\_\_\_  
Company White Geotechnical Group Pty Ltd

## **GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION:**

Alterations and Additions at **110 Woorarra Avenue, North Narrabeen**

### **1. Proposed Development**

- 1.1** Extend the existing driveway to the NW.
- 1.2** Add a storeroom to the subfloor of the existing house by excavating to a maximum depth of ~1.1m.
- 1.3** Extend the lower floor of the house on the NW and downhill sides. Extend the upper floor of the house on the downhill side.
- 1.4** Construct new decks on the uphill, NW and downhill sides of the house.
- 1.5** Landscape a new lawn area on the downhill side of the house by filling to a maximum depth of ~1.2m
- 1.6** Details of the proposed development are shown on 8 drawings prepared by Jo Willmore Designs. Drawings numbered DA-01 to DA-03 and DA-05 to DA-08 are dated February 2022. Drawing number DA-04 is dated January, 2022.

### **2. Site Description**

- 2.1** The site was inspected on the 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.
- 2.2** This residential property is on the low side of the road and has a NW aspect. It is located on the moderate to steeply graded upper reaches and crest of a hillslope. The natural slope falls across the property at an average angle of ~17° before increasing in grade to an angle of ~25° near the downhill property boundary. The slope below the property gradually decreases in grade. The ground surface above the property is near level at the crest of the hill.

**2.3** At the road frontage, a concrete driveway runs to a carport on the uphill side of the house (Photos 1 & 2). The part two storey brick and timber clad house is supported by brick walls, brick piers, concrete piers and timber posts (Photos 1 & 3). The supporting walls, piers and posts stand vertical and show no significant signs of movement (Photo 4). A level lawn area extends off the downhill side of the house. Stable stack rock retaining walls up to ~1.5m high support the fill for the lawn (Photo 5). Medium Strength Hawkesbury Sandstone bedrock outcrops on the downhill side of the retaining wall and further downslope (Photos 6 & 7). A large detached joint block is located at the downhill property boundary (Photos 8 & 9). The rock is undercut by up to ~2.0m. The undercut rock is bridged at either side and is overlain by thick sandstone beds. It is considered to be stable. A sandstone rock face ~3.5m high is located beside the detached joint block (Photo 10). No signs of slope instability were observed on the property that could have occurred since the property was developed. The adjoining neighbouring properties were observed to be in good order as seen from the street and subject property.

### **3. Geology**

The Sydney 1:100 000 Geological sheet indicates the site is underlain by Hawkesbury Sandstone. It is described as a medium to coarse grained quartz sandstone with very minor shale and laminite lenses.

### **4. Subsurface Investigation**

Three Dynamic Cone Penetrometer (DCP) tests were put down to determine the relative density of the overlying soil and the depth to bedrock. The locations of the tests are shown on the site plan. It should be noted that a level of caution should be applied when interpreting DCP test results. The test will not pass through hard buried objects so in some instances it can be difficult to determine whether refusal has occurred on an obstruction in the profile or on the natural rock surface. This is not expected to have been an issue for this site. But due to the possibility that the actual ground conditions vary from our interpretation there should be

allowances in the excavation and foundation budget to account for this. We refer to the appended "Important Information about Your Report" to further clarify. The results are as follows:

<b>DCP TEST RESULTS – Dynamic Cone Penetrometer</b>			
Equipment: 9kg hammer, 510mm drop, conical tip.		Standard: AS1289.6.3.2 - 1997	
<b>Depth(m) Blows/0.3m</b>	<b>DCP 1 (~RL57.3)</b>	<b>DCP 2 (~RL52.5)</b>	<b>DCP 3 (~RL51.3)</b>
0.0 to 0.3	4	5	7
0.3 to 0.6	6	5	3F
0.6 to 0.9	10	9	5
0.9 to 1.2	#	24	10
1.2 to 1.5		#	#
	Refusal on rock @ 0.8m	Refusal on rock @ 1.2m	Refusal on rock @ 1.1m

#refusal/end of test. F=DCP fell after being struck showing little resistance through all or part of the interval.

#### **DCP Notes:**

DCP1 – Refusal on rock @ 0.8m, DCP bouncing off rock surface, white sandstone fragments and brown orange impact dust on dry tip.

DCP2 – Refusal on rock @ 1.2m, DCP bouncing off rock surface, white sandstone fragments on dry tip.

DCP3 – Refusal on rock @ 1.1m, DCP bouncing off rock surface, light brown sandy soil on muddy wet tip.

## **5. Geological Observations/Interpretation**

The surface features of the block are controlled by the underlying sandstone bedrock that steps down the property forming sub-horizontal benches between the steps. Where the grade is steeper, the steps are larger and the benches narrower. Where the slope eases, the opposite is true. The rock is overlain by fill, a sandy topsoil, sand and sandy clay that fills the bench step formation. Fill to a maximum depth of ~1.5m provides level platforms for lawn and garden areas across the property. In the test locations, the depth to rock ranged from ~0.8m to ~1.2m below the current surface. The sandstone underlying the property is

estimated to be Medium Strength or better. See Type Section attached for a diagrammatical representation of the expected ground materials.

## 6. Groundwater

Normal ground water seepage is expected to move over the buried surface of the rock and through the cracks in the rock.

Due to the slope and elevation of the block, the water table in the location is expected to be many metres below the proposed works.

## 7. Surface Water

No evidence of surface flows were observed on the property during the inspection. Normal sheet wash from the slope above will be intercepted by the street drainage system for Woorarra Avenue above.

## 8. Geotechnical Hazards and Risk Analysis

No geotechnical hazards were observed above or beside the property. The moderate to steep slope that falls across the property and continues below is a potential hazard (**Hazard One**).

### Geotechnical Hazards and Risk Analysis - Risk Analysis Summary

HAZARDS	Hazard One
TYPE	The moderate to steep slope that falls across the property and continues below failing and impacting on the property.
LIKELIHOOD	'Unlikely' ( $10^{-4}$ )
CONSEQUENCES TO PROPERTY	'Medium' (12%)
RISK TO PROPERTY	'Low' ( $2 \times 10^{-5}$ )
RISK TO LIFE	$8.3 \times 10^{-7}$ /annum
COMMENTS	This level of risk is 'ACCEPTABLE'.

(See Aust. Geomech. Jnl. Mar 2007 Vol. 42 No 1, for full explanation of terms)

## **9. Suitability of the Proposed Development for the Site**

The proposed development is suitable for the site. No geotechnical hazards will be created by the completion of the proposed development provided it is carried out in accordance with the requirements of this report and good engineering and building practice.

## **10. Stormwater**

The fall is away from the street. The stormwater engineer is to refer to council stormwater policy for suitable options.

## **11. Excavations**

An excavation to a maximum depth of ~1.1m is required to construct the proposed storeroom. The excavation is expected to be through topsoil and sandy clay, with Medium Strength Sandstone expected near the base of the excavation on the uphill side.

It is envisaged that excavations through soil and clay can be carried out with a machine and bucket and excavations through Medium Strength Sandstone or better will require grinding or rock sawing and breaking.

## **12. Vibrations**

Possible vibrations generated during excavations through soil and clay will be below the threshold limit for building damage utilising a domestic sized excavator up to 20 tonne.

If Medium Strength Rock or better is encountered, excavations through Medium Strength Rock or better should be carried out to minimise the potential to cause vibration damage to the subject house and NW neighbouring house. Allowing for backwall drainage, the excavation comes flush with the subject house and is set back ~3.2 from the NW neighbouring house. Close controls by the contractor over rock excavation are recommended so excessive vibrations are not generated.

Excavation methods are to be used that limit peak particle velocity to 8mm/sec at the subject house and property boundaries. Vibration monitoring will be required to verify this is achieved.

If a milling head is used to grind the rock, vibration monitoring will not be required. Alternatively, if rock sawing is carried out around the perimeter of the excavation boundaries in not less than 1.0m lifts, a rock hammer up to 300kg could be used to break the rock without vibration monitoring. Peak particle velocity will be less than 8mm/sec at the subject house and property boundaries using this method provided the saw cuts are kept well below the rock to be broken.

It is worth noting that vibrations that are below thresholds for building damage may be felt by the occupants of the subject house and neighbouring properties.

### **13. Excavation Support Requirements**

An excavation to a maximum depth of ~1.1m is required to construct the proposed storeroom. The excavation comes underneath and flush with piers and posts supporting the existing house and deck. The architectural plans show that these supporting structures will be removed as part of the proposed works. The piers and posts that will be removed are to be propped and supported with beams. The supports for the beams are to be beyond the zone of influence of the excavation. In this instance, the zone of influence is the area above a theoretical 30° line (from horizontal) through soil/sand from the top of Medium Strength rock, towards the surrounding structures and boundaries.

All excavation spoil is to be removed from site following the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) waste classification guidelines.

### **14. Retaining Structures**

For cantilever or singly propped retaining structures it is suggested the design be based on a triangular distribution of lateral pressures using the parameters shown in Table 1.



**Table 1 – Likely Earth Pressures for Retaining Structures**

Unit	Earth Pressure Coefficients		
	Unit weight (kN/m <sup>3</sup> )	'Active' K <sub>a</sub>	'At Rest' K <sub>0</sub>
Topsoil, Sand	20	0.40	0.55
Residual Clays	20	0.35	0.45
Medium Strength Sandstone	24	0.00	0.01

For rock classes refer to Pells et al "Design Loadings for Foundations on Shale and Sandstone in the Sydney Region".  
Australian Geomechanics Journal 1978.

It is to be noted that the earth pressures in Table 1 assume a level surface above the structure, do not account for any surcharge loads and assume retaining structures are fully drained.

Rock strength and relevant earth pressure coefficients are to be confirmed on site by the geotechnical consultant.

All retaining structures are to have sufficient back-wall drainage and be backfilled immediately behind the structure with free draining material (such as gravel). This material is to be wrapped in a non-woven Geotextile fabric (i.e. Bidim A34 or similar), to prevent the drainage from becoming clogged with silt and clay. If no back-wall drainage is installed in retaining structures the full hydrostatic pressures are to be accounted for in the retaining structure design.

## 15. Foundations

The proposed house and deck additions are to be supported on spread footings or shallow piers taken to Medium Strength Sandstone. This ground material is expected at depths from ~0.8m to ~1.2m below the current surface. A maximum allowable bearing pressure of 1000kPa can be assumed for footings on Medium Strength Sandstone.

The foundations of the existing house are currently unknown. Where the footing material changes across the structure construction joints or similar are to be installed to prevent differential settlement, where the structure cannot tolerate such movement.

The architectural plans show that the downhill side of the proposed driveway extension is suspended and will be supported off a new stone wall at the uphill side of the proposed deck. Where the driveway is not supported off this structure, it is to be supported on spread footings or shallow piers taken to Medium Strength Sandstone to maintain a uniform foundation material across the structure. The foundations of the existing driveway are currently unknown. Where the foundation material across the driveway structure changes, expansion joints are to be installed to separate the different foundation materials and to accommodate minor differential movement.

Naturally occurring vertical cracks (known as joints) commonly occur in sandstone. These are generally filled with soil and are the natural seepage paths through the rock. They can extend to depths of several metres and are usually relatively narrow but can range between 0.1 to 0.8m wide. If a footing falls over a joint in the rock, the construction process is simplified if with the approval of the structural engineer the joint can be spanned or alternatively the footing can be repositioned so it does not fall over the joint.

**NOTE:** If the contractor is unsure of the footing material required it is more cost effective to get the geotechnical consultant on site at the start of the footing excavation to advise on footing depth and material. This mostly prevents unnecessary over excavation in clay like shaly rock but can be valuable in all types of geology.

## REQUIRED INSPECTION ON NEXT PAGE

## 16. Inspection

The client and builder are to familiarise themselves with the following required inspection as well as council geotechnical policy. We cannot provide geotechnical certification for the Occupation Certificate if the following inspection has not been carried out during the construction process.

- All footings are to be inspected and approved by the geotechnical consultant while the excavation equipment and contractors are still onsite and before steel reinforcing is placed or concrete is poured.

White Geotechnical Group Pty Ltd.



Ben White M.Sc. Geol.,  
AusIMM., CP GEOL.  
No. 222757  
Engineering Geologist.



Photo 1

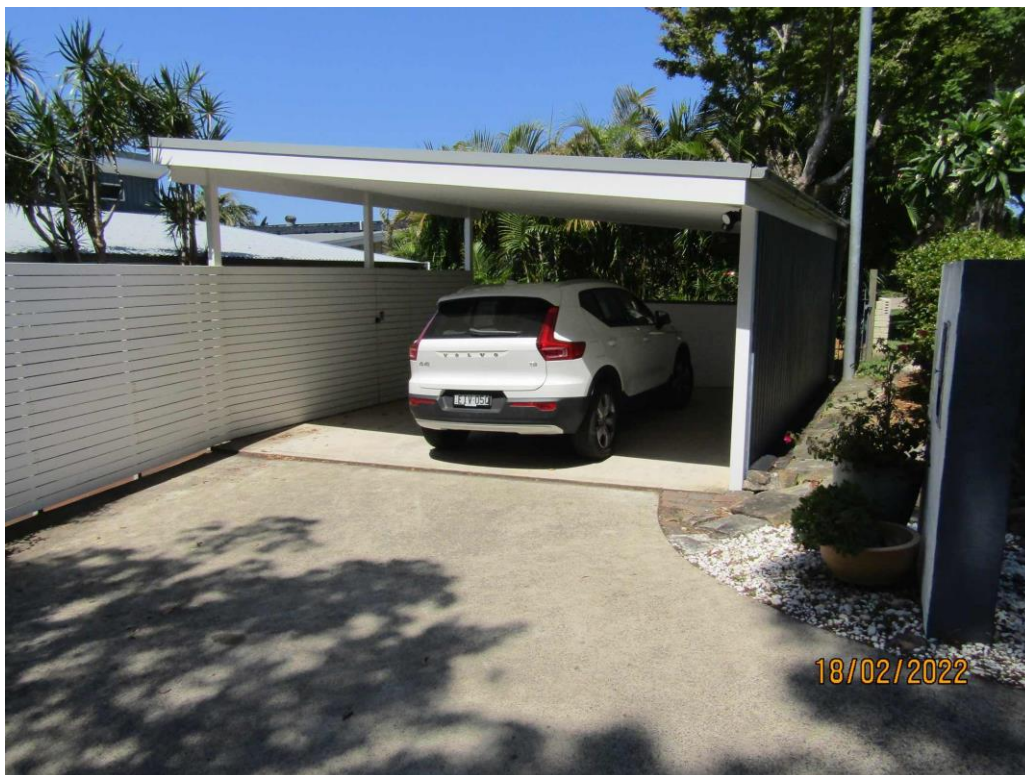


Photo 2





Photo 3



Photo 4





Photo 5



Photo 6





Photo 7



Photo 8



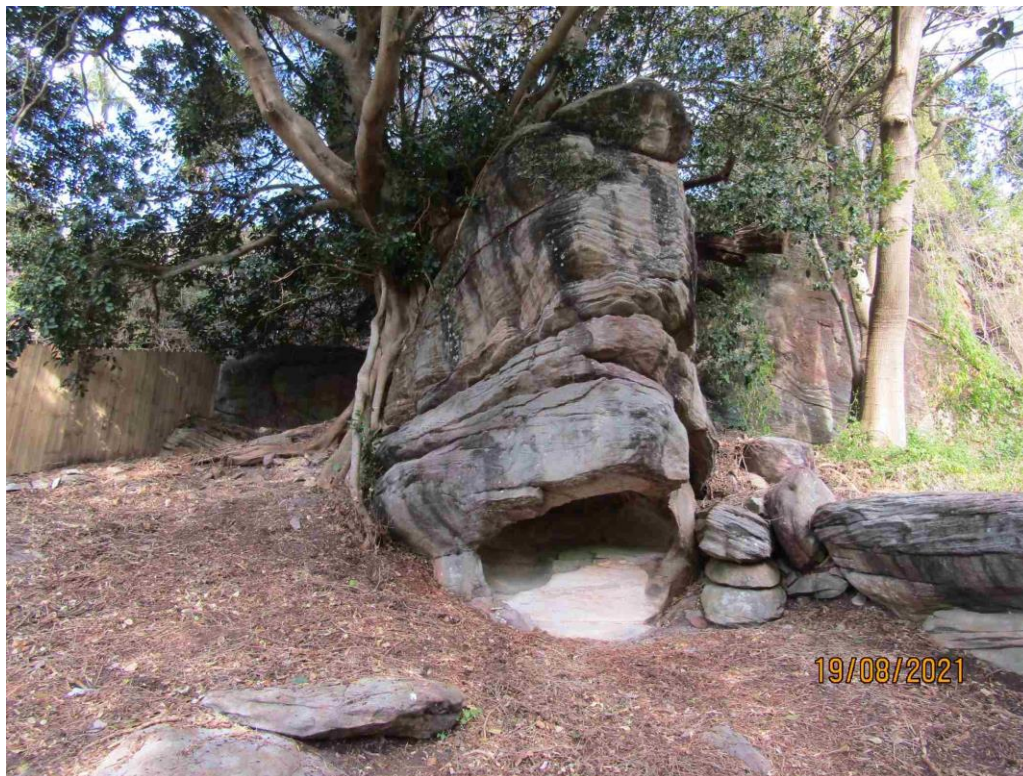


Photo 9

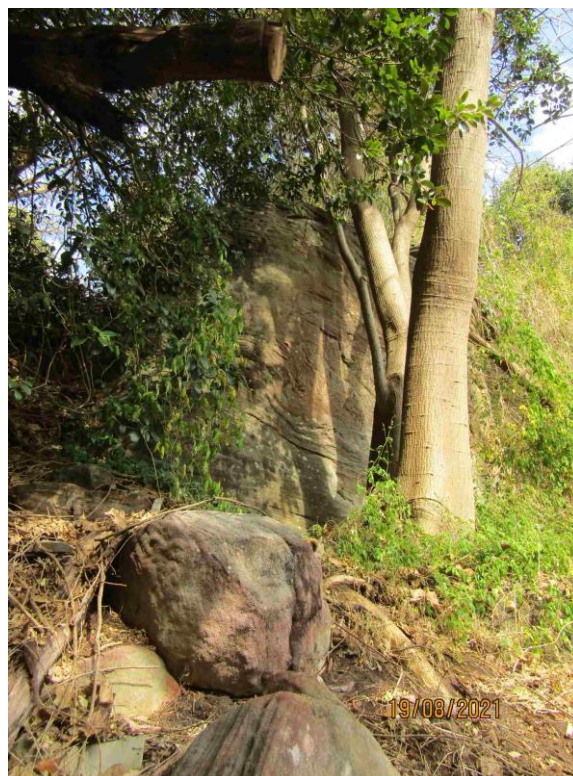


Photo 10



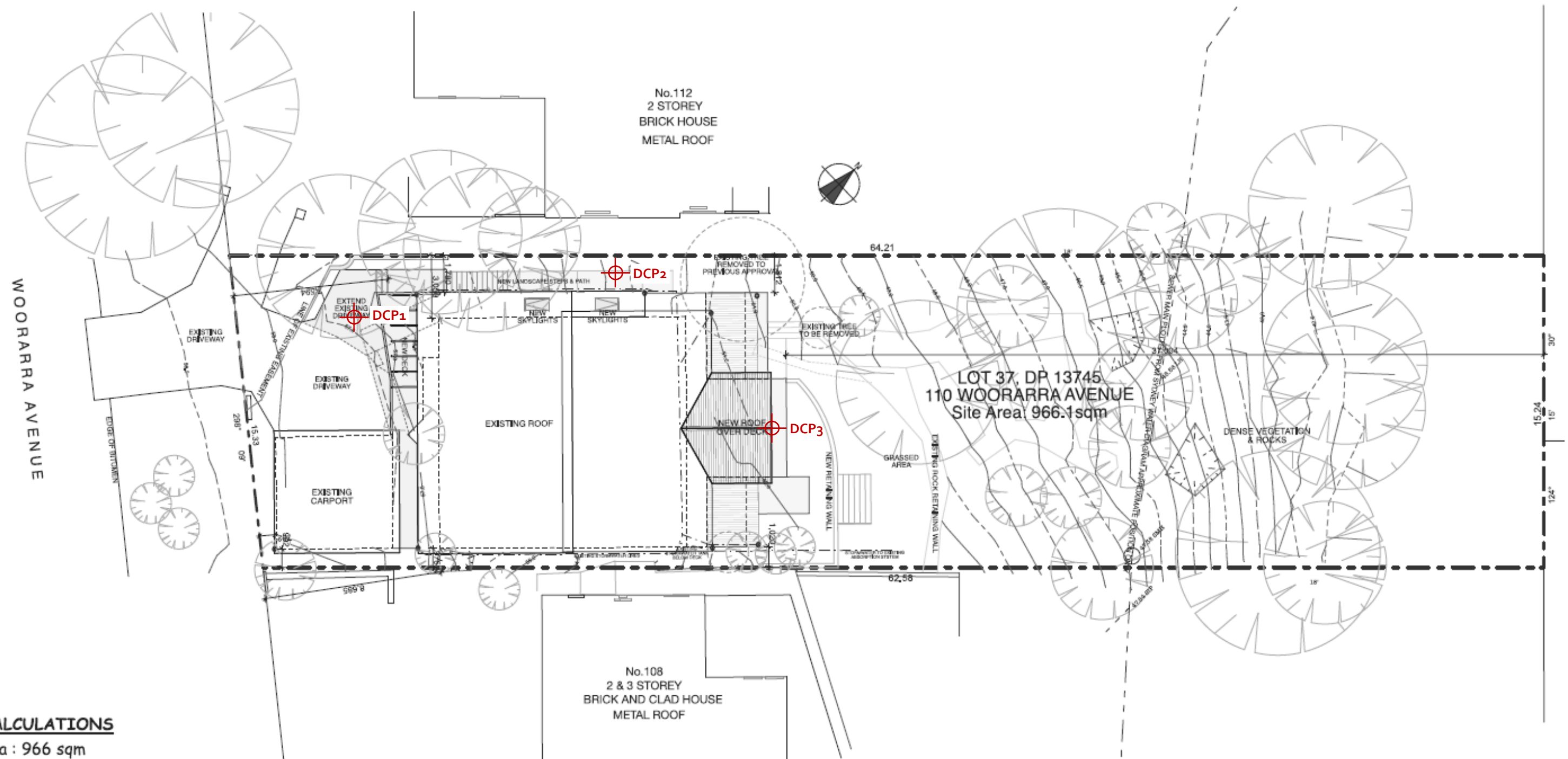
## Important Information about Your Report

It should be noted that Geotechnical Reports are documents that build a picture of the subsurface conditions from the observation of surface features and testing carried out at specific points on the site. The spacing and location of the test points can be limited by the location of existing structures on the site or by budget and time constraints of the client. Additionally, the test themselves, although chosen for their suitability for the particular project, have their own limiting factors. The testing gives accurate information at the location of the test, within the confines of the test's capability. A geological interpretation or model is developed by joining these test points using all available data and drawing on previous experience of the geotechnical consultant. Even the most experienced practitioners cannot determine every possible feature or change that may lie below the earth. All of the subsurface features can only be known when they are revealed by excavation. As such, a Geotechnical report can be considered an interpretive document. It is based on factual data but also on opinion and judgement that comes with a level of uncertainty. This information is provided to help explain the nature and limitations of your report.

With this in mind, the following points are to be noted:

- If upon the commencement of the works the subsurface ground or ground water conditions prove different from those described in this report, it is advisable to contact White Geotechnical Group immediately, as problems relating to the ground works phase of construction are far easier and less costly to overcome if they are addressed early.
- If this report is used by other professionals during the design or construction process, any questions should be directed to White Geotechnical Group as only we understand the full methodology behind the report's conclusions.
- The report addresses issues relating to your specific design and site. If the proposed project design changes, aspects of the report may no longer apply. Contact White Geotechnical if this occurs.
- This report should not be applied to any other project other than that outlined in section 1.0.
- This report is to be read in full and should not have sections removed or included in other documents as this can result in misinterpretation of the data by others.
- It is common for the design and construction process to be adapted as it progresses (sometimes to suit the previous experience of the contractors involved). If alternative design and construction processes are required to those described in this report, contact White Geotechnical Group. We are familiar with a variety of techniques to reduce risk and can advise if your proposed methods are suitable for the site conditions.

### SITE PLAN – showing test locations



## SITE CALCULATIONS

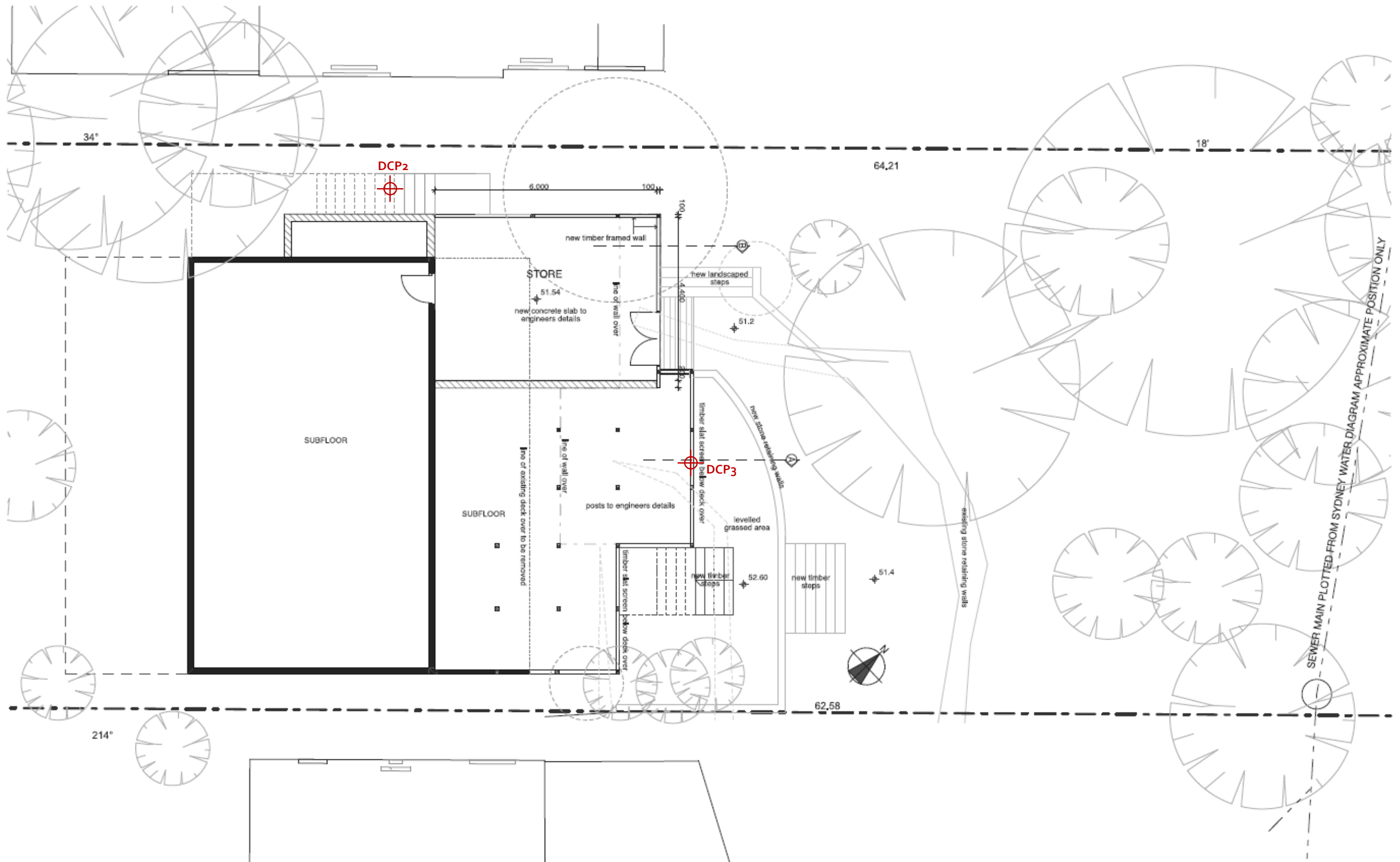
Site Area : 966 sqm

**Existing Soft Landscaped area** - 651sqm = 66.35%

**Proposed Soft Landscaped area - 604sqm = 62.53%**

AMENDMENTS	JO WILLMORE DESIGNS 11 Hudson Parade Clareville NSW 2107 (02) 9918 2479 ABN 27 370 370 173	ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS	drawing title <b>SITE PLAN</b>	date: FEBRUARY 2022  scale: 1:200 (A3)
		for: B. McDonald at: LOT 37, DP 13745, 110 Woorarra Avenue NORTH NARRABEEN, 2101	NOTE: Use figured dimension only. Do not scale off drawings. All levels and dimensions to be verified prior to construction of work	drawing number <b>DA-01</b>

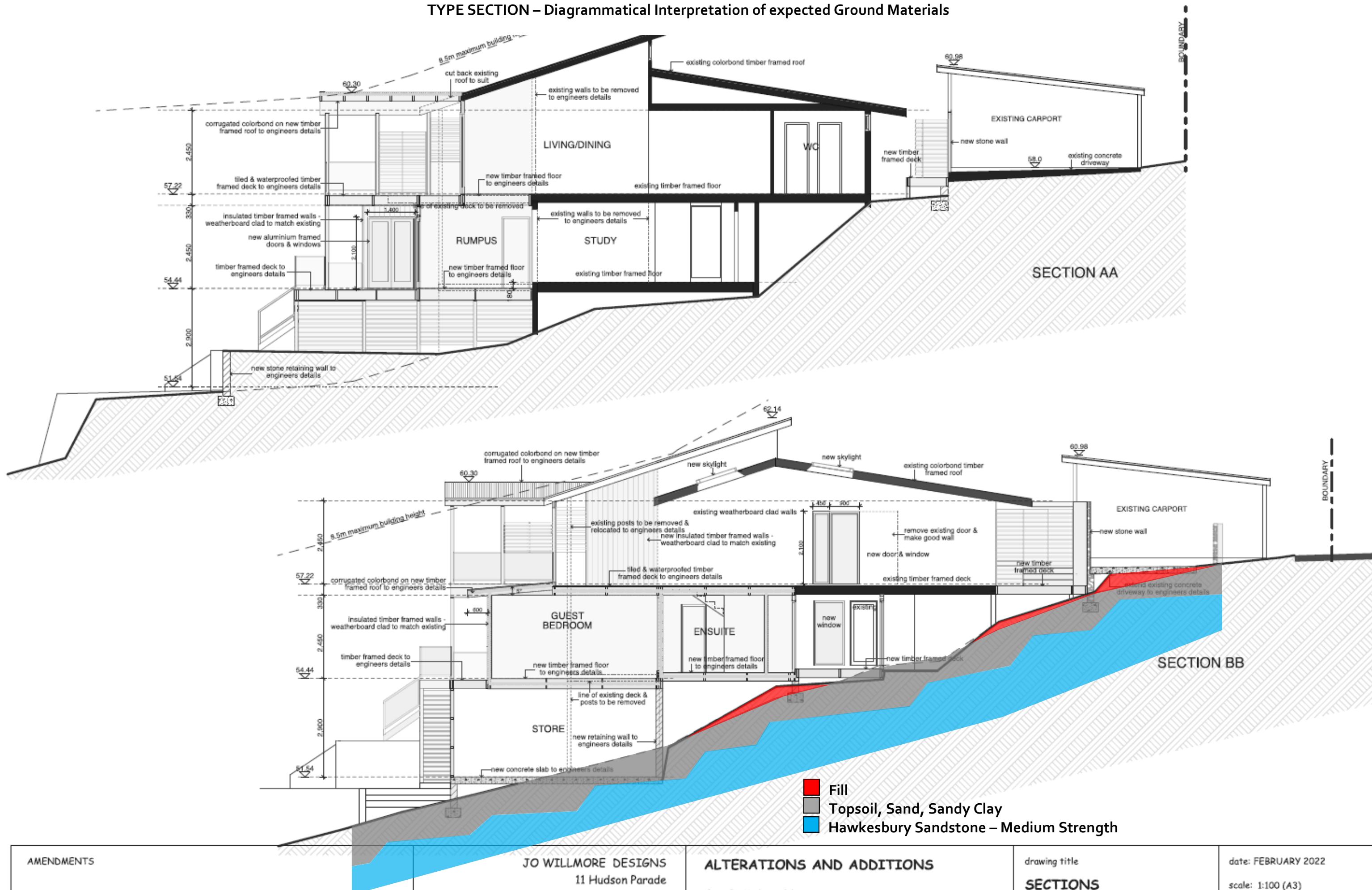
# SUBFLOOR PLAN – showing test locations



AMENDMENTS	JO WILLMORE DESIGNS 11 Hudson Parade Clareville NSW 2107 (02) 9918 2479 ABN 27 370 370 173	<b>ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS</b>  for: B. McDonald at: LOT 37, DP 13745, 110 Woorarra Avenue NORTH NARRABEEN, 2101	drawing title <b>SUBFLOOR PLAN</b>	date: FEBRUARY 2022  scale: 1:100 (A3)
			NOTE: Use figured dimension only. Do not scale off drawings. All levels and dimensions to be verified prior to construction of work	drawing number <b>DA-02</b>



# TYPE SECTION – Diagrammatical Interpretation of expected Ground Materials



AMENDMENTS

JO WILLMORE DESIGNS  
11 Hudson Parade  
Clareville NSW 2107  
(02) 9918 2479  
ABN 27 370 370 173

**ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS**  
for: B. McDonald  
at: LOT 37, DP 13745, 110 Woorarra Avenue  
NORTH NARRABEEN, 2101

drawing title  
**SECTIONS**

NOTE: Use figured dimension only.  
Do not scale off drawings. All levels and  
dimensions to be verified prior to construction  
of work

date: FEBRUARY 2022  
scale: 1:100 (A3)

drawing number  
**DA-08**

# EXAMPLES OF **GOOD** HILLSIDE PRACTICE



# EXAMPLES OF **POOR** HILLSIDE PRACTICE

