

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2021/0308
Date:	26/04/2021
Responsible Officer:	Nick Keeler
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 76 DP 10974 , 13 Mildred Avenue MANLY VALE NSW 2093

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

This application is for the alterations and additions to an existing residential dwelling. Alterations include the minor demolition of internal structures and walls to alter the layout of the dwelling, with additions inclusive of a new two-storey rear addition connected to the existing dwelling, a new swimming pool, driveway, double garage as well as a new front fence.

Councils Landscape Referral section has considered the application against the Warringah Local Environment Plan, and the following Warringah DCP 2011 controls:

- D1 Landscaped Open Space and Bushland Setting
- E1 Preservation of Trees or Bushland Vegetation

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment provided with the application has identified a total of nine trees in total, seven of which are located within the site boundaries, and the remaining two trees located in the neighbouring property to the west. Of the nine trees identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, a total of five trees have been proposed for removal. Tree No. 1 has been identified as an exempt tree as its height is below 5m, and as a result does not require Councils approval prior to being removed. Tree No. 2 is a semi-mature native canopy tree located adjacent to the northern boundary at the front of the site. The proposed stairs for the front access pathway have an encroachment of 8% into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), with no impact to the Structural Root Zone (SRZ), however the proposed front boundary wall is expected to have an encroachment of 32% into the TPZ, as well as impacts to the SRZ. The removal of this tree would not be supported as it provides valuable built form mitigation and softening in addition to landscape amenity for the overall streetscape of the area, both of which are key objectives of control D1. It is recommended that the front fence be redesigned to ensure it is constructed on pier footings located clear of woody significant roots, with fence spans constructed above ground between the piers. As a result of this change, the expected impacts on the health and vitality of this tree can be significantly reduced and be within acceptable levels, hence supporting its retention.

Trees No. 3, 4 and 5 are also located within the front setback, with impacts to the TPZs expected to be

minimal due to existing site constraints such as existing rock as well as structures associated with the existing dwelling. Irrespective of this, these trees have been proposed for removal however the Arboricultural Impact Assessment has noted these are to be replaced on site. This replacement planting is evident in the Architectural and Landscape Plans provided. The Arborists recommendations are therefore supported.

Of remaining four trees identified as retained, Trees No. 6 and 7 are located in the adjoining property, and Trees No. 8 and 9 are located towards the rear of the property. Tree No. 6 is expected to have a minor encroachment of 7% into its TPZ and no impacts to the SRZ, however through the implementation of typical tree protection measures the impacts are expected to be minor. Tree No. 8 also has an encroachment of 13% into the TPZ which is identified as major in accordance with *AS4970 Protection of trees on Development Sites*, and no encroachment within the SRZ. Despite this, the excavation of the pool itself is relatively minor due to the existing slope on site, hence the impacts on this tree are expected to be within acceptable ranges. That being said, it is recommended that a Project Arborist be engaged to supervise all demolition, excavation and construction works within the TPZ of this tree, and other trees to be retaining, ensuring that all major roots are avoided and the health and vitality of this tree is maintained long-term. Tree No. 7 and 9 will not be impacted by the proposed works. The retention of these four trees, as well as Tree No. 2, is vital to satisfy control E1, as key objectives of this control include "to protect and enhance the urban forest of the Northern Beaches", "to effectively manage the risks that come with an established urban forest through professional management of trees", as well as "to protect and enhance the scenic value and character that trees and/or bushland vegetation provide".

The indicative landscape works as proposed on the Landscape Plans, alongside existing tree retention, indicates sufficient planting is proposed that will increase the overall privacy of the site, particularly in relation to the neighbour to the west, as well as built form softening at the front of the. The completion of these works is necessary to satisfy control D1, as key objectives of this control include "to enable planting to maintain and enhance the streetscape", "to enhance privacy between buildings", as well as "to provide for landscaped open space with dimensions that are sufficient to enable the establishment of low lying shrubs, medium high shrubs and canopy trees of a size and density to mitigate the height, bulk and scale of the building".

The landscape component of the proposal is therefore supported subject to the protection of existing trees and vegetation, including Tree No. 2, and the completion of landscape works as proposed on the Landscape Plans.

The proposal is therefore supported.

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

Recommended Landscape Conditions:

CONDITIONS TO BE SATISFIED PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE CONSTRUCTION CERTIFICATE

Pier Footing Design Near Trees to be Retained

Pier footing structural layout plans for the external works including the proposed front boundary fence shall be developed in co-ordination with an Arborist with AQF minimum Level 5 qualifications in arboriculture, and a qualified Structural Engineer. The Arborist shall review, comment, recommend design revision as required and approve the pier footing layout, to ensure the locations of piers will be manageable in terms of tree protection measures.

The Arborist shall submit certification to the Certifying Authority, that the locations of the pier footings are accepted. The agreed pier footing structural layout plans shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority for approval prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate.

Reason: Tree protection.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ANY COMMENCEMENT

Project Arborist

A Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall be engaged to provide tree protection measures in accordance with Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites. The Project Arborist is to specify and oversee all tree protection measures such as tree protection fencing, trunk and branch protection, and ground protection.

The Project Arborist is to supervise all demolition, excavation and construction works near all trees to be retained, including construction methods near the existing trees to protect tree roots, trunks, branches and canopy. Where required, manual excavation is to occur ensuring no tree root at or >25mm (Ø) is damaged by works, unless approved by the Project Arborist.

Existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, unless authorised by the Project Arborist.

The Project Arborist shall be in attendance and supervise all works as nominated in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, including:

i) all demolition, excavation and construction works within the TPZ's and SRZ's of trees to be retained.

All tree protection measures specified must:

- a) be in place before work commences on the site, and
- b) be maintained in good condition during the construction period, and
- c) remain in place for the duration of the construction works.

The Project Arborist shall provide certification to the Certifying Authority that all recommendations listed for the protection of the existing tree(s) have been carried out satisfactorily to ensure no impact to the health of the tree(s). Photographic documentation of the condition of all trees to be retained shall be recorded, including at commencement, during the works and at completion.

Note:

- i) A separate permit or development consent may be required if the branches or roots of a protected tree on the site or on an adjoining site are required to be pruned or removed.
- ii) Any potential impact to trees as assessed by the Project Arborist will require redesign of any approved component to ensure existing trees upon the subject site and adjoining properties are preserved and shall be the subject of a modification application where applicable.

Reason: Tree protection.

Tree Removal Within the Property

This consent approves the removal of the following trees within the property (as recommended in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment):

- i) *Callistemon spp.* located centrally within the front yard adjacent to the existing rock outcrop, Tree No. 3,
- ii) *Acacia spp.* located within the front yard adjacent to the proposed residential dwelling extension, Tree No. 4,
- iii) *Tibouchina spp.* located within the front yard adjacent to the western boundary, Tree No. 5.

Note:

- i) Exempt Species as listed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment or the Development Control Plan do not require Council consent for removal,
- ii) Any request to remove a tree approved for retention under the development application is subject to a Section 4.55 modification application, or an assessment by an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture that determines that the tree presents an imminent risk to life or property.

Reason: To enable authorised building works.

CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH DURING DEMOLITION AND BUILDING WORK

Protection of Rock and Sites of Significance

All rock outcrops outside of the area of approved works are to be preserved and protected at all times during demolition excavation and construction works.

Should any Aboriginal sites be uncovered during the carrying out of works, those works are to cease and Council, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council are to be contacted.

Reason: Preservation of significant environmental features.

Tree and Vegetation Protection

a) Existing trees and vegetation shall be retained and protected, including:

- i) all trees and vegetation within the site not approved for removal, including Tree No. 2, excluding exempt trees and vegetation under the relevant planning instruments of legislation,
- ii) all trees and vegetation located on adjoining properties,
- iii) all road reserve trees and vegetation.

b) Tree protection shall be undertaken as follows:

- i) tree protection shall be in accordance with Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites, including the provision of temporary fencing to protect existing trees within 5 metres of development,
- ii) existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, unless authorised by an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture,
- iii) removal of existing tree roots at or >25mm (Ø) diameter is not permitted without consultation with an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture,
- iv) no excavated material, building material storage, site facilities, nor landscape materials are to be placed within the canopy dripline of trees and other vegetation required to be retained,
- v) structures are to bridge tree roots at or >25mm (Ø) diameter unless directed by an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture on site,
- vi) excavation for stormwater lines and all other utility services is not permitted within the tree protection zone, without consultation with an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture including advice on root protection measures,
- vii) should either or all of v), vi) and vii) occur during site establishment and construction works, an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall provide recommendations for tree protection measures. Details including photographic evidence of works undertaken shall be submitted by the Arborist to the Certifying Authority,
- viii) any temporary access to, or location of scaffolding within the tree protection zone of a protected tree or any other tree to be retained during the construction works is to be undertaken using the protection measures specified in sections 4.5.3 and 4.5.6 of Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites,
- ix) the activities listed in section 4.2 of Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on

Development Sites shall not occur within the tree protection zone of any tree on the lot or any tree on an adjoining site,

x) tree pruning from within the site to enable approved works shall not exceed 10% of any tree canopy, and shall be in accordance with Australian Standard 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees,
xi) the tree protection measures specified in this clause must: i) be in place before work commences on the site, and ii) be maintained in good condition during the construction period, and iii) remain in place for the duration of the construction works.

c) Tree protection shall specifically be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, as listed in the following sections:

- i) Section 9 - Recommendations,
- ii) Section 10 - Arboricultural Work Method Statement and Tree Protection Requirements,
- iii) Section 11 - Hold Points,
- iv) Appendix 1A - Tree Protection Plan.

The Certifying Authority must ensure that:

- d) The arboricultural works listed in c) are undertaken and certified by an Arborist as compliant to the recommendations of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
- e) The activities listed in section 4.2 of Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites, do not occur within the tree protection zone of any tree, and any temporary access to, or location of scaffolding within the tree protection zone of a protected tree, or any other tree to be retained on the site during the construction, is undertaken using the protection measures specified in sections 4.5.3 and 4.5.6 of that standard.

Note: All street trees within the road verge and trees within private property are protected under Northern Beaches Council development control plans, except where Council's written consent for removal has been obtained. The felling, lopping, topping, ringbarking, or removal of any tree(s) is prohibited.

Reason: Tree and vegetation protection.

CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE COMPLIED WITH PRIOR TO THE ISSUE OF THE OCCUPATION CERTIFICATE

Landscape Completion

Landscaping is to be implemented in accordance with the approved Landscape Plan.

Tree planting shall be located within a 9m² deep soil area wholly within the site and be located a minimum of 3 metres from existing and proposed buildings, and other trees.

Tree planting shall be located to minimise significant impacts on neighbours in terms of blocking winter sunlight, or where the proposed tree location may impact upon significant views.

Native tree planting species shall be selected from Council's list, specifically the *Native Plant Species Guide - Manly Ward*: www.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/environment/native-plants/native-plant-species-guide.

Screen planting is to comprise of native species capable of attaining a height of 2 metres at maturity.

Plants are to be installed at minimum 1 metre intervals and be of a minimum container size of 200mm at planting in a garden bed prepared with a suitable free draining soil mix and minimum 50mm depth of mulch.

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, details (from a landscape architect or landscape

designer) shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority, certifying that the landscape works have been completed in accordance with any conditions of consent.

Reason: Environmental amenity.

Condition of Retained Vegetation - Project Arborist

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, a report prepared by the project arborist shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority, assessing the health and impact on all existing trees required to be retained, including the following information:

- a) compliance to any Arborist recommendations for tree protection generally and during excavation works,
- b) extent of damage sustained by vegetation as a result of the construction works,
- c) any subsequent remedial works required to ensure the long term retention of the vegetation.

Reason: Tree protection.

ON-GOING CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE COMPLIED WITH AT ALL TIMES

Landscape Maintenance

If any landscape materials/components or planting under this consent fails, they are to be replaced with similar materials/components. Trees, shrubs and groundcovers required to be planted under this consent are to be mulched, watered and fertilised as required at the time of planting.

If any tree, shrub or groundcover required to be planted under this consent fails, they are to be replaced with similar species to maintain the landscape theme and be generally in accordance with the approved Landscape Plan and any conditions of consent.

All weeds are to be removed and controlled in accordance with the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.

Undesirable Trees

Leighton Green Cypress *Cupressocyparis leylandii* or any of its cultivars, or any other Undesirable Trees identified by Council, must not be planted on the site for the life of the development.

In the event of any inconsistency between this condition and the development application documents, this condition will prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

Reason: To reduce the potential for adverse amenity effects such as overshadowing, loss of views and loss of plant diversity.