

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2022/2181
Date:	21/02/2023
Proposed Development:	Demolition works and construction of a seniors housing development
Responsible Officer:	Maxwell Duncan
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 1 DP 208183 , 69 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

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 proposal is supported with regard to landscape issues.

The application is assessed by Landscape Referral against SEPP (Housing) 2021, Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the following Warringah Development Control Plan 2011 controls (but not limited to):

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

Landscape Referral raises concern that the proposed development does not achieve the 40% landscaped open space under the WDCP requirement, and this matter shall be assessed and determined under merit consideration by the Assessing Planning Officer. Compliant landscaped open space is calculated at approximately 32%.

An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Landscape Plan is included in the application and will be assessed as part of the Landscape Referral. The Arborist assessed 6 trees, of which trees 1 and 4 are located outside the property boundaries and as such must be retained and protected. Of the remaining four trees three are proposed to be removed, trees 3, 5 and 6. Trees 5 and 6 are exempt by species and as such do not require consent for removal. Should the development application be approved, tree 3 can be supported for removal due to its low retention value and the significant replacement native tree planting proposed on the landscape plans. Tree 2 will be retained, which is supported. It is noted the Arborist's advice regarding the stormwater infrastructure adjacent to trees 1 and 2 has been adopted. As recommended in the AIA, a Project Arborist shall be engaged to supervise works.

The existing street tree is proposed to be removed (which has been heavily lopped) and replaced with a more suitable species for under power lines, which is supported subject to the imposed conditions.

The landscape proposal is generally supported; however, there are discrepancies between the Planting Schedule and what is shown on the plans which will require coordination before issuing a Construction Certificate. Canopy trees to be included in the proposal, as shown on drawings 2 of 10, and 3 of 10:

- Rear setback;
 - 1 x *Angophora costata*, 1 x *Banksia integrifolia*, and 1 x *Acmena smithii*,
- Front setback;
 - 3 x *Melaleuca quinquenervia*.

Furthermore, the additional P.O.S terrace for U201 in the front setback, as shown on Landscape Plan 3 of 10, shall be removed and this area mass planted. All *Rhaphiolepis indica* shall be substituted with a suitable alternative as Council deems this species an environmental threat. All on slab landscaping shall meet Council's minimum soil depth requirements.

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

Amended Landscape Plan

An amended landscape plan shall be issued to the Certifier prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate to include the following details:

- a) coordinate all landscape drawings and populate the Planting Schedule with all proposed species and the quantities required. Quantities shall meet these minimum requirements; shrubs 1 per metre square, grasses and groundcovers 4 per metre square,
- b) canopy tree planting shall be as proposed;
- i) rear setback - 1 x *Angophora costata*, 1 x *Banksia integrifolia*, and 1 x *Acmena smithii*,
- ii) front setback - 3 x *Melaleuca quinquenervia*,
- c) substitute all *Rhaphiolepis indica* with a suitable alternative (although cultivars are proposed, Council deems this species an environmental threat),
- d) the private open space terrace for U201 shown on drawing 3 of 10 shall be removed and this area mass planted.

Certification shall be provided to the Certifier that these amendments have been documented.

Reason: Landscape amenity.

On Slab Landscape Works

Details shall be submitted to the Certifier prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate indicating the proposed method of waterproofing and drainage to all planters over slab, over which soil and planting is being provided.

Landscape treatment details shall be submitted to the Certifier prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate indicating the proposed soil type, planting, automatic irrigation, and services connections.

The following soil depths are required to support landscaping: 300mm for groundcovers, perennials,

grasses; 600mm for shrubs; and 1m for small trees.

Design certification shall be submitted to the Certifier by a qualified Structural Engineer, that the planters are designed structurally to support the 'wet' weight of landscaping (soil, materials and established planting).

Reason: To ensure appropriate soil depth for planting and ensure waterproofing and drainage is installed.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ANY COMMENCEMENT

Project Arborist

A Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall be engaged prior to any commencement of works on site to provide tree protection measures in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

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

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 Certifier that all tree protection measures under AS4970-2009 have been satisfied, and the 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:

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 existing trees on the subject site as identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, approved Plans, or as listed below:

- a) tree 3 - *Callistemon viminalis*,
- b) a qualified AQF level 5 Arborist shall identify these trees on site and tag or mark prior to removal.

Reason: To enable authorised development works.

Tree Removal Within the Road Reserve

This consent approves the removal of existing trees within the road reserve as listed below:

- a) 1 x *Liquidambar* street tree to the front of the property,
- b) a qualified AQF level 5 Arborist shall identify these trees on site and tag or mark prior to removal.

Removal of the approved tree/s in the road reserve shall only be undertaken by a Council approved tree contractor. Details of currently approved tree contractors can be obtained from Northern Beaches

Council's Trees Services business unit prior to removal.

Reason: Public liability.

CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH DURING DEMOLITION AND BUILDING WORK

Tree and Vegetation Protection

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

- i) all trees within the site not approved for removal, including trees and vegetation nominated for retention on the approved Plans,
- ii) all trees and vegetation located on adjoining properties,
- iii) all trees and vegetation within the road reserve.

b) Tree protection shall be undertaken as follows:

- i) tree protection shall be in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment,
- ii) existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, unless authorised by an Arborist/Project 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/Project 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/Project 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/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture including advice on root protection measures,
- vii) should either or all of v) or vi) occur during site establishment and construction works, an Arborist/Project 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 Principal Certifier,
- 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 AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites,
- ix) the activities listed in section 4.2 of AS4970-2009 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 AS4373-2007 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.

The Principal Certifier must ensure that:

- c) The arboricultural works listed in a) and b) are undertaken and certified by an Arborist/Project Arborist as compliant to AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

Reason: Tree and vegetation protection.

Condition of Trees

During the construction period the applicant is responsible for ensuring all existing trees required to be retained are maintained in a healthy and vigorous condition. This is to be done by ensuring that all

identified tree protection measures are adhered to, or by seeking arboricultural advice from an Arborist/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture during the works. In this regard all protected trees shall not exhibit:

- a) a general decline in health and vigour,
- b) damaged, crushed or dying roots due to poor pruning techniques,
- c) more than 10% loss or dieback of roots, branches and foliage,
- d) mechanical damage or bruising of bark and timber of roots, trunk and branches,
- e) yellowing of foliage or a thinning of the canopy untypical of its species,
- f) an increase in the amount of deadwood not associated with normal growth,
- g) an increase in kino or gum exudation,
- h) inappropriate increases in epicormic growth that may indicate that the plants are in a stressed condition,
- i) branch drop, torn branches and stripped bark not associated with natural climatic conditions.

Any mitigating measures and recommendations required by the Arborist/Project Arborist are to be implemented.

The owner of the adjoining allotment of land is not liable for the cost of work carried out for the purpose of this clause.

Reason: Protection of trees.

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

Street Tree Planting

Street tree planting shall be installed in accordance with the following: 3 x *Tristaniopsis laurina* 'Luscious', as shown on the Landscape Plan.

All street trees shall be a minimum pre-ordered planting size of 200 litres, and shall meet the requirements of Natspec - Specifying Trees. All street trees shall be planted into a prepared planting hole 1m x 1m x 600mm depth, backfilled with a sandy loam mix or approved similar, mulched to 75mm depth minimum and maintained, including a four post and top and mid rail timber tree guard, and watered until established, and shall be generally located at least 2.0 metres from driveways, and shall generally be centralised within the road verge.

Reason: to maintain environmental and streetscape amenity.

Landscape Completion

Landscape works are to be implemented in accordance with the approved Landscape Plan(s) (drawings 1 of 10 to 10 of 10 by Paul Scrivener dated 07/12/22), and inclusive of the Amended Landscape Plan conditions, plus the following conditions:

- a) landscape works are to be contained within the legal property boundaries,
- b) all canopy tree planting shall be a minimum pre-ordered planting size of 75 litres or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size; meet the requirements of Natspec - Specifying Trees; planted into a prepared planting hole 1m x 1m x 600mm depth, backfilled with a sandy loam mix or approved similar, mulched to 75mm depth minimum and maintained, and watered until established; and shall be located at least 3.0 metres from buildings or more, at least 1.5 metres from common boundaries; and located either within garden bed or within a prepared bed within lawn,
- c) tree, shrub and groundcover planting shall be installed as indicated on the approved Landscape Plan (s),
- d) mass planting shall be installed at minimum 1 metre intervals for shrubs of a minimum 200mm container size at planting or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size, and at 4 plants per metre square

for groundcovers of a minimum 140mm container size at planting or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size, and shall be 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, landscape designer or qualified horticulturalist shall be submitted to the Principal Certifier, 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 an Arborist/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall be submitted to the Principal Certifier, assessing the health and impact on all existing trees required to be retained on the approved Plans or as listed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, 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 and vegetation 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 amended Landscape Plan(s) and any conditions of consent.

A maintenance activity schedule for on-going maintenance of planters on slab shall be incorporated to monitor and replenish soil levels as a result of soil shrinkage over time.

The approved landscape area shall in perpetuity remain as planting under the development consent.

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.