16.12.2021



Joann de Vries Building Compliance Officer Environmental Compliance Northern Beaches Council PO Box 82 Manly, NSW 1655

9 Hickson Circuit Harrington Park NSW 2567 M: 0425 308 275 E: scott@hortmanagement.com.au

Dear Joann,

COUNCIL REFERENCE: EPA2021/0292. ARBORIST INSPECTION AND ASSESSMENT OF TREES ADJOINING CONSTRUCTED TIMBER RETAINING WALL AT 3 THOMPSON STREET, SCOTLAND ISLAND.

I have been instructed by Mr Mark Martin and Ms Kay Reaney, the owners of the property to advise and provide a formal response to the Council's correspondence – a *Notice of Intention to Give A Development Control Order* dated 18 November 2021.

The Council' correspondence raises concerns in respect to the consequences of the construction of a timber retaining wall that adjoins Three-(3) trees located in Council's Road Reserve adjacent to Florence Terrace. The correspondence states particularly:

"The environmental impact to the trees has not been assessed and works may have damaged the tree roots and consequently the life and stability of the trees"

Horticultural Management Services was engaged to conduct an Arboriculture impact inspection and assessment regarding the timber retaining wall construction and scope of works and the potential impact of those works upon the trees.

The purpose of this inspection was to identify the trees within and or adjoining the retaining wall, provide information on their individual current health and condition, determine their remaining life expectancy and significance in the landscape, and assess their suitability for retention/preservation or removal.

The potential impact of the proposed retaining wall, rock steps and entry pathway scope of works has also been considered. The extent of potential impacts has been determined to be the pier holes which now hold the supporting posts to the retaining wall. I am informed that the piers were excavated by machine and no material roots were encountered. Further invasive investigation has been considered by me however such investigation will go well beyond the existing works and consequently raise avoidable risks.

A site investigation was undertaken on Wednesday 15 December 2021 to assess the trees onsite and those adjoining the retaining wall, steps, and entry pathway.

Information contained in this assessment covers only the subject trees that were assessed and reflects the condition of the subject trees on site at the time of inspection.





Based on our inspection, no trees were illegally removed as part of these works.

The trees observed consisted of Tree 1 being a Spotted Gum (Corymbia maculata), Tree 2 Mountain Cedar Wattle (*Acacia elata*) and Tree 3 Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) being located upon the high side and within close proximity to the timber retaining wall and landscaping works adjacent to the Florence Terrace informal roadway.

As per photos attached the constructed timber retaining wall is located in front of the considered street embankment alignment, thus ensuring minimal impacts to these trees.

The adjoining embankment along Council's Road Reserve, to Florence Terrace, consisted of an excavated cut-off with typical weed infestation and observations of erosion from surface run-off from storm events.

The retaining wall has been constructed clear of the informal roadway of Florence Terrace, and in a location to have the least environmental impact to adjoining trees individual SRZ. I am informed that minor sandstone rock floaters were removed as part of these works, which exposed minor surface feeding roots ranging from 10mm to 30mm in diameter, which were pruned and in line with current best arboricultural practice and *AS* 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites.

I am also informed that the sandstone rock steps, and entry pathway location did not encounter any existing roots. The finished level of the entry pathway appears to be consistent with that advice. In circumstances where no tree roots have been impacted, identified and or removed as part of these works, I am satisfied that the adjoining trees will be safely retained.

Tree 1, Spotted Gum is in good health, density, and structural condition and able to be safely retained and managed as per current practices.

Tree 2, Mountain C edar W attle is in good health, however, it is in advanced decline, with the upper canopy being dead and structural branches dead and or failed over a period of time.

I observed the condition of this tree has been in decline over a period of time and is not a result of these works.

Tree 3, Bangalay is in good to fair health, density, and structural condition and able to be safely retained and managed as per current practices.

In summary, the earthworks, considered excavations undertaken, wall location and construction material and methodology, rock steps and entry pathway have not adversely impacted the safe retention of these trees or their considered longevity.

No additional works and or rectifications are required to ensure these trees preservation.

These trees are able to be safely retained, protected, and maintained as per current practices.





Should you require further clarification with regards to this letter please contact me on 0425 308 275BH.

Regards Scott

Scott Freeman

Scott Freeman- Principal Horticultural Management Services Diploma of Arboriculture (AQF L5) ISA Tree Risk Assessment (TRAQ) Certified Diploma of Horticulture Diploma of Conservation and Land Management





APPENDIX A: SITE PHOTOS



Figure 1 Shows the existing constructed timber retaining wall.



Figure 2 Shows the existing embankment along the Council road reserve.







Figure 3 Shows again the embankment and timber wall alignment.



Figure 4 Shows Trees 1, 2 and 3 from a distance with noted dead hanger in Tree 2.







Figure 5 Shows Trees 1, 2 and 3 along the Roadway, with new steps and entry pathway adjoining.



Figure 6 Shows the trees with typical embankment.







Figure 7 Shows the retaining wall continued on the other side of the entry pathway.



Figure 8 Shows the rock steps cut into the existing topography to ensure no impacts to surface or anchorage roots of Tree 1.



