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27/03/19  
REF 270319

**ARBORIST LETTER REPORT  
TREE FOR REMOVAL**

1 *Eucalyptus botryoides*  
Bangalay Gum

To the General Manager  
Northern Beaches Council

Site Address: **51 Plateau Rd Avalon Beach**

I have been commissioned by the owner, Ashley Joyce to inspect his trees in preparation for a development application to construct a new double carport on the front northern section of his property.

There are several mature native and exotic tree species on the property but only one is relevant to the new construction. This is the only Tree for removal with the development. I met with him on site on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2019 and we discussed the history of the site and the new development. I viewed the tree from the ground only.

Documents viewed for this report were:

Survey Plan by Detailed Surveys dated 13 Feb 2018 Ref # 006/18.

Draft Architectural drawings by Michael Airey dated March 2019; No 1A-5A.

**The Tree**

The Tree is a mature *Eucalyptus botryoides* or Bangalay Gum. It is locally native and probably part of the original forest. It is located near the northern boundary where the proposed driveway crossing, and layback will be positioned. **It is protected species covered by Northern Beaches Tree Preservation Order.**

The Tree is approximately 8m high with a diameter at breast height of 300mm and has a co-dominant trunk at this point. Its crown spread would be about 5 meters. It is in reasonable health and condition. A large termite nest is evident in the canopy of the tree and there is evidence of Lerp pest damage to the foliage. 30% of the canopy is epicormic growth and 10% is deadwood. The Tree has poor form and is suppressed from the south due to the prevailing salt winds.

Soil level changes are obviously affecting the health and condition of the Tree, depriving the Tree of moisture and oxygen. This would contribute to the poor health of the tree. Termite damage is evident but hit it is hard to assess the extent of the damage. It may be structurally unsafe in high winds. There is evidence of limb failure which is of concern due to electricity wires beneath the canopy.

This is not a significant Tree and has low value in the landscape. I have given it a low SULE rating. (See SULE categories).

In the interest of safety and the Tree being of low value in the landscape **I recommend the complete removal of The Tree.** This should be done by a qualified and insured Arborist to Australian Standards.

I also recommend replanting of 2 locally native canopy Trees. They should be planted at least 5 meters from any habitable building. Species can be selected from council website. They should be guaranteed to grow for the life of the development.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me.

Yours faithfully

*Geoff Burton*, M.A.I.H.; M.I.S.A, AQF Level 5 Arborist.

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## **SULE CATEGORIES** (after Barrell 1996, Updated 01/04/01)

The five categories and their sub-groups are as follows:

**1. Long SULE** - tree appeared retainable at the time of assessment for over 40 years with an acceptable degree of risk, assuming reasonable maintenance:

- A. structurally sound trees located in positions that can accommodate future growth
- B. trees which could be made suitable for long term retention by remedial care
- C. trees of special significance which would warrant extraordinary efforts to secure their long term retention

**2. Medium SULE** - tree appeared to be retainable at the time of assessment for 15 to 40 years with an acceptable degree of risk, assuming reasonable maintenance:

- A. trees which may only live from 15 to 40 years
- B. trees which may live for more than 40 years but would be removed for safety or nuisance reasons
- C. trees which may live for more than 40 years but would be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new planting
- D. trees which could be made suitable for retention in the medium term by remedial care

**3. Short SULE** - tree appeared to be retainable at the time of assessment for 5 to 15 years with an acceptable degree of risk, assuming reasonable maintenance:

- A. trees which may only live from 5 to 15 years
- B. trees which may live for more than 15 years but would be removed for safety or nuisance reasons
- C. trees which may live for more than 15 years but would be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new planting
- D. trees which require substantial remediation and are only suitable for retention in the short term

**4. Removal** - trees which should be removed within the next 5 years

- A. dead, dying, suppressed or declining trees
- B. dangerous trees through instability or recent loss of adjacent trees
- C. dangerous trees because of structural defects including cavities, decay, included bark, wounds or poor form.
- D. damaged trees that are clearly not safe to retain.
- E. trees which may live for more than 5 years but would be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new planting.
- F. trees which are damaging or may cause damage to existing structures within the next 5 years.
- G. trees that will become dangerous after removal of other trees for the reasons given in (a) to (f).
- H. trees in categories (a) to (g) that have a high wildlife habitat value and, with appropriate treatment, could be retained subject to regular review.

**5. Small, young or regularly pruned** - Trees that can be reliably moved or replaced.

- A. small trees less than 5m in height.
- B. young trees less than 15 years old but over 5m in height.
- C. formal hedges and trees intended for regular pruning to artificially control growth.

