

EARTHSCAPE HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

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ARBORICULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

PROPOSED COMMUNITY TITLE SUBDIVISION

39 STARKEY STREET, FORESTVILLE January 2024

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	I	INTRODUCTION	3
2		THE SITE	
3	S	SUBJECT TREES	4
4	F	HEALTH AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT	4
4	.1	Methodology	4
4	.2	Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)	4
5	Ι	LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE	5
5	.1	Methodology for Determining Landscape Significance	5
5	.2	Environmental Significance	5
5	.3	Heritage Significance	6
5	.4	Amenity Value	7
6		TREE RETENTION VALUES	
7	7	TREE PROTECTION ZONES	8
7	.2	Structural Root Zone (SRZ)	
7	.3	Acceptable Encroachments to the Tree Protection Zone.	
7	.4	Acceptable Encroachments to the Canopy	
7	.5	Legal Protection	
8		PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	
9		IMPACT ASSESSMENT	
10		RECOMMENDED TREE PROTECTION MEASURES	
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	0.6	8	
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	0.8		
_	0.9		
	0.1		
	0.1		
		RENCES	
		NDIX 1 - CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE	
		NDIX 2 – ACCEPTABLE INCURSIONS TO THE TREE PROTECTION ZONE (TPZ)	20
		NDIX 3 – TREE HEALTH AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE	
		NDIX 4 – IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE	
		NDIX 5 – TREE LOCATION PLAN SHOWING RETENTION VALUES	
AP	PEN	NDIX 6 – TREE PROTECTION PLAN	

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This report was commissioned by Mr David Lin to assess the health and condition of four (4) trees located within or immediately adjacent to 39 Starkey Street, Forestville. The report has been prepared to aid in the assessment of a Development Application (DA) for the Community Title subdivision of the property to create two new residential allotments together with one common driveway allotment and associated civil works (driveway entry and turning areas) and stormwater drainage. This assessment has been limited to trees within the front yard of the property within 5 metres of the proposed civil works in accordance with Council's requirements.
- 1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to assess the potential impact of the proposed development on the subject trees, together with recommendations for amendments to the design or construction methodology where necessary to minimise any adverse impact. The report also provides recommended tree protection measures (Tree Protection Plan and Specification) to ensure the long-term preservation of the trees to be retained where appropriate.
- 1.1.3 This report has been prepared in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council's guidelines for preparation of Arborists Reports as outlined in Part E and Part H (Appendices 9, 11 & 12) of the *Warringah Development Control Plan 2011* (WDCP) and Sections 2.3.2-2.3.5 of the Australian Standard for *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* (AS 4970:2009).

2 THE SITE

- 2.1.1 The subject property is a residential allotment known as Lot 17 in DP 23118, being 39 Starkey Street, Forestville. For the purposes of this report, the subject allotment will be referred to as 'the site'. The total area of the site is approximately 939.7 m². The site is zoned Low Density Residential [R2] under the *Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP).
- 2.1.2 The site contains an existing single storey dwelling located in the central northern portion of the lot and a detached secondary dwelling (Granny Flat) plus home office near the south-western corner, together with two outbuildings in the rear yard. The site has a slight to moderate south-easterly gradient with established lawns and gardens typical of surrounding residential properties. The site contains a number of mature and semi-mature trees. These include a variety of non-local native and exotic (introduced) species.
- 2.1.3 The soils of this area are typical of the Gymea Landscape Group (as classified in the *Soil Landscapes of the Sydney 1:100,000 Sheet*), consisting of "shallow to moderately deep (300 1000 mm) *Yellow Earths* and *Earthy Sands* on crests and inside of benches and shallow (< 200 mm) *Siliceous Sands* on leading edges of benches; localised *Gleyed Podzolic Soils* and *Yellow Podzolic Soils* on shale lenses; and shallow to moderately deep (< 1000mm) *Siliceous Sands* and *Leached Sands* along Drainage Lines." Soil materials are derived Hawkesbury Sandstone and may be discontinuous with localised rock outcrop.
- 2.1.4 The original vegetation of this area consisted of open forest & woodland typical of Hawkesbury Sandstone areas.² Most of the original vegetation has been cleared for residential development in the post-WWII era (1945-1955). The locally-indigenous tree species formerly occurring in this area included *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum), *Corymbia gummifera* (Red Bloodwood) and *Eucalyptus haemastoma* (Scribbly Gum). Other species occurring in this vegetation community may include *Allocasuarina littoralis* (Black She-Oak), *Eucalyptus globoidea* (White Stringybark), *Eucalyptus sieberi* (Silvertop Ash) and *Banksia serrata* (Old Man Banksia).

3 SUBJECT TREES

3.1.1 The subject trees were inspected by Earthscape Horticultural Services (EHS) on the 23rd May 2023. Each tree has been provided with an identification number for reference purposes denoted on the attached Tree Location Plan (**Appendix 5**), based on the survey prepared by Bee & Lethbridge Pty Ltd, Dwg. Ref No. 19539 [00] dated 21/02/2023. The numbers used on this plan correlate with the Tree Assessment Schedule (**Appendix 3**).

4 HEALTH AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT

4.1 Methodology

- 4.1.1 An assessment of each tree was made using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) procedure.³ All of the trees were assessed in view from the ground. No aerial inspection or diagnostic testing has been undertaken as part of this assessment.
- 4.1.2 The following information was collected for each tree:-
 - Tree Species (Botanical & Common Name);
 - Approximate height;
 - Canopy spread (measured using laser distance measurer in four directions and an average taken);
 - **Trunk diameter** (measured with a diameter tape at 1.4 metres from ground level);
 - **Live Crown Size** (measured by subtracting the total height of the tree from the lowest point of the crown and multiplying by the average crown spread to give a value in square metres);
 - **Maturity Class -** the Maturity Class for each tree has been divided into the following categories:-
 - OM Over-mature greater than 80% of the life expectancy for the species;
 - M Mature -50-80% of the life expectancy for the species;
 - SM Semi-mature 20-50% of the life expectancy for the species;
 - I Immature less than 20% of the life expectancy for the species.
 - **Health & vigour** (using foliage size, colour, extension growth, presence of disease or pest infestation, canopy density, presence of deadwood, dieback and epicormic growth as indicators),
 - **Condition** (using visible evidence of structural defects, instability, evidence of previous pruning and physical damage as indicators); and
 - **Suitability** of the tree to the site and its existing location (in consideration of damage or potential damage to services or structures, available space for future development and nuisance issues).
- 4.1.3 This information is presented in a tabulated form in **Appendix 3**.

4.2 Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)

- 4.2.1 The remaining Safe Useful Life Expectancy⁴ of the tree is an estimate of the sustainability of the tree in the landscape, calculated based on an estimate of the average age of the species in an urban area, less its estimated current age. The life expectancy of the tree has been further modified where necessary in consideration of its current health and vigour, condition and suitability to the site. The estimated SULE of each tree is shown in **Appendix 3.**
- 4.2.2 The following ranges have been allocated to each tree:-
 - Greater than 40 years (Long)
 - Between 15 and 40 years (Medium)
 - Between 5 and 15 years (Short)
 - Less than 5 years (Transient)

- Dead or immediately hazardous (defective or unstable)
- 4.2.1 SULE ratings are intended to provide a general overview of the long-term sustainability of the trees within the site in consideration of these factors. The allocated ranges are not intended to be absolute. This information is useful in guiding future planning by highlighting the probable lifespan of individual trees, for which a clear pattern may emerge. This information may be helpful in forecasting likely tree senescence and planning for replacement planting to ensure continuity in tree canopy across the site. It should be noted that SULEs *may* be extended or reduced depending on the way trees are managed. Intervention and remedial works may extend the SULE of some trees.

5 LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 Methodology for Determining Landscape Significance

- 5.1.1 The significance of a tree in the landscape is a combination of its environmental, heritage and amenity values. Whilst these values may be fairly subjective and difficult to assess consistently, some measure is necessary to assist in determining the retention value of each tree. To ensure a consistent approach, the assessment criteria shown in **Appendix 1** have been used in this assessment.
- 5.1.2 A rating has been applied to each tree to give an understanding of the relative significance of each tree in the landscape and to assist in determining priorities for retention, in accordance with the following categories:-
 - 1. Significant
 - 2. Very High
 - 3. High
 - 4. Moderate
 - 5. Low
 - 6. Very Low
 - 7. Insignificant

5.2 Environmental Significance

5.2.1 Tree Management Controls

Prescribed Trees within the Northern Beaches (former Warringah) Local Government Area (LGA) are protected under the provisions of Part E1 of the *Warringah Development Control Plan* 2011 (WDCP), made pursuant to Chapter 2, Part 2.3 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy* (*Biodiversity and Conservation*) 2017 (Biodiversity SEPP).

The WDCP generally protects all trees with a height of greater than five (5) metres, all trees that are or form part of Heritage Items, all trees within designated Heritage Conservation Areas (regardless of dimensions) and other Prescribed Vegetation (mapped on the DCP as Threatened and High Conservation Habitat, Wildlife Corridors or Native Vegetation) or within areas known or having potential habitat for threatened species, populations or ecological communities. Some exemptions apply. The following trees are exempt (not protected) under the provisions of the WDCP 2011:-

Tree No.	Species	Exemption		
Т3	Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)	Undesirable Species		
T4	Dypsis lutescens (Golden Cane Palm)	Palm tree other than <i>Livistona</i> spp.		

The remainder of the trees are protected under Council's Tree Management Controls.

5.2.2 Wildlife Habitat

All of the trees are exotic (introduced) or non-local native species that would be of some benefit to native wildlife. However, none of the trees contain cavities that would be suitable as nesting hollows for arboreal mammals or birds. There were no other visible signs of wildlife habitation.

The site is *not* located within a defined 'Wildlife Corridor' as indicated on Council's Wildlife Corridors Map.

5.2.3 Noxious Plants & Environmental Weeds

None of the subject trees are scheduled as a potential 'Biosecurity Risk' ('Priority Weed' – formerly 'Noxious Weed') within NSW under the provisions of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

None of the subject trees are listed as Environmental Weed Species within the Northern Beaches LGA.

5.2.4 Threatened Species & Ecological Communities

None of the subject trees are listed as Threatened or Vulnerable Species or form part of Endangered Ecological Communities (EECs) under the provisions of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (NSW) or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The site is *not* identified as containing any 'Threatened High Conservation Habitat' as indicated on Council's *Threatened High Conservation Habitat Map*.

5.2.5 Biodiversity, Bushfire & Riparian Lands

The site does *not* contain any 'Biodiversity Certified Land' as indicated on Council's *Biodiversity Certified Land Map*.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) *Biodiversity Values Map and Threshold Tool* (refer https://www.lmbc.nsw.gov.au/Maps/index.html?viewer=BOSETMap), indicates that there is no vegetation on or near the site that is subject to the Biodiversity Offset Scheme (BOS).

The site does *not* contain any Bushfire Prone Land as indicated on Council's Bush Fire Prone Land Map (2016).

The site does *not* within a 'Designated Bush Fire Prone Area' as defined by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS). The site is *not* within a 'Designated 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement Area' as defined by the NSW RFS.

The site does *not* contain any 'Riparian Land' as indicated on Council's *Waterways and Riparian Lands Map* forming part of the WDCP.

5.3 Heritage Significance

5.3.1 Heritage Items

The subject property is *not* listed as an item of Environmental Heritage under Schedule 5, Part 1 of the *Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011* (WLEP).

5.3.2 Heritage Conservation Area

The site is *not* located within a Heritage Conservation Area under Schedule 5, Part 2 of the WLEP 2011.

5.3.3 Significant Tree Register

Northern Beaches Council does not currently maintain a Register of Significant Trees.

5.3.4 General

The 1943 Aerial Photograph of Sydney (SIX Maps) indicates that site was un-cleared at this time and contained native bushland, intersected by a number of unmade trails. Some of the surrounding areas had been cleared for pastoral use.

Based on analysis of Historical Imagery of the site (NSW Spatial Services), by 1955 the site and immediately surrounding areas had been partially cleared, subdivided and developed for residential housing. By 1965 the area was completely developed for residential housing. The original dwelling within 39 Starkey Street was constructed by 1955. The secondary dwelling was constructed post 2005. All of the subject trees were planted post-1980 and have no known or suspected heritage significance.

5.4 Amenity Value

5.4.1 Criteria for the assessment of amenity values are incorporated into **Appendix 1**. The amenity value of a tree is a measure of its live crown size, visual appearance (form, habit, crown density), visibility and position in the landscape and contribution to the visual character of an area. Generally the larger and more prominently located the tree, and the better its form and habit, the higher its amenity value.

6 TREE RETENTION VALUES

6.1.1 The Retention Values shown in **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 5** have been determined on the basis of the estimated longevity of the trees and their landscape significance rating, in accordance with **Table 1**. Together with guidelines contained in **Section 7** (Tree Protection Zones) this information should be used to determine the most appropriate position of building footprints and other infrastructure within the site, with due consideration to other site constraints, to minimise the impact on trees considered worthy of preservation.

TABLE 1 – TREE RETENTION VALUES – ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

		Landscape Significance Rating											
Estimated Life Expectancy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						
Long - Greater than 40 Years	High Rete	ention Valu	e										
Medium- 15 to 40 Years			Moderate Value	Retention									
Short - 5 to 15 years				Low Ret.	Value								
Transient - Less than 5 Years				Very Low	Retention	Value							
Dead or Potentially Hazardous													

6.1.2 The following table describes the implications of the retention values on site layout and design.

TABLE 2 – TREE RETENTION PRIORITES.

RETENTION VALUE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
"High"	These trees considered worthy of preservation; as such careful consideration should be given to their retention as a priority. Proposed site design and placement of buildings and infrastructure should consider the recommended setbacks as discussed in the following section (refer also Appendix 2) to avoid any adverse impact on these trees. In addition to Tree Protection Zones, the extent of the canopy (canopy drip-line) should also be considered, particularly in relation to high rise developments. Significant pruning of the trees to accommodate the building envelope or temporary scaffolding is generally not acceptable.
"Moderate"	The retention of these trees is desirable, but not essential. These trees should be retained as part of any proposed development if possible. However, these trees are considered less critical for retention. If these trees must be removed, replacement planting should be considered in accordance with Council's Tree Replenishment Policy to compensate for loss of amenity (refer also Section 9).
"Low"	These trees are not considered to worthy of any special measures to ensure their preservation, due to current health, condition or suitability. They do not have any special ecological, heritage or amenity value, or these values are substantially diminished due to their SULE. These trees should not be considered as a constraint to the future development of the site.
"Very Low"	These trees are considered potentially hazardous or very poor specimens, or may be environmental or noxious weeds. The removal of these trees is therefore recommended regardless of the implications of any proposed development.

7 TREE PROTECTION ZONES

- 7.1.1 The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is a radial distance measured from the centre of the trunk of the tree as specified in **Appendix 4**. These have been calculated in accordance with AS 4970-2009 (Protection of Trees on Development Sites).⁵
- 7.1.2 The intention of the TPZ is to ensure protection of the root system and canopy from the potential damage from construction works and ensure the long-term health and stability of each tree to be retained. Incursions to the root zone may occur due to excavations, changes in ground levels, (either lowering or raising the grade), trenching or other forms or soil disturbance such as ripping, grading or inverting the soil profile. Such works may cause damage or loss of part of the root system, leading to an adverse impact on the tree.

7.2 Structural Root Zone (SRZ)

- 7.2.1 The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) provides the bulk of mechanical support and anchorage for a tree. This is also a radial distance measured from the centre of the trunk as specified in **Appendix 4**. The SRZ has been calculated in accordance with AS 4970-2009 (Protection of Trees on Development Sites).
- 7.2.2 Incursions within the SRZ are not recommended as they are likely to result in the severance of woody roots which may compromise the stability of the tree or lead to its decline and demise.

7.3 Acceptable Encroachments to the Tree Protection Zone.

- 7.3.1 Where encroachment to the TPZ is unavoidable, an incursion to the TPZ of not exceeding 10% of the area of the TPZ and outside the SRZ may be acceptable. Examples of acceptable incursions are shown in **Appendix 2**. Greater incursions to the TPZ may result in an adverse impact on the tree.
- 7.3.2 Where incursions greater than 10% of the TPZ are unavoidable, exploratory excavation using non-destructive methods may be required to evaluate the extent of the root system affected and determine whether or not the tree can remain viable

7.4 Acceptable Encroachments to the Canopy

- 7.4.1 The removal of a small portion of the crown (foliage and branches) is generally tolerable provided that the extent of pruning required is less than 10% of the total foliage volume of the tree and the removal of branches does not create large wounds or disfigure the natural form and habit of the tree. All pruning cuts must be undertaken in accordance with AS 4373:2007. This generally involves reduction of the affected branches back to the nearest branch collar at the junction with the parent branch, rather than at an intermediate point. The latter is referred to as "lopping" and is no longer an acceptable arboricultural practice. In general, the minimum pruning as required to accommodate any proposed works is desirable. Extensive pruning can result in a detrimental impact on tree health and may lead to exposure of remaining branches to wind forces that they were previously sheltered from, leading to a greater risk of branch failure.
- 7.4.2 Clearance to between the building line and canopy should take into account any projecting structures, such as balconies, awnings and the roofline and any requirement for temporary scaffolding to be erected during construction (typically 1-1.5 metres wide). High structures should preferably be located outside the canopy dripline (as shown indicatively on the attached plans) in order to avoid or minimise canopy pruning.

7.5 Legal Protection

7.5.1 Notwithstanding the above recommendations, Council may require a greater setback from certain types of structures to ensure the on-going legal protection of the tree (i.e. its legal status under Council's Tree Management Controls). In the Northern Beaches LGA, a tree located within two (2) metres of the wall of an approved building (not including decks, pergolas, sheds, patios or the like, even if they are attached to an approved building) is not protected Council's Tree Management Controls (i.e. may be removed without consent). The measurement is taken from the building [wall] to the face of the trunk at ground level. As such, if a tree is considered worthy of preservation, Council is unlikely to approve the construction of a dwelling or other habitable building (Flat building, townhouse, secondary dwelling etc) within two (2) metres of the tree (regardless of whether this can be undertaken without having an adverse impact on its health or longevity). It should be noted that this does not apply to other types of ancillary structures (for example, decks, pergolas, sheds, patios etc).

8 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

8.1.1 The proposed development includes the Community Title subdivision of the property to create two new residential allotments together with one common driveway allotment and associated civil works (driveway entry and turning areas) and stormwater drainage, together with associated landscape works.

9 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1.1 The intention of this assessment is to determine the incursions to the root zones and canopies created by the proposed development and evaluate the likely impact of the proposed works on the subject trees. Details shown on the following plans were used in this assessment:-

Title	Author	Dwg No. [Rev.]	Date
Landscape Plan (Sheets 1-3)	John Lock & Associates	3008 LP-00 to LP-02 [02]	30/01/2024
Concept Civil Works Site Plan	RISE Consulting Engineers	20144 C010 [C]	23/01/2024
Swept Path Plans	RISE Consulting Engineers	20144 C020 [C]	23/01/2024
Driveway Longitudinal Sections	RISE Consulting Engineers	20144 C030 [C]	23/01/2024
Stormwater Drainage Concept Design	RISE Consulting Engineers	20144 D000-D040 [E]	19/01/2024

- 9.1.2 A summary of the impact of the proposed development on each tree within the site is shown in **Appendix 4**. The following criteria have been examined as part of this assessment:-
 - Existing Relative Levels (R.L.);
 - Tree Protection Zone (TPZ);
 - Structural Root Zone (SRZ);
 - Footprint and envelope of the proposed development and temporary structures (scaffolding, hoardings etc);
 - Incursions to the TPZ & SRZ, including estimated cut & fill beyond the building footprint;
 - Incursions to the tree canopy from the building envelope and temporary structures; and
 - Assessment of the likely impact of the works on existing trees.
- 9.1.3 The proposed new driveway and associated turning areas are located within the TPZs of Trees T1 (Weeping Bottlebrush), T2 (Sasanqua Camellia), T3 (Crepe Myrtle) and T4 (Golden Cane Palm). In the case of T1 & T2, the proposed works will not result in any increase in encroachment from the present situation. As such, the proposed works will not result in any adverse impact on these trees. In the case of T3 & T4, the encroachment to the TPZs is 19% and 22% respectively, which exceeds acceptable limits under AS 4970:2009. However, these trees will tolerate the level of encroachment proposed. It should be noted that both of these trees are exempt from Council's Tree Management Controls. In order to avoid any adverse impact on these trees, the existing driveway pavement should be demolished (where required) in accordance with **Section 10.8** and all excavations for the new pavement sub-grade within the TPZs should be undertaken in accordance with **Section 10.9**.
- 9.1.4 New stormwater pipelines are proposed to be installed within the TPZ of T1 (Weeping Bottlebrush). This will result in a cumulative encroachment (inclusive of the existing/proposed driveway) of 32%, which exceeds acceptable limits under AS 4970:2009. Open trenching for the pipelines has the potential to result in severance and damage to woody roots of the tree, leading to an adverse impact. However, any adverse impact can be mitigated by undertaking all open trenching for the stormwater pipelines within the TPZ using non-destructive methods under the direct supervision of the Project Arborist in accordance with **Section 10.11**.
- 9.1.5 No other trees will be adversely affected by the proposed development.

10 RECOMMENDED TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

10.1 Tree Protection Plan

10.1.1 The following Tree Protection Measures should be read in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan (**Appendix 6**). The Tree Protection Plan (TPP) indicates the position of tree protection devices and other recommended measures to ensure the protection of trees within the site to be retained as part of the proposed development.

10.2 Prohibited Activities

- 10.2.1 The following activities should be avoided within specified Tree Protection Zones (refer **Appendix 4 & 6** for extent of the TPZ for each tree):-
 - Excavations and trenching (with exception of the approved remediation works, underground services, building foundations or pavement sub-grade);
 - Soil disturbance, surface grading, compaction, tyning, ripping or cultivation of soil;
 - Mechanical removal of vegetation, including extraction of tree stumps:
 - Soil level changes including the placement of fill material (excluding imported validated fill for remediation works or placement of fill for approved works)
 - Movement and storage of plant, equipment & vehicles (except within defined temporary haul roads, where ground protection has been installed, or within the footprint of existing floor slabs or paved areas);
 - Erection of site sheds (except where approved by the site arborist);
 - Affixing of signage, barricades or hoardings to trees;
 - Storage of building materials, waste and waste receptacles;
 - Stockpiling of spoil or fill;
 - Stockpiling of bulk materials, such as soil, sand, gravel, roadbase or the like;
 - Stockpiling of demolition waste;
 - Disposal of waste materials and chemicals including paint, solvents, cement slurry, fuel, oil and other toxic liquids;
 - Other physical damage to the trunk or root system; and
 - Any other activity likely to cause damage to the tree.

10.3 Tree Damage

- 10.3.1 Care shall be taken when operating cranes, drilling rigs and similar equipment near trees to avoid damage to tree canopies (foliage and branches). Under no circumstances shall branches be torn-off by construction equipment. Where there is potential conflict between tree canopy and construction activities, the advice of the Site Arborist must be sought.
- 10.3.2 In the event of any tree becoming damaged for any reason during the construction period a consulting arborist [Australian Qualification Framework Level 5] shall be engaged to inspect and provide advice on any remedial action to minimise any adverse impact. Such remedial action shall be implemented as soon as practicable and certified by the arborist.

10.4 Root Pruning

10.4.1 Where root pruning of [any tree nominated for retention] is required to facilitate construction, roots shall be severed with clean, sharp pruning implements and retained in a moist condition during the construction phase using Hessian material or mulch where practical. Severed roots shall be treated with a suitable root growth hormone containing the active constituents Indol-3-yl-Butric Acid (IBA) and 1-Naphthylacetic Acid (NAA) to stimulate rapid regeneration of the root system.

10.4.2 Any required root pruning shall be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard 4373-2007 – *Pruning of Amenity Trees* by a qualified and experienced arborist or tree surgeon [Australian Qualification Framework Level 3] in accordance with the NSW WorkCover Code of Practice for the Amenity Tree Industry (1998). No roots of greater than 40mm in diameter should be removed or pruned without further advice from a Consulting Arborist [Australian Qualification Framework Level 5].

10.5 Tree Protection Fencing

10.5.1 Trees [T1, T2 & T3] shall be protected prior to and during construction from all activities that may result in detrimental impact by erecting a suitable protective fence in the positions as indicated on the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 6). As a minimum, the fence shall consist of temporary chain wire panels of 1.8 metres in height, supported by steel stakes as required and fastened together and supported to prevent sideways movement using corner braces where required. The fence shall be erected prior to the commencement of any work on-site and shall be maintained in good condition for the duration of construction. Where tree protection zones merge together a single fence encompassing the area is deemed to be adequate. Existing site boundary fences may form part of the enclosure.

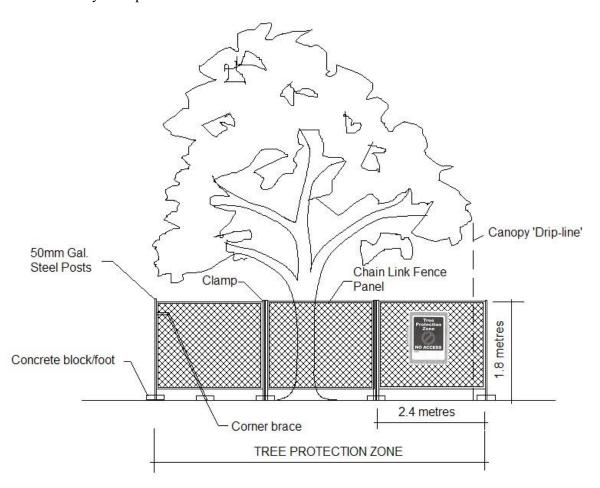


Figure 1 – Detail of Tree Protection Fence

Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report – Proposed Community Title Subdivision 39 Starkey Street, FORESTVILLE, NSW Report No. 23-033 Version 8 – 31st January 2024

10.6 Tree Protection Signs

10.6.1 Signs shall be installed on the Tree Protection Fence to prevent unauthorised movement of plant and equipment or entry to the Tree Protection Zone. The signs shall be securely attached to the fence using cable ties or equivalent. Signs shall be placed at minimum 10 metre intervals. The wording and layout of the sign shall comply with AS 4970-2009 as shown in **Figure 2**.



Figure 2 – Detail of Tree Protection Sign

10.7 Ground Protection

10.7.1 Construction haul routes shall be confined to existing paved areas wherever possible. Where this is not feasible and construction haul routes or access for plant and equipment must traverse soft landscape areas within TPZs of [any tree nominated for retention], 20mm thick marine ply sheets or truck mats (such as Envirex Versadeck® access mats) (refer Figure 4 shall be placed over the top of the ground surface to minimise compaction and disturbance of the underlying soil profile and root zone.



Figure 4 – Showing typical detail for truck mats.

10.7.2 Ground protection shall be installed prior to any site works and maintained in good condition for the duration of the construction period. On completion of the works, ground protection shall be removed without damage or disturbance to the underlying soil profile.

10.8 Demolition Works within Tree Protection Zones

10.8.1 Existing Turfgrass

No mechanical soil cultivation (using ripping tynes, rotary hoes or the like) is permitted within Tree Protection Zones (TPZs). Where existing turfgrass is proposed to be removed (demolished) within the TPZs of Trees [any tree nominated for retention], the turfgrass shall be first treated with a non-selective herbicide with the active constituent Glyphosate (Round-up ® or equivalent) at the manufacturers recommended rate and allowed to dehisce. Once the turfgrass in the effected area is completely dead, any high grass may be slashed/mown close to ground level.

Any residual vegetation (dead grass etc) may then be carefully scraped-off the surface using a small rubber tracked excavator with a broad sand bucket (i.e. without tynes/teeth), taking care to remove the minimum topsoil necessary (no more than 20mm deep) (refer to **Figure 5**). An observer shall be used to ensure that no woody surface roots of any trees are damaged during this process.



Figure 5 – Showing method for removal of residual surface vegetation from Tree Protection Zones following herbicide treatment and slashing.

10.8.2 Paved Areas

Demolition of paved areas within the Tree Protection Zones (TPZs) of trees [T1, T2, T3 & T4] shall be undertaken under the supervision of a qualified Arborist [Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Level 5].

Concrete pavements shall be demolished by breaking the slab into manageable sections (using a rock hammer or similar) and asphalt pavements shall be removed by breaking the topcoat into manageable pieces. The broken sections shall be carefully lifted and folded over the remaining paved surface to minimise disturbance and compaction of the underlying soil profile (refer to **Figure 6**). Special care shall be taken where underlying woody roots have lifted or displaced the

pavement. Any plant or equipment used in demolition work shall operate within the footprint of existing paved areas and avoid traversing soft landscape areas. Where this is unavoidable, suitable ground protection shall first be installed in accordance with **Section 10.7**.



Figure 6 – Showing method for removal of concrete pavement, by carefully lifting sections and folding over the remaining paved surface.

The pavement sub-base within the TPZ shall be gradually removed (where required) in layers of no greater than 50mm thick using a small rubber tracked excavator or alternative approved method to avoid excessive disturbance and compaction of the underlying soil profile and damage to underlying roots and minimise. The machine shall work within the footprint of the existing path footprint to avoid compaction of the underlying soil. The final layer of sub-base material shall be removed using hand tools were required to avoid compaction of the underlying soil profile and avoid damage to any underlying woody roots.

10.8.3 Structures & Retaining Walls

Demolition of existing walls, kerbs and other structures within the TPZ of trees [T1, T2, T3 & T4] shall be undertaken under the supervision of a qualified Arborist [AQF level 5]. The structures shall be demolished using equipment on stationed outside the TPZ where possible or within the footprint of existing hardstand areas.

Care shall be taken to avoid the root systems, trunks and lower branches of trees in the vicinity of the structures during demolition works, with special attention required during demolition of the footings and other sub-surface members to avoid damage to woody roots. An observer ('spotter') shall be employed to assist the plant operator in order to detect and avoid damage to underlying woody roots during demolition. Trunk and/or branch protection shall be installed where there is a potential risk of damage to trees in proximity or overhead of the work.

10.9 Excavations within Tree Protection Zones

10.9.1 Prior to any mechanical excavations for building foundations or pavement sub-grade within the TPZs of Trees [T1, T2, T3 & T4] exploratory excavation using non-destructive techniques shall be taken along the perimeter of the structure or pavement within the TPZ. Non-destructive excavation techniques may include the use of hand-held implements, air pressure (using an Airspade® device) or water pressure (hydro-excavation in combination with a vacuum extraction unit). The exploratory excavation shall be undertaken along the perimeter of the foundation or pavement (within the TPZ) to the depth of the foundation or to a maximum of 800mm from surface levels, to locate and expose any woody roots prior to any mechanical excavation.

10.9.2 All care shall be undertaken to preserve woody roots intact and undamaged during exploratory excavation. Any roots encountered of less than 40mm in diameter may be cleanly severed with clean sharp pruning implements at the face of the excavation. The root zone in the vicinity of the excavation shall be kept moist following excavation for the duration of construction to minimise moisture stress on the tree. Where large woody roots (greater than 40mm diameter) are encountered during exploratory excavations, further advice from a qualified arborist shall be sought prior to severance.

10.10 Alternative Construction Methods

- 10.10.1 Where necessary, (to avoid severing large woody roots) consideration should be given to the installation of an elevated structure (e.g. pier and beam footing, suspended slab or floor supported on piers, cantilevered slab, up-turned edge beam etc) in preference to structures requiring a deep edge beam or continuous perimeter strip footing. The beam section of any pier and beam footing should be placed **above** grade to avoid excavation within the SRZ. Pier footings intersecting large woody roots should be slightly offset where necessary to avoid root severance.
- 10.10.2 For masonry walls or fences it may be acceptable to delete continuous concrete strip footings and replace with suspended in-fill panels (e.g. steel or timber pickets, lattice etc) fixed to pillars. For retaining walls, consideration should be given to eliminating continuous strip footings and substituting with pier and beam footings, pier footings (using a post and caisson type wall) or mass wall such as gabions or mass stone that can be placed without a structural footing.
- 10.10.3 For paved areas, consideration should be given to raising the proposed pavement level and using a porous fill material in preference to excavation where large woody roots are found within the subbase.

10.11 Underground Services

- 10.11.1 Trenching for underground services and stormwater pipes within the TPZs of Trees [T1], shall be undertaken using non-destructive excavation in accordance with Section 10.8. Where large woody roots are encountered during excavation or trenching (root diameter greater than 40mm), these shall be retained intact wherever possible (e.g. by tunnelling beneath roots and inserting the pipeline or conduit beneath or re-routing the service etc) (refer to Figures 7 & 8). Where this is not practical and root pruning is the only alternative, proposed root pruning should be assessed by a qualified arborist [AQF 5] to evaluate the potential impact on the health and stability of the subject tree.
- 10.11.2 Installation of underground services and stormwater pipes within the SRZs of Trees [any tree nominated for retention], shall only be undertaken by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) (also referred to as sub-surface boring or Micro-tunnelling for large diameter pipes). The Invert Level of the pipe, plus the pipe diameter, must be lower than the estimated root zone depth as specified. At this site a minimum depth of 1 metre to the invert level of the pipe is specified.



Figure 7 - showing excavation being undertaken using non-destructive excavation techniques (high pressure water lance with vacuum extraction unit).



 $\textbf{Figure 8} \text{ -} showing completed trench with surface roots retained intact.}$

Andrew Morton

EARTHSCAPE HORTICULTURAL SERVICES

31st January 2024

REFERENCES

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² Benson, Doug & Howell, Jocelyn (1990)
 Taken for Granted: the Bushland of Sydney and its Suburbs.

Kangaroo Press & The Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, NSW

³ Mattheck, Dr. Claus & Breloer, Helge (1994) – Sixth Edition (2001) **The Body Language of Trees – A Handbook for Failure Analysis** The Stationery Office, London, England

Pre-development Tree Assessment

Proceedings of the International Conference on Trees and Building Sites (Chicago) International Society of arboriculture, Illinois, USA

⁴ Barrell, Jeremy (1996)

Council of Standards Australia (August 2009)
 AS 4970 – 2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites
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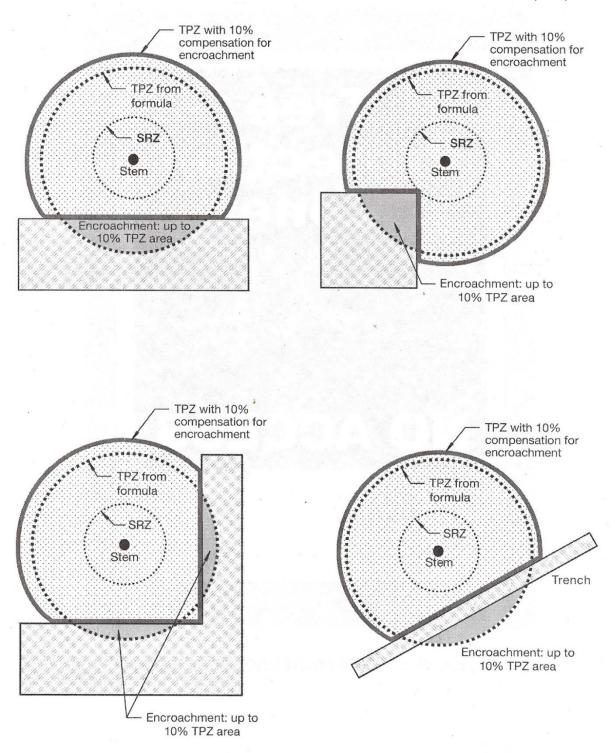
APPENDIX 1 - CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF LANDSCAPE SIGNIFICANCE

PATING STATE VALUE FOOLOGICAL VALUE												
RATING	HERITAGE VALUE	ECOLOGICAL VALUE	AMENITY VALUE									
1.	The subject tree is listed as a Heritage Item under the Local Environment Plan (LEP) with a local, state or national level of significance or is listed on Council's Significant Tree Register	The subject tree is scheduled as a Threatened or Vulnerable Species as defined under the provisions of the <i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> (NSW) or the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> .	The subject tree has a very large live crown size exceeding 300m² with normal to dense foliage cover, is located in a visually prominent position in the landscape, exhibits very good form and habit typical of the species									
SIGNIFICANT	The subject tree forms part of the curtilage of a Heritage Item (building /structure /artefact as defined under the LEP) and has a known or documented association with that item	The tree is a locally indigenous species, representative of the original vegetation of the area and is known as an important food, shelter or nesting tree for endangered or threatened fauna species	The subject tree makes a significant contribution to the amenity and visual character of the area by creating a sense of place or creating a sense of identity									
	The subject tree is a Commemorative Planting having been planted by an important historical person (s) or to commemorate an important historical event	The subject tree is a Remnant Tree, being a tree in existence prior to development of the area	The tree is visually prominent in view from surrounding areas, being a landmark or visible from a considerable distance.									
2. VERY HIGH	The tree has a strong historical association with a heritage item (building/structure/artefact/garden etc) within or adjacent the property and/or exemplifies a particular era or style of landscape design associated with the original development of the site.	The tree is a locally-indigenous species, representative of the original vegetation of the area and is a dominant or associated canopy species of an Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) formerly occurring in the area occupied by the site.	The subject tree has a very large live crown size exceeding 200m ² ; a crown density exceeding 70% (normal-dense), is a very good representative of the species in terms of its form and branching habit or is aesthetically distinctive and makes a positive contribution to the visual character and the amenity of the area									
3. HIGH	The tree has a suspected historical association with a heritage item or landscape supported by anecdotal or visual evidence	The tree is a locally-indigenous species and representative of the original vegetation of the area and the tree is located within a defined Vegetation Link / Wildlife Corridor or has known wildlife habitat value	The subject tree has a large live crown size exceeding 100m²; The tree is a good representative of the species in terms of its form and branching habit with minor deviations from normal (e.g. crown distortion/suppression) with a crown density of at least 70% (normal); The subject tree is visible from the street and surrounding properties and makes a positive contribution to the visual character and the amenity of the area									
4. MODERATE	The tree has no known or suspected historical association, but does not detract or diminish the value of the item and is	The subject tree is a non-local native or exotic species that is protected under the provisions of the local or state planning controls	The subject tree has a medium live crown size exceeding 40m²; the tree is a fair representative of the species, exhibiting moderate deviations from typical form (distortion/suppression etc) with a crown density of more than 50% (thinning to normal); and									
	sympathetic to the original era of planting.	(Development Control Plan etc).	The tree is visible from surrounding properties, but is not visually prominent – view may be partially obscured by other vegetation or built forms. The tree makes a fair contribution to the visual character and amenity of the area.									
5. LOW	The subject tree detracts from heritage values or diminishes the value of a heritage item	The subject tree is scheduled as exempt (not protected) under the provisions of the local or state planning controls (DCP etc) due to its species, nuisance or position relative to buildings or other structures.	The subject tree has a small live crown size of less than 40m² and can be replaced within the short term (5-10 years) with new tree planting									
6. VERY LOW	The subject tree is causing significant damage to a heritage Item.	The subject tree is listed as an Environment Weed Species in the relevant Local Government Area, being invasive, or is a known nuisance species.	The subject tree is not visible from surrounding properties (visibility obscured) and makes a negligible contribution or has a negative impact on the amenity and visual character of the area. The tree is a poor representative of the species, showing significant deviations from the typical form and branching habit with a crown density of less than 50% (sparse).									
7. INSIGNIFICA NT	The tree is completely dead and has no known heritage value (or any habitat value)	The tree is scheduled as a potential 'Biosecurity Risk' ('Priority Weed' – formerly 'Noxious Weed') within NSW or within the relevant Local Government Area under the provisions of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>	The tree is completely dead and represents a potential hazard.									

Ref:- Morton, A (2006) Determining the Retention Value of Trees on Development Sites

TreeNet - Proceedings of the 7th National Street Tree Symposium 2006 Government of South Australia Department for Transport, Energy and Infrastructure

APPENDIX 2 – ACCEPTABLE INCURSIONS TO THE TREE PROTECTION ZONE (TPZ)



NOTE: Less than 10% TPZ area and outside SRZ. Any loss of TPZ compensated for elsewhere.

REF:- Council of Standards Australia (August 2009)

AS 4970 – 2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites
Standards Australia, Sydney

			APPENDIX 3 - TREE HEALTH AND CONDITION ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE											
tion				tres	Size	SS			Health		y Safe Life (SULE)	ipe Rating	Value	
Tree Identification No.	Species	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Trunk Diameter (mm) at 1.4 metre	Live Crown S (m²)	Maturity Class	Condition	Previous Pruning	Vigour	Pest & Disease	Remaining Sa Useful Life Expectancy (SU	Landscape Significance Ra	Retention Va	Location
1	Callistemon viminalis (Weeping Bottlebrush)	8	10	433	60		Appears stable with sound branching structure. Exhibits mulyiple low bark inclusions at 3.5 metres at junctions of PLs.	Selectively pruned	Fair with slightly thinning crown	No Evidence	Medium 15-40 Years	4	Moderate	On-site
2	Camellia sasanqua (Sasanqua Camellia)	5	7	180 + 160x2 + 120x3	35	M	Appears stable with fair branching structure. Exhibits multiple moderate bark inclusions at junctions of codominant PLs at GL (x5). Some dieback in upper crown with 10% deadwood. Multiple epicormics in lower crown due previous pruning.	Crown lifted to 3 metres.	Fair with thinning crown	No Evidence	Short 5-15 Years	4	Low	On-site
3	Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)	5.5	4.5	120 + 80x5	15.75	М	Appears stable with poor branching structure. Exhibits multiple epicormics arising from old pruning wounds.	Lopped at pollarded at 1.5 metres (crown restored)	Good	No Evidence	Short 5-15 Years	6	Very Low	On-site
4	Dypsis lutescens (Golden Cane Palm)	5.5	4	100x2 + 50x2	18	SM	Appears stable with sound branching structure.	No evidence	Good	No Evidence	Medium 15-40 Years	6	Low	On-site

		APPENDIX 4 - IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE											
Tree Identification No.	Species	Construction Tolerance	Tree Protection Zone (m R)	Structural Root Zone (m R)	Minimum Setback Distance (tangent to root plate)	TPZ (m²)	Incursions to Root Zone &/or Canopy	Likely Impact	Recommendation				
1	Callistemon viminalis (Weeping Bottlebrush)	М	5.2	2.4	3.5	84.8	Existing timber walls and ramp offset 0.7 metres east and 0.8 metres north to be maintained intact within TPZ/SRZ. Proposed new driveway offset 3.4 metres north at RL114.17 (close to existing grade). Excavation and engineered fill for pavement sub-grade within TPZ (within footprint of existing driveway). Encroachment to TPZ = 10% (minor increase from present situation). Proposed 225mmØ stormwater pipeline offset 3 metres east and 3.4 metres south-east at IL112.90 (600mm to 1 metre below grade) and 100mmØ stormwater pipeline offset 3 metres north at IL? (assumed 400-800mm below grade). Open trenching for pipelines within TPZ. Potential cumulative encroachment to TPZ = 32%	Extent of cumulative encroachment to the TPZ exceeds acceptable limits under AS 4970:2009. However, this tree will tolerate the level of encroachment proposed, provided that all proposed works within the TPZ are undertaken as recommended.	Retain in accordance with recommended Tree Protection Measures (Section 10). Erect temporary tree protection fence in accordance with Section 10.5. Demolish existing driveway (where required) in accordance with Section 10.8. Undertake all excavations for the pavement sub-grade and OSD tank within the TPZ in accordance with Section 10.9. Undertake all open trenching for the new stormwater pipelines within the TPZ using non-destructive methods under the direct supervision of the Project Arborist in accordance with Section 10.11.				
2	Camellia sasanqua (Sasanqua Camellia)	М	4.2	2.3	2.9	55.4	Existing driveway and footpath offset 2-3 metres north, south and east to be demolished within TPZ and replaced with new driveway in same footprint at existing grade. No increase in present encroachment. Proposed On-site Stormwater Detention (OSD) tank offset 2.9 metres east at IL113.06 (1.2 metres below grade, within footprint of existing/proposed driveway). No increase in present encroachment.	The proposed works will not result in any adverse impact given that there will be no increase in encroachment to the TPZ compared with the present situation.	Retain in accordance with recommended Tree Protection Measures (Section 10). Erect temporary tree protection fence in accordance with Section 10.5. Demolish existing driveway (where required) in accordance with Section 10.8. Undertake all excavations for the pavement sub-grade and OSD tank within the TPZ in accordance with Section 10.9.				

APPENDIX 4 - IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE										
Tree Identification No.	Species	Construction Tolerance Tree Protection Zone (m R) Structural Root Zone (m R) Structural Root Zone (m R) Structural Root Zone (m R) Incursions to Boot Zone %/or Canophate) TPZ (m²) TPZ (m²)		Construction Tolerance Tree Protection Zone (m R) Structural Root Zone (m R) Minimum Setback Distance (tangent to root plate) TPZ (m²) TPZ (m²)		Recommendation				
3	Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)	М	3.2	2.1	2.2	33.0		Extent of encroachment to the TPZ exceeds acceptable limits under AS 4970:2009. However, this tree will tolerate the level of encroachment proposed, provided that all proposed works within the TPZ are undertaken as recommended.	Retain in accordance with recommended Tree Protection Measures (Section 10). Erect temporary tree protection fence in accordance with Section 10.5. Demolish existing driveway (where required) in accordance with Section 10.8. Undertake all excavations for the pavement sub-grade within the TPZ in accordance with Section 10.9. N.B. Exempt from Council's Tree Management Controls.	
4	<i>Dypsis lutescens</i> (Golden Cane Palm)	G	2.2	N/A	1.5		Extension to existing driveway offset 1.2 metres south at RL114.05 (150mm below existing grade) and 2 metres west. Excavation for pavement sub-grade within TPZ. Encroachment to TPZ = 22%.	Extent of encroachment to the TPZ exceeds acceptable limits under AS 4970:2009. However, this tree will tolerate the level of encroachment proposed, provided that all proposed works within the TPZ are undertaken as recommended.	Retain in accordance with recommended Tree Protection Measures (Section 10). Erect temporary tree protection fence in accordance with Section 10.5. Demolish existing driveway (where required) in accordance with Section 10.8. Undertake all excavations for the pavement sub-grade within the TPZ in accordance with Section 10.9. N.B. Exempt from Council's Tree Management Controls.	

1A 43 D.P. 23118 D.P. 25410 GARDEN +113.08 TIMBER DECK PLASTIC ROOF RL 115,10 CONCRETE 939.7m² GUTTER 117.42 GARDEN METAL ROOF S.P. 56010 113.40 亿,PEBBLES TWO STOREY BRICK HOUSE TILE ROOF No. 110 ONE & TWO STOREY
BRICK DUPLEX
TILE ROOF
No. 37B CLAD COTTAGE TILE & METAL ROOF No. 39 CARPORT METAL ROOF CLAD STUDIO TILED VERANDAN R METAL ROOF RL 115.06 18 T4 GARDEN **LEGEND** CLAD COTTAGE METAL ROOF TREE RETENTION VALUES TILED VERANDAH HIGH CONCRETE GARDEN Sasangua Camellia MODERATE Weeping Bottlebrush LOW 113.36 VEHICLE CROSSING VEHICLE CROSSING BENCH MARK CUT ON KERB RL. 113.67 A.H.D. **VERY LOW** STARKEY STREET Earthscape Horticultural Services Based on the Survey Drawing DWG No. T23-0531/01 [A] APPENDIX 5 Arboricultural and Horticultural Consultants prepared by Bee & Lethbridge Pty Ltd TREE LOCATION PLAN SHOWING PO Box 364 Dwg Ref No. 19539 [00] TREE RETENTION VALUES BEROWRA NSW 2081 Ph: 02 9456 4787 Dated 21/02/2023 39 Starkey Street, FORESTVILLE, NSW DATE: 31/05/2023 Fax: 02 9456 5757 e: earthscape@iinet.net.au

