

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2021/0212
Date:	31/03/2021
Responsible Officer:	Lashta Haidari
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 101 DP 1209504 , 5 Skyline Place FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086

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 application is noted to comprise demolition of existing buildings and carparking, tree removal, construction of seniors living and mixed use area, provision of commercial space, basement parking, internal roads and landscaping.

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 Arborist's Report and Landscape Plans submitted with the application are noted.

The Arborist's Report indicates that 43 trees are to be removed and 22 trees are to be retained.

Of the 43 trees to be removed, 30 are rated Low/ Very Low significance, 12 High significance and 1 Very High significance.

Of the 22 trees to be retained, 7 are rated Low/Very Low significance, 14 High significance and 1 Very High significance.

The Landscape Plans provided indicate replanting of 56 new canopy trees throughout the site, with numerous other small trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

The design indicates dense canopy planting to the perimeter of the site in the setbacks, with additional, though more sparsely planted canopy trees in the central communal areas to accommodate grassed areas, play equipment, vegetable gardens, seating, paths and other landscape features.

Whilst no assessment has been made of numerical compliance in terms of quantity of soft landscape areas and required setbacks, the proposed planting is considered suitable for the spaces created and replaces the canopy to be removed for construction.

It is however recommended that additional trees, shrubs and groundcovers be provided along the Skyline Place frontage of the development. The landscape plans indicate turf areas with new/existing trees and narrow planted areas. It is considered more appropriate to provide additional trees, shrubs and groundcovers to the street frontage to assist in softening the built form at ground level and provide a more human scale to the pedestrian areas, reflective of existing landscape treatment.

To this end, it is recommended that the plans be amended to reflect this and recommended conditions have been included to make the amendments.

In consideration of the above, no objections are raised to approval subject to conditions as recommended.

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 Certifying Authority prior to the issue of a Construction Certificate to include the following details:

- i) Deletion of turfed areas to the eastern (Skyline Place frontage) of the site.
- ii) The formerly turfed areas are to be replaced with native trees shrubs and groundcovers throughout the landscaped frontage to Skyline Place.
- iii) A minimum of 6 additional native canopy trees (height greater than 15m) are to be incorporated in the landscaped frontage to Skyline Place.
- iv) Certification shall be provided to the Certifying Authority that these amendments have been documented.

Reason: Landscape amenity.

On Slab Landscape Works

Details shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority 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 also be submitted to the Certifying Authority prior to the issue of the Construction Certificate indicating the proposed soil type, planting, automatic irrigation, services connections, and maintenance activity schedule.

The following soil depths are required to support landscaping as proposed:

- i) 300mm for lawn
- ii) 600mm for shrubs
- iii) 1m for small trees

Design certification shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority by a qualified Structural Engineer that

the planters are designed structurally to support the 'wet' weight of landscaping (soil, materials and established planting).

For all new residential works with two or more dwellings and mixed use developments the maintenance activity schedule shall incorporate an on-going maintenance plan that shall be submitted to the Certifying Authority outlining a program to monitor and replenish soil levels as a result of soil shrinkage over time.

Reason: To ensure appropriate soil depth for planting and secure 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 to provide tree protection measures in accordance with the recommendations of the Arboricultural Impact Appraisal and Method Statement dated 21 January 2021 prepared by Naturally Trees and 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.

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 trees within the property as recommended in the Arboricultural Impact Appraisal and Method Statement dated 21 January 2021 prepared by Naturally Trees

Note: Exempt Species as listed in the Development Control Plan or the Arboricultural Impact Assessment do not require Council consent for removal.

Reason: To enable authorised building works.

CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH DURING DEMOLITION AND BUILDING WORK

Protection of Existing Street Trees

All existing street trees in the vicinity of the works shall be retained during all construction stages and the street trees fronting the development site shall be protected by tree protection fencing in accordance with Australian Standard 4687-2007 Temporary Fencing and Hoardings and in accordance with Section 4 of Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

As a minimum, the tree protection fencing for street tree(s) fronting the development site shall consist of standard 2.4m panel length to four sides unless otherwise directed by an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture.

All fencing shall be located to allow for unrestricted and safe pedestrian access upon the road verge.

Should any problems arise with regard to the existing or proposed trees on public land during construction, Council's Tree Services section is to be contacted immediately to resolve the matter to Council's satisfaction and at the cost of the applicant.

Reason: Tree protection.

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, 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 Arboricultural Impact Appraisal and Method Statement dated 21 January 2021 prepared by Naturally Trees and 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 the Project Arborist,
 - iii) removal of existing tree roots at or >25mm (Ø) diameter is not permitted without consultation with the Project Arborist,
 - 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 the Project Arborist on site,
 - vi) excavation for stormwater lines and all other utility services is not permitted within the

- tree protection zone without consultation with the Project Arborist including advice on root protection measures,
- vii) should either or all of v), vi) and vii) occur during site establishment and construction works, the Project Arborist 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.

The Certifying Authority must ensure that:

- c) 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.

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 with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture during the works.

In this regard all protected trees shall not exhibit:

- i) a general decline in health and vigour,
- ii) damaged, crushed or dying roots due to poor pruning techniques,
- iii) more than 10% loss or dieback of roots, branches and foliage,
- iv) mechanical damage or bruising of bark and timber of roots, trunk and branches,
- v) yellowing of foliage or a thinning of the canopy untypical of its species,
- vi) an increase in the amount of deadwood not associated with normal growth,

- vii) an increase in kino or gum exudation,
- viii) inappropriate increases in epicormic growth that may indicate that the plants are in a stressed condition,
- ix) branch drop, torn branches and stripped bark not associated with natural climatic conditions.

Any mitigating measures and recommendations required by the 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

Required Tree Planting

a) Trees shall be planted in accordance with the following:

- i) All trees as indicated on Landscape Plans Dwg No.s L-110 Rev C, L-120 Rev C, L-130 Rev C and L140 Rev C dated 01/03/21 prepared by Space Landscape Designs
- ii) Trees required to be planted by Conditions of Consent.

b) Details demonstrating compliance are to be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority prior to the issue of any Occupation Certificate.

Reason: To maintain environmental amenity.

Landscape Completion

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

b) Prior to the issue of any Occupation Certificate details (from a qualified horticulturalist, landscape architect or landscape designer) shall be submitted to the Principal 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 any 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

a) 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.

b) 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.

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

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.