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Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report

PREPARED FOR

Aurora Design
At
Narraweena Public School

PREPARED BY

Glenice Buck

ON

11th November 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

This report was commissioned by Aurora Design (the architects of the site) to assess seven (7) trees growing within the ground of Narraweena Public School which is located on McIntosh St Narraweena (the site). For the purpose of this report these trees will be known as the subject trees. Refer to site plan - Appendix 3, for tree location and tree number.s All of the subject trees are located adjacent to the north to north eastern walls of Block A within the site.

This report shall reflect the expert opinion of Glenice Buck Designs. Glenice Buck Designs is acting independently of and not as the advocate for the owner of the subject trees. Glenice Buck Designs shall not receive any commission to prune or remove the trees which are the subject of this Arborist Report.

The purpose of this report is to identify the existing trees, assess their health and condition, to determine their landscape significance within the surrounding environment and their life expectancy. We will determine their sustainability and suitability for retention within the existing landscape. For the purpose of this report we have assessed the likely impact the proposed development will have on the subject trees. This report will then provide recommendations in relation to the management of the trees through this development process and in the long term.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 General Assessment

The subject tree was visually inspected from ground level. This report is limited to the methods of assessment listed below (refer to Appendix 1 – Tree Inspection Sheet).

- Tree Species (botanical and common name)
- Tree height and age was estimated;
- Canopy spread was estimated;
- Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) was measured 1.4 metres above ground level;
- Health and vigour, including foliage size, colour, condition, extension growth, presence of disease or pest infestation, canopy density, branch structure, scar tissue, the presence of deadwood, dieback, epicormic growth as indicators;
- Condition, using visible evidence of structural defects, instability, evidence of previous pruning and physical damage as indicators;
- Suitability of the tree to the site and its existing location;
- The surface cover, soil level and drainage patterns were all noted.
- A data collection sheet was used to record information (Refer to Figure One and Appendix 1)
- The photographs included in this report were taken at the time of inspections;
- Notes were also taken on the obstructions to each tree, surrounding services, use of the land underneath the tree(s) and possible targets in this area.
- The comments and recommendations in this report are based on findings from the site inspection;
- Council's planning instruments and other applicable documentation were sourced and have been used for assessment purposes;
- A list of literature used in the preparation of this report is provided in the references section.

There were no root excavations, aerial surveys or internal inspections of the wood (for decay) completed.

2.2 IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System

The value of the tree for retention has been determined using the IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System (STARS)(IACA 2010), from the Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists, Australia, (Refer Appendix 2). This system looks at the life expectancy of the tree and the landscape significance of the tree. These two factors are then compared to give the tree a retention value. The tree's retention value is classed at High, Moderate or Low. The trees with the higher value we see to have a longer life expectancy and high landscape significance.

The remaining life expectancy of the tree is classed as;

Long – Greater than 40 years

Medium – 15 – 40 years

Short – 1 – 15 years

Imminent Hazard (structurally unstable) or Dead

The landscape significance rating takes into account the amenity, ecological and heritage values. A rating is given to the tree of high, medium or low.

Tree Significance - Assessment Criteria

1. High Significance in landscape

- The tree is in good condition and good vigour;
- The tree has a form typical for the species;
- The tree is a remnant or is a planted locally indigenous specimen and/or is rare or uncommon in the local area or of botanical interest or of substantial age;
- The tree is listed as a Heritage Item, Threatened Species or part of an Endangered Ecological Community or listed on Council's Significant Tree Register;
- The tree is visually prominent and visible from a considerable distance when viewed from most directions within the landscape due to its size and scale and makes a positive contribution to the local amenity;
- The tree supports social and cultural sentiments or spiritual associations, reflected by the broader population or community group or has commemorative values;
- The tree's growth is unrestricted by above and below ground influences, supporting its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ - tree is appropriate to the site conditions.

2. Medium Significance in landscape

- The tree is in fair-good condition and good or low vigour;
- The tree has form typical or atypical of the species;
- The tree is a planted locally indigenous or a common species with its taxa commonly planted in the local area
- The tree is visible from surrounding properties, although not visually prominent as partially obstructed by other vegetation or buildings when viewed from the street,
- The tree provides a fair contribution to the visual character and amenity of the local area,
- The tree's growth is moderately restricted by above or below ground influences, reducing its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ.

3. Low Significance in landscape

- The tree is in fair-poor condition and good or low vigour;
- The tree has form atypical of the species;
- The tree is not visible or is partly visible from surrounding properties as obstructed by other vegetation or buildings,
- The tree provides a minor contribution or has a negative impact on the visual character and amenity of the local area,
- The tree is a young specimen which may or may not have reached dimension to be protected by local Tree Preservation orders or similar protection mechanisms and can easily be replaced with a suitable specimen.
- The tree's growth is severely restricted by above or below ground influences, unlikely to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ - tree is inappropriate to the site conditions,
- The tree is listed as exempt under the provisions of the local Council Tree Preservation Order or similar protection mechanisms,
- The tree has a wound or defect that has potential to become structurally unsound.

Environmental Pest / Noxious Weed Species

- The tree is an Environmental Pest Species due to its invasiveness or poisonous/ allergenic properties,
- The tree is a declared noxious weed by legislation.

Hazardous/Irreversible Decline

- The tree is structurally unsound and/or unstable and is considered potentially dangerous.

- The tree is structurally unsound and/or unstable and is considered potentially dangerous.
- The tree is dead, or is in irreversible decline, or has the potential to fail or collapse in full or part in the immediate to short term.

The tree is to have a minimum of three (3) criteria in a category to be classified in that group.

A high retention value means that we would recommend that the tree be maintained and protected. These trees are considered important for retention and should be retained or protected. Design modification or re-location of building/s should be considered to accommodate the setbacks prescribed by the Australian Standard AS 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites. Tree sensitive construction measures must be implemented e.g. pier and beam footings etc, if works are to proceed with the tree protection zone.

A moderate retention value means that these trees may be retained and protected. These are considered less critical however their retention should remain a priority with removal only if adversely affecting the proposed building/works and all other alternatives have been considered and exhausted.

A low retention value (considered for removal) means that the trees are not considered important for retention, nor require special works or design modification to be implemented for their retention.

A very low retention value means the trees are considered hazardous, or in irreversible decline or are weeds and should be removed irrespective of development.

The proposed following plans were examined and assessed

* Architectural Plans for the site from Aurora Design dated November 2020

Notes were taken on the impact that these proposed works will have on the existing trees.

An Impact Assessment was completed on the tree (Figure Sixteen). This included determining for the subject trees;

* Construction tolerance – This has been divided into three categories.

H – High

M – Medium

P- Poor

As there is very little documentation available on the construction tolerance of trees under Australian conditions these categories were given to each tree based on our previous knowledge and experience.

* The Tree Protection Zones (TPZ). The TPZ is a determined area around the trees that are to be maintained.

The TPZ specify a radial distance from the centre of the trunk of the tree which should be protected throughout the development process. The aim of protecting this area is to minimize any incursions to the root system of the tree and/or the trees canopy.

This will ensure the long term health and maintain the stability of the tree to be retained.

The TPZ is calculated by multiplying the diameter at breast height (DBH) x 12. This formula is in accordance with the Australian Standard 4970-2009- Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

*The Structural Root Zones (SRZ) is the area which must be maintained to provide the tree with anchorage and stability. It is a radial distance measured from the centre of the trunk of the tree which is to be maintained.

This is calculated when there is a major encroachment into the TPZ. SRZ is calculated by;
 $SRZ = (D \times 50)^{0.42} \times 0.64$ where D = Trunk diameter in metres. This is measured above the root buttress. This formula is in accordance with the Australian Standard 4970 - 2009- Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

* Percentage incursion has been calculated by dividing the area of incursion by the TPZ. It is generally accepted that a 10% incursion on one side of the TPZ is allowable. However anything above this is considered to have an adverse impact on the trees health and stability. Any incursion into the TPZ will need to be compensated for on the other sides of the tree.

*Impact Category

0% of root zone impacted – no impact of significance

0 to 10% of root zone impacted – low level of impact

10 to 15% of root zone impacted – low to moderate level of impact

15 to 20% of root zone impacted – moderate level of impact

20 to 25% of root zone impacted – moderate to high level of impact

25 to 35% of root zone impacted – high level of impact

>35% of root zone impacted – significant level of impact

No plans have been supplied for the installation of services, hydraulics/storm water and/or structural works.

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

3.1. The Site

Trees 1 - 7 are all growing within garden beds which are located at the northern end of Block A. Tree 1 and 2 are growing within a long narrow planter towards the north eastern side of the Block A. This planter is surrounded by concrete playground/pathways. Trees 3 - 7 are located within the garden at the end of Block A. This area is surrounded by concrete play ground areas. At present the garden beds are mulched. There is a mulched pathway border with timber sleepers running across the site from the north eastern side of the garden bed through to the south western end of Block A. This pathway cuts between Trees 5- 7 on the western side and Trees 1 - 4 on the eastern side. It is a fairly level area. Block A is a single storey building.

3.2 The Trees

Tree No.	Species	Remnant/ Planted/ Selfsown	Age Class Y/S/M/O	Tree Height (m)	Average Crown Spread (m)	DBH (mm)	DGL (mm)	Crown Class D/C/I/S	Crown Condition 0,1,2,3,4	Canopy above (m)	Notes/comments	Landscape Significance	Life Expectancy	Retention Value
1	Eucalyptus spp	Planted	Semi Mature	8	4	22	18	D	4	4	Single straight trunk growing in planter Good vigour and health Good condition overall	Medium	Medium	Medium
2	Melaleuca linariifolia	Planted	Semi Mature	6	2	18	22	C	3	4	No signs of pests or diseases Good vigour and health Good condition overall	Low - medium	Medium	Low - Medium
3	Cupaniopsis anacardiodes	Planted	Semi- Mature	6	2	50	70	C	2	4	Fair vigour and health Fair condition overall Fair habit No signs of pests or diseases	Low - medium	Medium	Low - medium
4	Lophostemon confertus	Planted	Mature	9	6	50	45	D	4	5	Good vigour and health Good condition overall fair habit No signs of pests or diseases Kink or swale in trunk at base Growing on a lean in south west direction	Medium	Medium	Medium
5	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	Planted	Semi Mature	5	2.5	14	25	C	3	2 - 3	Fair to poor vigour and health Fair condition overall Fair habit - quite sparse and open some chlorosis on leaves fair amount of dead wood No signs of pests or diseases Multi trunked	Low	Low	Low
6	Lophostemon confertus	Planted	Mature	12	10	64	68	D	3	9	Multi trunked forked at 500mm above ground level Good vigour and health Good condition overall Fair habit No signs of pests or diseases	Medium	Medium	Medium
7	Lophostemon confertus	Planted	Mature	10	8	45	55	D	3	7	Good vigour and health Good condition overall fair habit No signs of pests or diseases	Medium	Medium	Medium



Figure Two - Trees 1 and 2 (from left to right) viewed from northern side



Figure Three - The base of the trunk of Tree 1 viewed from northern side



Figure Four - The base of Tree 2 viewed from north western side



Figure Five- An overall view of Trees 3 - 7 viewed from north eastern side



Figure Six -This image shows Tree 3 viewed from north eastern side



Figure Seven -This image shows the base of the trunk of Tree 3 viewed from western side.



Figure Eight -This image shows the overall image of Tree 4 viewed from north eastern side



Figure Nine -This image shows the base of the trunk of Tree 4 viewed from north eastern side.
This image shows the kink in the trees trunk



Figure Ten - This image shows the base of the trunk of Tree 5 viewed from northern side. It is multi stemmed.



Figure Eleven - This image shows the Tree 5 viewed from northern side.



Figure Twelve - This image shows the lower section of Tree 6 viewed from northern side.



Figure Thirteen - This image shows the higher section of Tree 6 viewed from northern side.



Figure Fourteen - Tree 7 viewed from eastern side of the tree

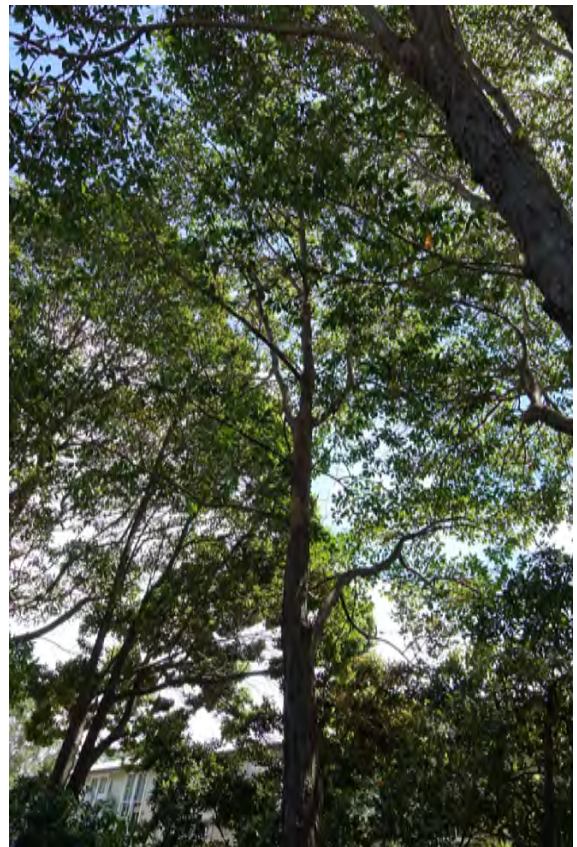


Figure Fifteen - The upper canopy of Tree 7 view from eastern side.

3.3 The Impact

The proposed development is to construct an extension to Block A. This extension would extend across the total area where the subject trees are located. The extension is to provide additional space for a meeting place, offices and staff room area. The extension would be a single storey building.

As mentioned in the letter (Appendix 6) from the Principal of Narraweena Public School, Ms Sally Bell, this additional building floor space is required within the school to give the required area for a number of day to day activities within the school. At present the school does not have the facilities to support its growth in staff and student numbers. This area has been selected as it makes the most sense for a building extension without taking away too much outdoor play area for students,

Figure Sixteen - Impact Assessment Schedule

Tree No.	Construction Tolerance	TPZ (mR)	SRZ (mR)	% Incursion to root zone and or canopy	Likely Impact HS/S/M/L
1	L	2.7	1.6	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
2	L	2.1	1.8	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
3	L	6	2.8	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
4	L	6	2.4	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
5	L	2	1.8	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
6	L	7.6	2.85	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact
7	L	5.4	2.6	100% Incursion to the TPZ and SRZ	Very High Impact

Calculations as discussed in Methodology

Construction tolerance – This has been divided into three categories.

H – High

M – Medium

P- Poor

TPZ- Tree Protection Zone

SRZ – Structural Root Zone

4. DISCUSSION

The subject trees are all located on the north and north eastern end of Block A within the school grounds. They are all in varying levels of health and condition and have signs of good to fair vigour and health. There are no signs of pest or diseases on these subjects tree. Tree 1- 2 are growing within a garden bed out on their own whilst Trees 3 - 7 are planted within the garden directly adjacent to the northern end of Block A. All of these trees are semi mature to mature in age. The proposed development is to extent the northern end of Block A. This extension will encompass the areas where Trees 1 - 7 are growing. Trees 4, 6 and 7 are all mature Lophostemon confertus which have created a large canopy coverage for the area. Trees 1, 2, 3 and 5 are smaller in size and younger in age.

This location has been chosen to take full advantage of the level area without taking away from the remaining play ground areas of the site. This location has been assessed as being the most practical, useable and easily accessible space for the building. For this building to be constructed in this location the seven (7) subject trees will need to be removed as the proposed buildings foot print are directly across the location where these trees are growing.

There are no other practical or suitable locations within the school area to construct this extension which is required by the school.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

All seven (7) subject trees are in varying levels of health and condition. There are no strong arboricultural reasons to remove these trees however at present the school does not have the required amenities for the students and teachers. This proposed building has been located in this location to give the school the most amount of space as possible without sacrificing more outdoor play spaces. This area has been assessed as being the most practical location for the proposed building.

If these trees are removed we recommend that replacement trees are planted out in alternate locations within the schools boundaries. One possibly location would be the north west corner of the school site. Ideally these trees should be indigenous or native as per Council's list of recommended species. Refer to the architect's drawings for the detail and location of where the proposed replacement trees would be planted. One species that could be used would be to plant out Lophostemon confertus (Brushbox) to try and recreate the canopy coverage of the subject trees to be removed.

Below we have outlined the correct management procedures for the subject trees if this proposed development is approved.

5.1.0 Activities to be avoided within root zones of trees to be retained.

The following activities should be avoided within the TPZ;

Removal of any plant material with machinery

Ripping or cultivation of soil

Storage of any spoil, soil or any such materials

Placement of site shed or temporary services

Soil disturbance or movement of natural features (such as rocks)

Disposal of waste materials and chemicals such as cement, paint, solvents, fuel, oil and other toxic liquids.

This includes washing down tools and brushes

Changes in soil level

Movement and storage of plant, equipment and vehicles

Attachment of signage to trees

Any physical damage to the trunk or root system

Lighting of fires

5.2.0 Tree Protection

Throughout the construction process we recommend that the existing boundary fence between the subject trees and the site be retained. If it was removed we would recommend the following tree protection measure taken. The trees to be retained on site will require a range of protection measures to protect them prior to and during the construction process. These should be installed prior to any work commencing on site.

5.2.1 Tree Protection Fencing

The trees to be retained shall be protected by tree protection fencing. This fence is to be constructed with at least chain wire panels to a height of 1800mm, supported by steel stakes (as required) and fastened together so there is no movement sideways. Ideally these panels should be locked into 200mm x 100mm concrete blocks which will prevent movement and reduce the likelihood of the fencing being disturbed.

The protection fencing is to be placed around the perimeter of the TPZ. The fence shall be erected prior to any work commencing on site and shall be maintained in good condition for the entire construction period.

Wood chip mulch shall be spread across the total area of the TPZ to a depth of 50mm. Mulch shall be spread by hand to avoid any compaction and soil disturbance within the TPZ.

Appropriate signage shall be installed on the fencing to prevent unauthorized movement of fencing and or entry into the TPZ.

5.2.2 Trunk and branch protection

Where tree protection fencing cannot be installed due to its closeness to the proposed works, trunk protection shall be installed around the tree to avoid damage. As a minimum, the trunk protection shall consist of two metre lengths of hardwood timbers (100 x 50mm) spaced at 100-150mm centres tied together with 2mm galvanized wire. These shall be strapped around the tree trunk and/or branches to form a protective barrier from mechanical injury.

At no time should these materials be fixed to the tree in a manner which would damage the bark of the tree. The trunk and branch protection shall be erected prior to any work commencing on site and shall be maintained in good condition for the entire construction period.

5.2.3 Crown protection

Additional crown protection may be required where the radius of the TPZ is less than the radius of the canopy. Tree protection fencing may need to be moved further out to encompass the drip line of the tree's canopy. This shall be done by the site arborist.

5.3.0 Tree Damage

If the trees to be protected on the site are damaged in any way throughout the development period the site arborist shall be engaged to inspect the level of damage. The site arborist will provide advice on any remedial action to take place to prevent or reduce any further impact on the tree. This action shall be implemented as soon as practicable and certified by the site arborist.

5.4.0 Tree and Root Pruning

All pruning work required shall be carried out in accordance with the Australian Standard No 4373 – 2007- Pruning of Amenity Trees. Prior to any pruning of the site's trees being done, written approval from council will be required under the Tree Preservation Order. All pruning to be carried out by a qualified and experienced arborist with a minimum AQF 4 qualification in accordance with the NSW Work Cover Code of Practice for the Amenity Tree Industry (1998). All care shall be taken when operating any equipment near the trees to avoid damage to the tree's canopy (foliage and branches). Under no circumstances shall branches be torn- off by construction equipment. Where there is potential risk that the tree canopy may be damaged by construction activity, the advice of the site arborist must be sought. If the tree is pruned without prior permission from Northern Beaches Council, fines will apply. Where root pruning is necessary, roots shall be severed with a sharp, clean pruning instrument. The severed roots should be kept moist by covering them with a hessian material or mulch, for the duration of the construction period.

5.5.0 Tree removal

The approval of the Northern Beaches Council shall be obtained prior to the removal of any tree. All tree work to be carried out by a qualified and experience arborist or tree surgeon in accordance with the NSW Work Cover Code of Practice for the Amenity Tree Industry (1998). All care should be taken to avoid the damage to other trees while removal is taking place. Stumps of trees to be removed shall be grounded out using a stump grinder without damaging the root systems of other trees.

Where tree stumps are located in close proximity to trees that are to be retained, stumps should be cut off at ground level, leaving root systems intact. This applies to those stumps found within TPZ of trees to be retained. If any trees are removed without prior permission from the Northern Beaches Council, fines will apply.

5.6.0 Signage

Signs identifying the TPZ should be attached to the tree protection fencing. The signage should be easily read, clear to understand and made from durable material which will last for the duration of the development. The signage shall remain in place until final completion.

5.7.0 Maintenance of the trees to be protected

The tree to be protected shall have a maintenance program implemented for the period of development. This shall include watering and fertilising as required. This shall be prepared by the site arborist and it should be carried out by he/she or a qualified horticulturist. If any trees are removed without prior permission from Northern Beaches Council, fines will apply.

5.7.1 Tree Watering

The trees to be maintained on site should be well watered prior to the commencement of works and throughout the development period.

This will ensure the tree is not in any stress from drought. The site arborist shall implement a watering program depending on the season and amount of rain fall.

5.8.0 Site Induction

All persons working on the site or accessing the site shall participate in a site induction. This is to inform all persons of the site access, the correct procedure when working around the tree protection zones, what the outcomes will be if any or all of the trees to be protected on site are damaged

6.0.0 Post Construction Measures

6.0.1 Maintenance

The maintenance program shall be continued after final completion for the following year. The signs of any stress in the trees will need to be noted and the site arborist will need to be consulted.

6.0.2 Tree Protection Fencing

The tree protection fencing can be removed once work is completed and no possible damage can be caused by vehicles or equipment.

If you have any questions regarding this report please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.



Glenice Buck
Consulting Arborist (AQF 5)

Assumptions

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified as far as possible. However Glenice Buck Designs Pty Limited can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

Unless stated otherwise:

Information contained in this report covers only the trees that were examined and reflects the condition of the tree at the time of inspection: and

The inspection was limited to visual examination of the subject trees without dissection, excavation, probing or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject tree may not arise in the future.

6. REFERENCES


- Standards Australia (2009) AS2970-2009 "Protection of Trees on Development Sites", Sydney.
- Standards Australia (2007) AS 4373-2007 "Pruning of Amenity Trees", Sydney.
- Council's Tree Preservation Order & relevant tree planning documents.
- IACA, 2010, IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System (STARS), Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists, Australia, www.iaca.org.au .
- Harris et al, 2004, *Arboriculture Integrated Management of Trees, Shrubs and Vines*, Prentice Hall, New Jersey.

APPENDIX 1

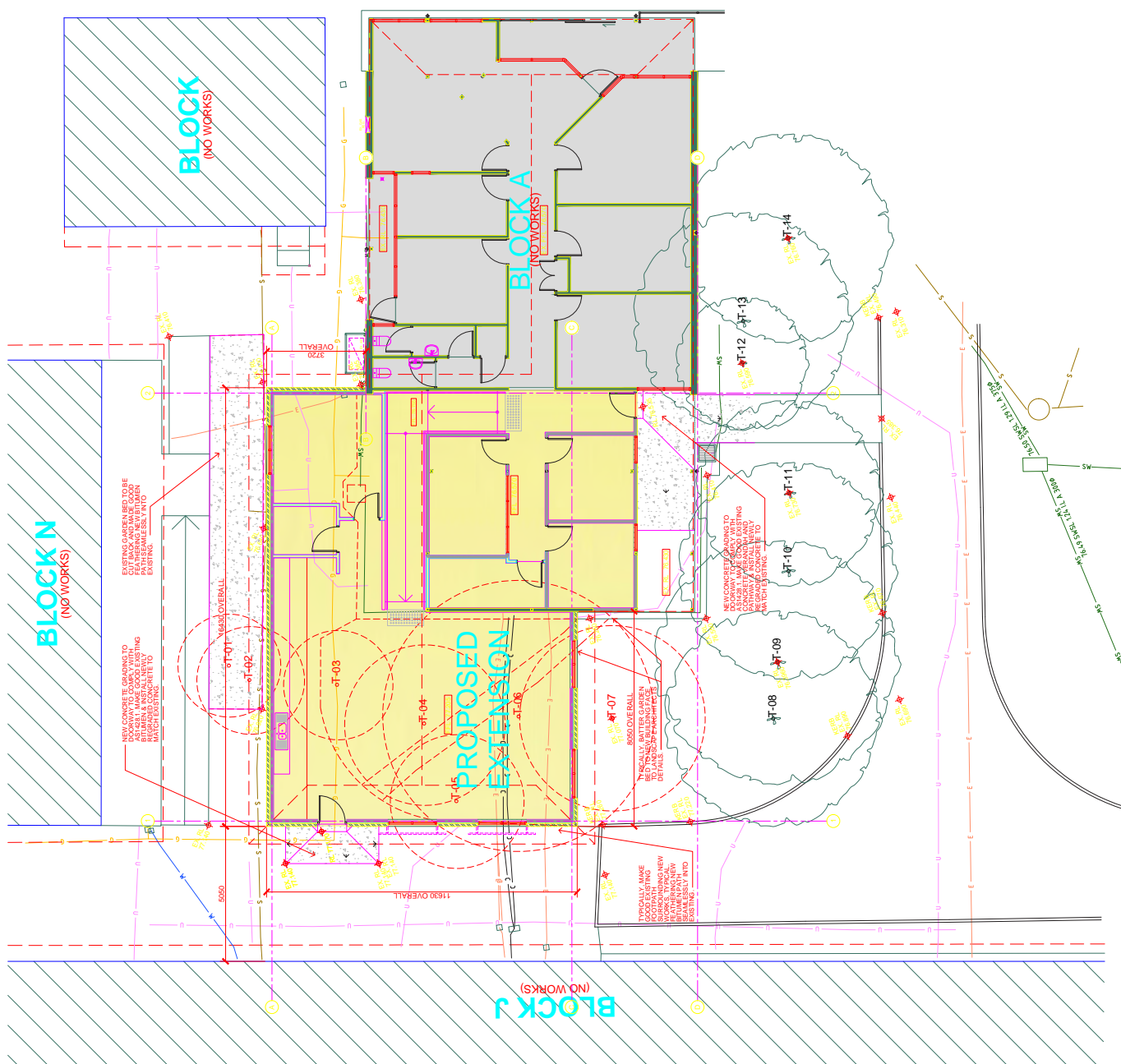
TREE INSPECTION INVENTORY SHEET & NOTES

Criterion	Code	Comment/ description
Tree no:		Must relate to the number on your site plan
Species: common Box)		may be coded - include a key to the codes; botanical names and names in key (eg. Lc = Lophostemon confertus Brush
Age class:	Y	Recently planted
	S	Semi-mature (<20% of life expectancy)
	M	Mature (20-80% of life expectancy)
	O	Over-mature (>80% of life expectancy)
Height:		In metres
Spread:		Average diameter of canopy in metres
Crown class: other	D	Dominant (crown extends above general canopy; not restricted by trees)
crowded by	C	Co-dominant (crown forms the bulk of the general canopy but other trees)
quite	I	Intermediate (crown extends into dominant/codominant canopy but crowded on all sides)
	S	Suppressed (crown development restricted from overgrowing trees)
Crown condition: overall vigour and vitality	0	Dead
	1	Severe decline (< 20% canopy; major dead wood)
	2	Declining (20-60% canopy density; twig and branch dieback)
	3	Average (60-90% canopy density; twig dieback)
	4	Good (90-100% crown cover; little on nor dieback or other problems)

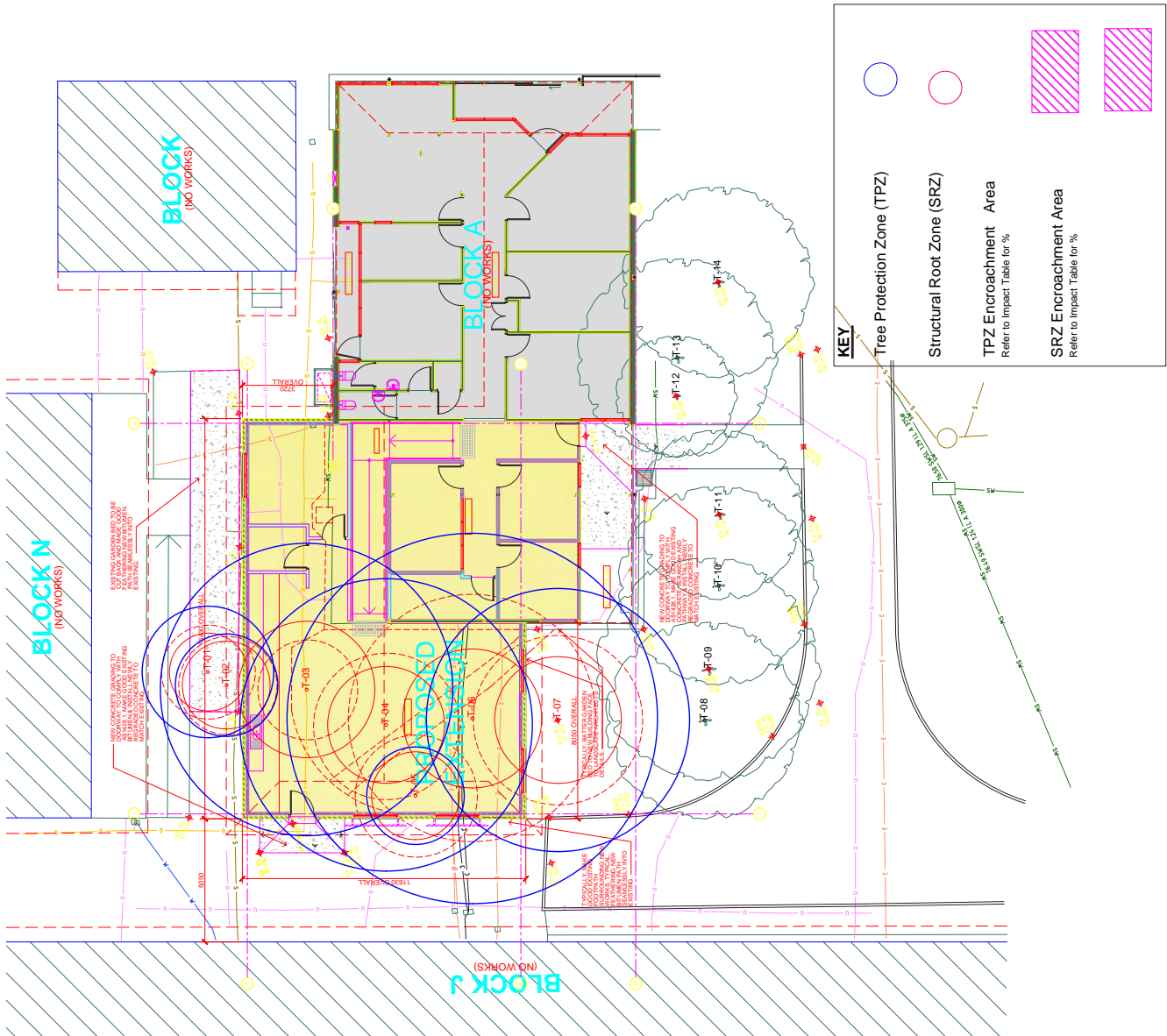
APPENDIX 2 - IACA Tree Retention Value - Priority Matrix

		Significance				
		1. High	2. Medium	3. Low		
		Significance in Landscape	Significance in Landscape	Significance in Landscape	Environmental Pest / Noxious Weed Species	Hazardous / Irreversible Decline
Estimated Life Expectancy	1. Long >40 years					
	2. Medium 15-40 Years					
	3. Short <1-15 Years					
	Dead					
Legend for Matrix Assessment 						
		Priority for Retention (High) - These trees are considered important for retention and should be retained and protected. Design modification or re-location of building/s should be considered to accommodate the setbacks as prescribed by the Australian Standard AS4970 <i>Protection of trees on development sites</i> . Tree sensitive construction measures must be implemented e.g. pier and beam etc if works are to proceed within the Tree Protection Zone.				
		Consider for Retention (Medium) - These trees may be retained and protected. These are considered less critical; however their retention should remain priority with removal considered only if adversely affecting the proposed building/works and all other alternatives have been considered and exhausted.				
		Consider for Removal (Low) - These trees are not considered important for retention, nor require special works or design modification to be implemented for their retention.				
		Priority for Removal - These trees are considered hazardous, or in irreversible decline, or weeds and should be removed irrespective of development.				

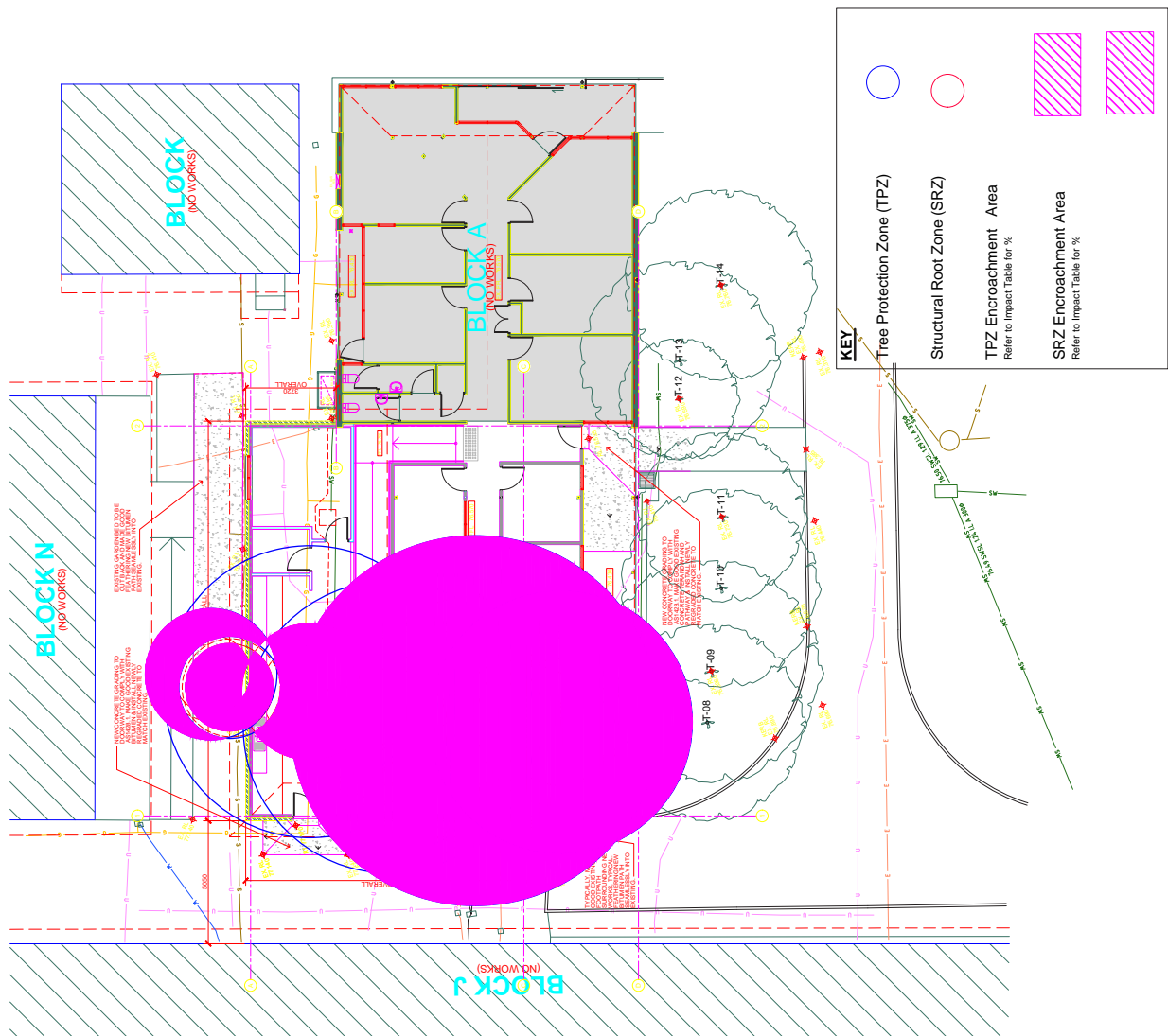
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NARRAWEENA PUBLIC SCHOOL

72-78 McIntosh Road, Narraweena NSW 2099

Telephone: 9971 5778 or 9971 5776

Email: narraween-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website: www.narraween-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Dear Northern Beaches Council

I am writing to you, as the Principal of Narraweena Public School, and on behalf of the students, staff, parents, carers and the wider community of our thriving school.

I work tirelessly to facilitate a team approach to school decision making processes which supports the engagement of students, teachers, school leaders, parents, carers and community members as active contributors. Family-school and community partnerships are an effective way to support and empower positive parent engagement, and bring together family and community resources to enrich student learning and wellbeing.

Narraweena Public School's reputation is proving to strengthen amongst schools on the Northern Beaches. So much so, that families are buying into the local area so that they can ensure their children are within the strict Narraweena Public School catchment area. With the increase in student enrolments brings an increase in parents and carers, and an increase in staff members. Our administration building does not currently cater for our increasing numbers, hence our application for an extension to the existing building which has been approved in principle by School Infrastructure NSW. In order for this building to meet the increasing demands upon our school we are requesting that 3 trees, that have deemed as 'insignificant' be removed so that our preferred extension proceed.

As part of my request, I would like to address the key dimension of 'Communication' as identified in the *Family-School Partnerships Framework*. At Narraweena Public School, we pride ourselves on implementing strategies that utilise communication to support the development of constructive and sustainable relationships in the school community by building the capacity of school leaders and teachers, and actively encouraging parent and family engagement. For this to be successful we require a place for families to meet and participate in programs and activities. We are working towards creating connections with local health and welfare services to facilitate access to support for members of the school community. We are aiming to create an environment where students, families and teachers can set learning goals together, which can be informed by student data as well as interests and aspirations. We want to establish an environment where school leaders are visible and accessible. Currently, this is not possible. The meeting space is not available. Our preferred extension space will provide us with the space to meet with parents, carers and other members of the community and support the development of constructive and sustainable relationships. Our preferred extension requires the removal of three trees. Our current school staffroom can only accommodate approximately 25 staff members. We currently have between 35 and 45 staff members requiring access to our staffroom on any given day. The removal of three trees will provide us with the increase floor space for our preferred extension to proceed.

We have met with Hesham Otify, the Asset services officer from School Infrastructure NSW assigned to our school and Maurice Mandalinic, architect and Director of Auroradesign on a number of occasions. All configurations have been addressed and we have thoroughly discussed potential alternatives so that the 3 trees can remain, however, none of the layouts/designs can cater for the floor space required to meet our increasing building capacity needs and none of the alternative layouts meet our staffing and parent/carers meeting requirements.

Should the removal of the three trees be granted, we have established a suitable location for the planting of three new trees which will not hinder any student play space or potentially jeopardise any further building extensions.

Thank you in advance for your time.
Kind regards

Sally Bell
Principal, Narraweena Public School