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Tree Consultants

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EXCELLENCE in ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MANAGEMENT

FULL INSURANCE PROTECTION

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26 June 2023

Trish Quirk
29 Wandeen Road
CLAREVILLE, NSW 2107

Additional Information Response: DA2022/1915 Site: 29 Wandeen Road, Clareville

Please find helpful my responses to the request for additional information from the Northern Beaches Council (from herein the NBC) Landscape Referral & Natural Environment officers via Dean Pattalis (assessing planner).

As interpreted, two (2) issues are required to be discussed:

- 1. Two (2) trees within the front of the subject site relative to their potential to be retained relative to proposed works or potential (in the opinion of the NBC) modifications to proposed works that may allow the trees to be retained.*

Whilst the trees known as Tree #1 & Tree #2 have been assessed as individual trees, they are located very close to each other at ground level. Any disturbance proposed near to one tree will impact (adversely) on the other. Simply, any disturbance near one tree will apply to the other.

The existing site character (built form), i.e., driveway profile/garden beds/existing dwelling footprint all equates to previous disturbance to both tree's root systems. It is not unreasonable to assume this disturbance has resulted in at best significant changes to natural land form, changes to above & below ground hydrology character & at worst additionally includes severance of potentially structural supporting 'live roots'.

Based on suggested potential reduction of turning-bay from 7.50m width to 3.50m width adverse impacts to Tree #1 & Tree #2 are not eliminated.

To consider modifying the existing driveway profile towards the western common boundary by the necessary extent to accommodate fully a turning-bay is not a desirable concept as it will bring the viability of multiple trees

within adjoining common boundary property into consideration. This is not from an Arboriculture perspective a desirable outcome.

I am additionally briefed, that traffic engineers in conjunction with architect advice confirm the subject site to not a suitable location for an in-driveway car turntable structure to be installed. (From an Arboriculture perspective, this would likely lead to unacceptable TPZ/SRZ radial distance mathematical breaches so cannot be supported even if it could be constructed relative to ground level issues.)

2. *Tree #4, Tree #5, Tree #6 & Tree #7 by NBC assessment are (potentially) adversely impacted upon by the as modified swimming pool orientation/location. Comment relative to if a BDAR is required to be prepared is not an Arboriculture issue.*

Tree #4 is by modification of swimming pool orientation/location not considered to be adversely impacted upon by any works.

Tree #4 & Tree #5 are already significantly subjected to changes (long term) to the natural ground levels.

The modified swimming pool location is almost if not totally suspended. Many swimming pools are approved (even within sensitive sites) & successfully constructed in a similar manner (i.e., with flexibly located footing-pier sites) without any compromise to established trees with respect to their individual Useful Life Expectancy.

Tree #5 relative to the as proposed modified swimming pool orientation/location not impacted upon in any manner by excavation required for the swimming pool footing/pier sites. Note; infill (tree root friendly sand-based media) proposed between the existing ground level & the closest face of the proposed swimming pool structure can easily be deleted if the NBC assessing officer has difficulty supporting the use of tree root friendly infill media, e.g., an 80/20 media mix (i.e., 80% sand/20% loam).

Tree #6 & Tree #7 again by implementation of 'flexibly located' footing/pier sites manually excavated reduces any disturbance to ground levels & hydrology character to near nil. In the event a 'live root' of a significant diameter (defined as being greater than 50mm in this situation) cannot be avoided by moving the footing/pier site additional engineer input can design the footing/pier site to bridge over the 'live root'. (Needless to say, all stages of works will require intensive oversight by the retained Project Arborist. This includes written documentation with supporting photographic evidence for DA 'Conditions of Consent' as well as *Australian Standard (AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites*, chapters 3, 4 & 5) compliance provisions.

Summary:

Tree #1 & Tree #2 are captured by the *Pittwater 21 DCP* as well as the provisions within the *Pittwater spotted gum forest – endangered ecological community listing*. They are not assessed as being captured by *Biodiversity Values Mapping*.

Whilst multiple options have been explored from multiple angles it is the opinion of the GMW practice no change to the existing built form can be achieved without a likely adverse outcome with respect to individual tree Useful Life Expectancy. Simply, by virtue of trees being a renewable resource Tree #1 & Tree #2 can be legitimately supported to be replaced with same species trees in more appropriate locations. The benefit being from a bigger picture environmental/sustainably perspective is that new trees properly planted & cultivated have the ability to provide equal to at a minimum the replication of the existing ‘green footprint’ provided by very long term established past their prime specimens discussed in detail.

AS4970-2009 as per all *Australian Standards* are guideline documents & not legal instruments. *AS4970-2009* is the only *Australian Standard* in existence that has been written in a manner to be flexibly interrupted/applied. It clearly states, that breaches to mathematical outcomes can be acceptable if ‘demonstrated’ as such.

This document as per the latest March 2023 V5 GMW document clearly defines what is required to demonstrate the viability of the proposal being assessed to not adversely impact upon either Tree #4, tree #5, Tree #6 & Tree #7.

Conclusions:

Management of the existing promoted as viably able to be retained Trees #4, Tree #5, Tree #6 & Tree #7 as well as the planting of a minimum of two (2) new same species trees (Spotted Gums) as Tree #1 & Tree #2 has the potential to over the long term improve the ‘local environment’ with respect to an up to very long-term replication or even exceeding current ‘green footprint’.

There is ample room within both the front & rear yards of the subject site to plant new tree specimens with respect to available/required soil volumes.

Please do not hesitate to call me should any additional information be sought or information already provided being further clarified.

Yours faithfully,

Kyle A. Hill

Attachment A: Curriculum Vitae

CURRICULUM VITAE – January 2023

Kyle A. Hill

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Education/Qualifications:

- Post Graduate Certificate-Arbiculture (AQF level 8)
- Diploma of Horticulture - Arboriculture (AQF level 5)
- Workplace Training & Assessment (AQF level 4)
- Certificate of Horticulture, (AQF level 4)
- Advanced Tree Surgery Certificate

Professional Development:

- 2021 & 2022: *VALID Risk – Benefit (Adelaide & Sydney)*
- 2020: *Tree Anatomy Workshop, Arborist Network*
- 2018: *Is it VALID? Tree defects, Decay & Decisions*
- 2018: Frank Renn, Ryde TAFE
- 2018: *Quantified Tree Risk Assessment*
- 2017: *Is it VALID? Tree defects, Decay & Decisions*
- 2013: *Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, ISA (updated 2018)*

Employment History:

- 2014 - 2015: *Tree Management Officer, Lane Cove Council Part time*
- 2007 - 2022: *Senior Consultant Arborist, AURA Tree Services*
- 2000 - 2005: *Field consultant & technical sales manager. Plateau Tree Services*
- 1977 - 2005: *Founder of Growing My Way Tree Services (tree division)*
- 2000 - present: *Growing My Way Tree Services (consultancy division)*
- 1983 - 2017: *TAFE NSW, Part Time Lecturer*

Community Projects:

- 2006 - present: *Newport Residents Association, Roles have included Secretary, President, Vice President & Treasurer*
- *Garden Design & Development Committee, Maria Regina Primary School*
- *Garden Committee, Barrenjoey Montessori School*
- *Founding member Newport Beach Apex Club*

Professional Associations:

- *Arbiculture Australia, Founding Member & Ex Director (2010-2015)*
- *National Arborists Association (now Arb Aust.), Founding Member, Ex Board Member, Ex Vice President & Treasurer*
- *Consulting Arborists division of NAA, (now Arb. Aust.)*
- *Member International Society of Arboriculture, (USA)*
- *Member of Victorian Tree Industry Organization (Victoria Aust.)*

Referees:

- Richard Turnbull, QC
- Andrew Thor, Senior Tree Management Officer Northern Beaches Council
- Judy Fakes, Retired Commissioner of NSW Land & Environment Court
- John Douglas, Senior Head Teacher of Arboriculture, RYDE,