

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2023/0019
Date:	15/02/2023
Proposed Development:	Alterations and additions to a dwelling house including secondary dwelling.
Responsible Officer:	Grace Facer
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 13 DP 11737 , 26 The Drive FRESHWATER NSW 2096

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 proposal is supported with regard to landscape issues.

The application is assessed by Landscape Referral against Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the following Warringah Development Control Plan 2011 controls (but not limited to):

- D1 Landscaped Open Space and Bushland Setting
- E1 Preservation of Trees or Bushland Vegetation

Landscape Referral raises concern that the proposed development does not achieve the 40% landscaped open space under the WDCP requirement, and this matter shall be assessed and determined under merit consideration by the Assessing Planning Officer. It is noted the non-compliance is existing and the proposed works will slightly increase landscaped area. It shall also be noted that the WDCP states *"Driveways, paved areas, roofed areas, tennis courts, car parking and stormwater structures, decks, etc, and any open space areas with a dimension of less than 2 metres are excluded from the calculation"*, and *"The minimum soil depth of land that can be included as landscaped open space is 1 metre"*, thus the area to the south-east of the proposed entry stair included in the calculations (drawing Landscaped Open Space A.01.10), cannot be included. Landscape Referral calculates the landscaped area at approximately 34% (albeit including existing non-compliant areas). Should the development application be approved, a minimum of 600mm soil depth for all on slab planters shall be provided, and species selection shall be updated in an Amended Landscape Plan, subject to the imposed conditions.

One exotic tree is proposed for removal and no concern is raised as native tree replacement is proposed. Significant excavation is proposed within 5 metres of the street tree, and as such a Project Arborist shall be engaged to supervise work in the tree protection zone. The landscape proposal is generally acceptable and all planting shall be installed as per the requirements outlined in the conditions of consent. *Rhaphiolepis indica*, *Pennisetum alopecuroides*, and *Nerium oleander* shall all be substituted for suitable alternatives as Council deems these species an environmental threat. All natural rock outcrops outside the approved construction footprint shall be retained and protected during works.

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

- i) substitute all *Rhaphiolepis indica*, *Pennisetum alopecuroides*, and *Nerium oleander* for suitable alternatives,
- ii) replace the *Rhaphiolepis indica*, and *Pennisetum alopecuroides* in the on slab planter above the secondary dwelling, with a species capable of attaining a mature height of at least 1 metre.

Certification shall be provided to the Certifier that these amendments have been documented.

Reason: Landscape amenity.

On Slab Landscape Works

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

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

- i) 600mm.

Design certification shall be submitted to the Certifier by a qualified Structural Engineer, that the planters are designed structurally to support the 'wet' weight of landscaping (soil, materials and established planting).

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 Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

- a) The Project Arborist shall be in attendance and supervise all works in the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, and in particular:
 - i) installation and maintenance of tree protection measures, and construction hold points, as determined by the Project Arborist,

ii) works in the tree protection zone of all trees to be retained, including but not limited to excavation, construction of retaining walls, and general landscaping.

b) Existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, unless authorised by the Project Arborist.

c) All tree protection measures specified 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 Project Arborist shall provide certification to the Principal Certifier 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.

d) 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 the following tree within the property (as shown on the Survey Plan):

- i) *Euphorbia tirucalli* - adjacent to the south-eastern boundary,
- ii) a qualified AQF level 5 Arborist shall identify these trees on site and tag or mark prior to removal.

Reason: To enable authorised development works.

CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH DURING DEMOLITION AND BUILDING WORK

Protection of Rock and Sites of Significance

All rock outcrops outside of the area of approved works are to be preserved and protected at all times during demolition excavation and construction works.

Should any Aboriginal sites be uncovered during the carrying out of works, those works are to cease and Council, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council are to be contacted.

Reason: Preservation of significant environmental features.

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 tree fronting the development site shall be protected by tree protection fencing in accordance with Section 4 of Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

All street trees within the road verge 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.

No excavated material, building material storage, site facilities, nor landscape materials are to be placed within the canopy dripline of street trees.

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: Street 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, 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 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 with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture,
- 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) or vi) 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 Project Arborist to the Principal Certifier,
- 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) 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, and should additional pruning be required an application to Council's Tree Services shall be submitted for approval or otherwise.

The Principal Certifier 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.

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 the Project Arborist 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 Project 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

Landscape Completion

Landscaping is to be implemented in accordance with the approved Concept Plan - Planting Plan (drawing Sht-2 by Unknown dated 21/10/22), and inclusive of the amended Landscape Plan conditions, plus the following conditions:

- i) all tree planting shall be a minimum planting size of 75 litres or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size, and shall meet the requirements of Natspec - Specifying Trees,
- ii) all trees shall be planted into a prepared planting hole 1m x 1m x 600mm depth, backfilled with a sandy loam mix or approved similar, mulched to 75mm depth minimum and maintained, and watered until established, and shall be located at least 2.5 metres from buildings, and at least 1 metre from common boundaries, and located either within garden bed or within a prepared bed within lawn,
- iii) mass planting shall be installed at minimum 1 plant per metre square for shrubs of a minimum 200mm container size at planting or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size, and at least 4 plants per metre square for grasses/groundcovers of a minimum 140mm container size at planting or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size, and shall be in a garden bed prepared with a suitable free draining soil mix and minimum 50mm depth of mulch,
- iv) all proposed tree planting shall be positioned in locations to minimise significant impacts on neighbours in terms of blocking winter sunlight to living rooms, private open space and where the proposed location of trees may otherwise be positioned to minimise any significant loss of views from neighbouring and nearby dwellings and from public spaces.

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, details from a landscape architect or landscape designer shall be submitted to the Principal Certifier, 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 an Occupation Certificate, a report prepared by the Project Arborist shall be

submitted to the Principal Certifier, assessing the health and impact on all existing trees required to be retained, including the following information:

- i) compliance to any Arborist recommendations for tree protection generally and during excavation works,
- ii) extent of damage sustained by vegetation as a result of the construction works,
- iii) 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

If any landscape materials/components or planting under this consent fails, they are to be replaced with similar materials/components. 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. 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 Amended Landscape Plan and any conditions of consent.

A maintenance activity schedule for on-going maintenance of planters on slab shall be incorporated to monitor and replenish soil levels as a result of soil shrinkage over time.

The approved landscape area shall in perpetuity remain as planting under the development consent.

All weeds are to be managed in accordance with the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015.

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.