

Attention: Adam Mitchell, Northern Beaches Council & Our Community,

RE; [DA2021/1522](#)

Application Type: Development Application

New - Demolition works and construction of a dwelling house

Status: Notified

Address: **189 Riverview Road AVALON BEACH NSW 2107**

I've been a resident of the Avalon area now for 20 years and I'd like to first start by saying we have read all of your submissions, understand your views and are respectfully responding to them.

We would like to first address the issues of concern around the tree removal as all of the submissions have made mention of this;

After carefully acknowledging your comments, it has come to our attention that all submissions (three of them professional consultants) have been made without reading and acknowledging the Arborist Report. The report was prepared in May, 2021 however unfortunately it was not uploaded as a supporting document with the DA. We apologise for this oversight and have asked that our planners upload this immediately. As a result many statements have been made without any review of this crucial and necessary document.

We note the following within the Arborist Report;

Of the 39 trees on the site, 17 trees were proposed for removal, 5 of these have been recommended for removal irrespective of our construction, 3 of these are noxious weeds (broad leafed privet trees), 5 of the 17 are classed 'Low value' and 2 of the 17 are classified 'Moderate Value' both of which were being removed due to decay, rot, arboreal termite nest damage and/or are in a cycle of decline with dead wood throughout. The fact is that only five of the 39 trees that had been requested for removal were due to our actual proposed construction.

However in summary after reviewing the submissions and the Arborist Report dated May, 2021, we are adjusting and reducing the footprint of our build, both to reduce scale, further articulate the facades and to protect the existence of the significant trees of value.

As a result of the design modifications we have managed to save 8 additional trees and now will only require to remove 9 trees in total. Of these 9, 5 are recommended for removal, including the Swamp Mahogany as it is deemed '*an over mature tree that appears to have entered a cycle of decline, dead wood throughout the upper canopy, remove irrespective.*' (the tree has a large termite nest in the structural fork, see photo attached). 3 are noxious weeds (mature

broad leafed privet trees), 4 Casuarina's that are in a state of decay, extensive rot and sever die back and finally, only one Spotted Gum with '*poor canopy development as a result of suppression and possible early construction*'. It sits in the centre of our build and has been classed in the Arborist Report as being of moderate significance..

We have attached the arborist report for your review, I would urge you all to read through it and a adjust your comments respectively.

We would also like to share with you our vision for the home, so we are all understanding the intent. When embarking on building our new home, with a new baby and more planned, we of course want to build a home that our new family can grow into. We also have immediate family in the US and interstate that stay with us regularly for long periods of time and therefor we have allocated space for them.

Our current site has a small house existing on it that was built in the early 50s and since then there has been no development on the site whatsoever. In the last 70 years it has been left to its own growth patterns and over those decades an enormous amount of native vegetation and noxious weeds have grown, some of them into mature trees. A challenge we all face in the area. Other blocks with existing homes are not in this situation and designing a new home that can only exist on the upper half of the block with a steep topography is not easy.

Our objective in the design is to build a house with no roofs, instead a place where we can plant as much native vegetation on it as possible. This provides thermal insulation for the building, making it more energy efficient with roof top gardens that spill over the facades, allowing it to blend into the natural environment as it cascades down the hill. We realise of course that this is not a substitute for any loss of vegetation, however we felt that by investing into rooftop gardens, we would be making an additional contribution to the native landscape and habitat as we can achieve a 1.2m of native shrub growth from a basic soil depth of no less than 300 mm if well managed. This will be the only native roof garden of its type in the area.

Whilst we are all well aware that spotted Gums are extremely important to the environment and the native animals that exist in it, especially in our area, one tends to look over the fact that birds like our beautiful Native King Parrot rely on over 46 different native species of shrubs, ground covers and trees that are not always at eye level in addition to our *Corymbia maculata* 'Spotted Gum'. This is true bio-diversity, looking closely and a broader range of natives that often get looked over that truly benefit our native animals habitat and food source.

In order to create and improve native habitat on our land we have eradicated all of the weeds on the rear of the property and planted over 600 native species on the rear of the block including several native salvaged mature *Macrozamia*

moorei (over 450 years old) and a number of mature native Xanthorrhoea species 'Grass Trees' and we intend to do the same on the upper portion of the block in addition to the roof gardens post the build.

The upper level and surrounding landscape as indicated in the Landscape Plans will have 1518 native and endemic species planted both on and around the property including Angophora and Spotted gum. We are passionate when it comes to creating a native habitat and as a qualified horticulturalist and Principal of a Landscape Architectural practice for 24 years with over 39 awards we are well positioned to do so.

We also plan on installing over 60 solar panels onto the roofs to allow the home to be a self-sustaining energy efficient home by using a 30 kilowatt plus energy system to power the home with our own renewable energy, producing less carbon emissions for a cleaner environment. The home will be the first one in Australia with this state of the art technology in Australia that will be self-sufficient and off the grid. In addition the materials we have chosen for the home are all as sustainable as possibly available in today's market with either a low or even a zero VOC rating, reducing the toxins that are often used in today's buildings. We have also contracted the Green Building council of Australia and are following their Green Star Home Submission for additional environmental certification on top of the required BASIX report.

In sharing all of this we of course acknowledge and value all of your comments as your opinions and the community we live in matter to us. I have donated my time to over 50 environmental causes and organisation's globally for over 27 years and been behind both National and International tree planting programs that have seen millions of native trees go into our environment over the last 2 decades. You should know that the environment is as precious to me as it is to all of you. We all have different methods of doing our bit and while they may sometimes have different strategies, I would like to hope that we share a common goal. We are all just temporary custodians of this planet and what we leave behind matters. If we can leave it in a better way than when we found it we should.

On that note after strong consideration of your comments we have decided to amend our current DA as we are flexible in our approach, the amendments to the design reduce the footprint and preserve additional native trees.

Thank you for taking the time to read, we will circle back with the updates shortly.

Yours Sincerely,

Kind Regards,

JAMIE DURIE OAM

