

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2021/1130
Date:	22/07/2021
Responsible Officer:	Maxwell Duncan
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 23 DP 9561 , 1 Tutus Street BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS NSW 2093

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

This application is for the demolition of an existing residential dwelling, and the construction of a new residential dwelling including a new swimming pool.

Councils Landscape Referral section has considered the application against the Manly Local Environmental Plan, and the following Manly DCP 2013 controls:

- 3.3.1 Landscaping Design
- 3.3.2 Preservation of Trees or Bushland Vegetation
- 4.1.5 Open Space and Landscaping

The Statement of Environmental Effects provided with the application notes that a number of trees are required to be removed as a result of proposed works. For this reason, an Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been provided with the application.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has identified a total of seventeen trees, eight of which are located in the reserve to the south of the site, two within the adjoining properties to the west, one within the road reserve, with the remaining six located within the site. Of these seventeen trees identified, three trees, Tree No. 1, 12 and 17, are proposed to be removed in order to facilitate proposed works.

Tree No. 1 is a significant native tree that has been identified as have good health and structure, as well as a medium landscape amenity value. In addition, Tree No.1 has been identified as having a long safe useful life expectancy. Tree No. 1 is located within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool, and as a result, will require removal. Considering the large presence of existing rock outcrops within the site, particularly are the rear of the property, it is difficult to compensate this tree with another canopy tree elsewhere within the site. Upon review of the Landscape Plan, it is clear substantial planting comprising of shrubs, grasses and groundcovers is proposed where possible., which is particularly important in this location in order to replace the privacy screening that this tree did provide.

Tree No. 12 similarly has been identified as a significant tree as it is above 5m in height, however it has

been identified as having poor structure, with a low landscape amenity value. As this tree is located within close proximity to proposed works, it has been proposed for removal. Upon review of the Landscape Plans, a series of tall shrubs, grasses and groundcovers have been proposed in a similar location. Due to the proximity to the proposed dwelling, this is viewed as an appropriate landscape treatment.

Tree No. 17 is a significant native tree located within the road reserve adjacent to the existing driveway. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has noted that this tree could possibly be retained with tree sensitive construction techniques, however, as it has previously failed and is since growing in a poor manner, it is better off to be replaced. The Landscape Plans provided indicate that for the removal of this tree, three trees have been proposed to take its place. It is also assumed these three additional trees are an effort in order to replace those tree removed from within the site. The removal of Tree No. 17 is supported, however of the three replacement trees, one must be of the same species as that removed (*Eucalyptus haemastoma*), and must be planted approximately 3m from the existing retaining wall in line with the southern boundary. This is to ensure the replacement tree is not below existing power-lines, and it is able to reach maturity without any disruptions.

It is noted that of the remaining trees proposed for retention, there are a few identified as having encroachments into both the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), as well as Structural Root Zone (SRZ). The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has noted these trees are able to be retained as long as tree sensitive construction techniques and tree protection measures are adhered to. For this reason the Arborists recommendations are supported. The retention of these trees is vital to satisfy control 3.3.2, as key objectives of this control include "to protect and enhance the urban forest of the Northern Beaches", "to effectively manage the risks that come with an established urban forest through the professional management of trees", as well as "to protect and enhance the scenic value and character that trees and/or bushland vegetation provide".

There are no concerns raised regarding the proposed planting, subject to the tree replacement as mentioned above. The completion of these landscape works is necessary to satisfy control 3.3.1 and 4.1.5, as key objectives of these controls include "to encourage appropriate tree planting and maintenance of existing vegetation", "to maximise soft landscaped areas and open space at ground levels, encourage appropriate tree planting and the maintenance of the existing vegetation and bushland", as well as "to maintain and enhance the amenity (including sunlight, privacy and views) of the site, the streetscape and the surrounding area".

The landscape component of the proposal is therefore supported subject to the protection of existing trees and vegetation, and completion of landscape works as proposed on the Landscape Plan, inclusive of the required tree species change.

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

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 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

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).

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. 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.

The Project Arborist shall be in attendance and supervise all works as nominated in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, including:

- i) all demolition, excavation and construction works within the TPZ's and SRZ's of trees to be retained.

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 the following tree(s) within the property (as recommended in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment):

- i) *Glochidion ferdinandi*, located adjacent to the northern boundary within the footprint of proposed works, Tree No. 1,
- ii) *Melia azedarach*, located towards the front of the site adjacent to the southern boundary, Tree No. 12.

Note:

- i) Exempt Species as listed in the Development Control Plan or the Arboricultural Impact Assessment do not require Council consent for removal.
- ii) Any request to remove a tree approved for retention under the development application is subject to a Section 4.55 modification application, or an assessment by an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture that determines that the tree presents an imminent risk to life or property.

Reason: To enable authorised building works.

Tree Removal Within the Road Reserve

This consent approves the removal of the following tree(s) within the road reserve (as recommended in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment):

- i) *Eucalyptus haemastoma*, located on the southern side of the existing driveway, Tree No. 17.

Removal of the approved tree/s in the road reserve shall only be undertaken by a Council approved tree contractor. Details of currently approved tree contractors can be obtained from Northern Beaches Council's Trees Services Section prior to removal.

Reason: Public liability.

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.

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 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 an 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 an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture,
- 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 an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture on site,
- vi) excavation for stormwater lines and all other utility services is not permitted within the tree protection zone, without consultation with an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture including advice on root protection measures,
- vii) should either or all of v), vi) and vii) occur during site establishment and construction works, an Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture 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.

c) Tree protection shall specifically be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, as listed in the following sections:

- i) Section 8 - Conclusions,
- ii) Section 9 - Recommendations,
- iii) Section 11 - Arboricultural Work Method Statement and Tree Protection Measures,
- iv) Section 12 - Hold Points,
- vii) Appendix 1 - Proposed Site Plan and Tree Protection.

The Certifying Authority must ensure that:

- d) The arboricultural works listed in c) are undertaken and certified by an Arborist as compliant to the recommendations of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment.
- e) 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.

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 Landscape Plan, inclusive of the following conditions:

i) substitute one of the three proposed street trees with *Eucalyptus haemastoma*. This is to be located at least 3m from existing retaining walls, and approximately in line with the southern boundary of the site, well clear of existing overhead power-lines.

All street trees shall be a minimum planting size of 75 litres, and shall meet the requirements of Natspec - Specifying Trees.

All street 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, including a four post and top and mid rail timber tree guard, and watered until established, and shall be located at least 2.0 metres from any structures including driveways, kerbs, and paths, and shall generally be centralised within the road verge.

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, details (from a landscape architect or landscape designer) shall be submitted to the 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 an 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

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 Landscape Plan and any conditions of consent.

For all new on-slab landscape works, 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.

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

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.

