

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2023/0803
Date:	12/07/2023
Proposed Development:	Alterations and additions to the existing Hills Flower Market site
Responsible Officer:	Maxwell Duncan
Land to be developed (Address):	Part Lot 1 DP 845094 , 287 Mona Vale Road TERREY HILLS NSW 2084

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 70% landscaped area under the WDCP requirement, and this matter shall be assessed and determined under merit consideration by the Assessing Planning Officer. Furthermore, it is noted that the calculations shown on drawing A100-20 DA-6 include permeable parking and walkways. Not including these non-compliant areas, the landscaped area (or landscape open space) is in fact 51%. The commentary from the Landscape Referral team in the PLM notes was "*...the use of permeable pavers is not accepted as being part of the LOS for the purpose of the LOS calculation and should only be used as a complimentary feature to further enhance the site*". Finally, some accessible carparking spaces are shown within permeable areas, and Landscape Referral questions the suitability of their location.

The PLM notes stated "*It is advised that Landscape team will seek a landscape outcome to preserve / establish a boundary landscape buffer to the cultivation area boundaries*". Should the development application be approved, an amended Landscape Plan shall be submitted which includes a landscape buffer along the north-eastern boundary for the full extent of the cultivation area, and shall be a minimum width of 3 metres as measured perpendicular to that boundary.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) identified 28 trees for removal, of which 15 trees (3, 8, 9, 11, 16, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32) are exempt by species or height and as such do not require consent for removal. Of the 13 remaining trees seven are exotic species and six are native.

These remaining 13 trees can be supported for removal, and the landscape proposal shows 14 replacement native trees which will sufficiently offset any tree canopy loss. Landscape Referral supports the tree protection recommendations outlined in the AIA, and a Project Arborist shall be engaged to supervise the works in the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, subject to the imposed conditions.

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:

- a) a landscape buffer along the north-eastern boundary for the full extent of the cultivation area i.e. from the north-western boundary junction to at least 3 metres beyond the last cultivation bed. The buffer shall be a minimum width of 3 metres as measured perpendicular to the north-eastern boundary and include a range of low lying shrubs, medium high shrubs and screen planting,
- b) coordinate the plans with the planting schedule to capture all proposed species.

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

Reason: Landscape amenity.

CONDITIONS THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ANY COMMENCEMENT

Project Arborist

A Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall be engaged prior to any commencement of works on site to provide tree protection measures in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

- a) The Project Arborist shall be in attendance and supervise all works as nominated in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, and in particular:
 - i) works and tree protection measures under section 4 Arboricultural Method Statement, Appendix 7, and Appendix 8.
- b) 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 Certifier that all tree protection measures under AS4970-2009 have been satisfied, and the 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:

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 existing trees on the subject site as identified in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, approved Plans, or as listed below:

- a) tree 1 - *Acer palmatum*, trees 2 and 3 - *Nyssa sylvatica*, tree 5 - *Syzygium* sp., tree 10 *Betula pendula*, tree 12 - *Magnolia* sp., trees 14 and 15 - *Nyssa sylvatica*, tree 18 - *Hymenosporum flavum*, tree 20 - *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*, and trees 33, 34, and 35 - *Syzygium* sp.,
- b) 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

Tree and Vegetation Protection

a) Existing trees and vegetation shall be retained and protected, including:

- i) all trees within the site not approved for removal, including trees and vegetation nominated for retention on the approved Plans,
- ii) all trees and vegetation located on adjoining properties,
- iii) all trees and vegetation within the road reserve.

b) Tree protection shall be undertaken as follows:

- i) tree protection shall be in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment,
- ii) existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained, unless authorised by an Arborist/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 an Arborist/Project 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/Project 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/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture including advice on root protection measures,
- vii) should either or all of v) or vi) occur during site establishment and construction works, an Arborist/Project 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 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 AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites,
- ix) the activities listed in section 4.2 of AS4970-2009 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 AS4373-2007 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.

The Principal Certifier must ensure that:

c) The arboricultural works listed in a) and b) are undertaken and certified by an Arborist/Project Arborist as complaint to AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites, and any recommendations of an approved Arboricultural Impact Assessment.

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 an Arborist/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture during the works. In this regard all protected trees shall not exhibit:

- a) a general decline in health and vigour,
- b) damaged, crushed or dying roots due to poor pruning techniques,
- c) more than 10% loss or dieback of roots, branches and foliage,
- d) mechanical damage or bruising of bark and timber of roots, trunk and branches,
- e) yellowing of foliage or a thinning of the canopy untypical of its species,
- f) an increase in the amount of deadwood not associated with normal growth,
- g) an increase in kino or gum exudation,
- h) inappropriate increases in epicormic growth that may indicate that the plants are in a stressed condition,
- i) branch drop, torn branches and stripped bark not associated with natural climatic conditions.

Any mitigating measures and recommendations required by the Arborist/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

Landscape works are to be implemented in accordance with the approved amended Landscape Plan (s), and inclusive of the following conditions:

- a) landscape works are to be contained within the legal property boundaries,
- b) all tree planting shall be a minimum pre-ordered planting size of 75 litres or as otherwise scheduled if greater in size; meet the requirements of Natspec - Specifying Trees; 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 3.0 metres from buildings or more, at least 1.5 metres from common boundaries; and located either within garden bed or within a prepared bed within lawn,
- c) tree, shrub and groundcover planting shall be installed as indicated on the approved Landscape Plan (s) including the required amendments,
- d) mass planting shall be installed in garden beds prepared with a suitable free draining soil mix and minimum 75mm depth of mulch,

e) where the property is certified Bush Fire Prone Land, any new planting may be managed in accordance with Planning for Bushfire Protection 2019.

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, details (from a landscape architect, landscape designer or qualified horticulturalist) 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

Prior to the issue of an Occupation Certificate, a report prepared by an Arborist/Project Arborist with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture shall be submitted to the Principal Certifier, assessing the health and impact on all existing trees required to be retained on the approved Plans or as listed in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment, 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 and vegetation 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(s) and any conditions of consent.

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

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.