

Landscape Referral Response

Application Number:	DA2022/1697
Date:	11/01/2023
Proposed Development:	Alterations and additions to a dwelling house including a swimming pool
Responsible Officer:	Brittany Harrison
Land to be developed (Address):	Lot 4 DP 830414 , 197 McCarrs Creek Road CHURCH POINT NSW 2105

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

Conditions updated 11/01/2023 AP

Additional Information Comment 22/12/2022

Following review of additional information, site photos and Geotechnical Report, the following comments are offered.

The site slopes relatively steeply to the east with the area proposed for the spas, deck and cabana located on the upper slopes, adjacent to the dwelling and western boundary, which are less steep.

The proposal will require excavation into the land to approximately 1.4m depth to provide a base for the spas. Retaining walls will be required to be constructed on peired footings to accommodate the clay/shale soils. The proposal will require the removal of 1 x *Allocasuarina torulosa* of Medium retention value.

In view of the constraints of the site, the proposed location of the works is considered to be the most appropriate as the works are proposed on an area of existing disturbance to the land, containing retaining walls, levelled areas and paving. It is also noted that existing encroachments outside of the property boundary to the west will be removed as a result of the works.

In consideration of the above, removal of the tree is not objected to subject to replanting of replacement trees.

Original Comment

The application seeks consent for alterations and additions to a dwelling house including a swimming pool.

The site is noted to be in the C4 Environmental Living Zone, Pittwater Biodiversity Map, Category 1 and Pittwater DCP Category 1 Flora and Fauna.

The Arborist's Report prepared by Heartwood Tree Consulting is noted.

The Report indicates that one tree (T22-Allocasuarina torulosa) is required to be removed to accommodate the spa and deck works.

The Report also notes that Tree 21 (Allocasuarina torulosa) nearby is 'unworthy of retention', but is indicated to be retained and protected.

It would appear that it would be preferable to amend the design to locate the spa deck away from tree 22 and remove Tree 21, thereby retaining a viable tree.

The Bushfire report did not indicate any trees to be removed.

I would defer to the comments of Council's Bushland and Biodiversity section regarding biodiversity issues.

At this stage the proposal is not able to be supported with regard to landscape issues.

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 THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED PRIOR TO ANY COMMENCEMENT

Project Arborist

- a) A Project Arborist, with minimum AQF Level 5 in arboriculture, shall be engaged to provide tree protection measures in accordance with the Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 1st September 2022 prepared by Heartwood Tree Consulting and 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.
- b) 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.
- c) Existing ground levels shall be maintained within the tree protection zone of trees to be retained unless authorised by the Project Arborist.
- d) The Project Arborist shall be in attendance and supervise all works as nominated in the the Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 1st September 2022 prepared by Heartwood Tree Consulting.
- e) 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.

f) 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.

- 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 indicated in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 1st September 2022 prepared by Heartwood Tree Consulting.

- i) Tree 22 *Allocasuarina torulosa*

Note: Exempt Species as listed in the Development Control Plan or the Arboricultural Impact Assessment do not require Council consent for removal.

Reason: To enable authorised building works.

CONDITIONS TO BE COMPLIED WITH DURING DEMOLITION AND BUILDING WORK

Protection of Landscape Features and Sites of Significance

a) All natural landscape features including natural rock outcrops, natural vegetation, soil and watercourses are to remain undisturbed during demolition, excavation and construction works except where affected by works detailed on approved plans.

b) Should any Aboriginal Cultural Heritage items be uncovered during earthworks, works should cease in the area and the Aboriginal Heritage Office contacted to assess the finds.

c) Under Section 89a of the NPW Act should the objects be found to be Aboriginal, NSW Biodiversity and Conservation Division, Heritage NSW and the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) should 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 the Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 1st September 2022 prepared by Heartwood Tree Consulting and 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,
 - 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), vi) and vii) 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 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) 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.

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.

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.

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 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

Required Tree Planting

a) Trees shall be planted in accordance with the following:

- i) 3 x *Allocasuarina torulosa*; located within the grounds of the property; minimum pot size 200mm

b) Details demonstrating compliance are to be submitted to the Principal Certifier prior to the issue of any Occupation Certificate.

Reason: To maintain 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:

- 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

a) 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.

b) 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.

Reason: To maintain local environmental amenity.