

# **“GROWING MY WAY”**

## **Tree Consultancy**

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EXCELLENCE in ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MANAGEMENT

FULL INSURANCE PROTECTION

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## ***Construction Impact & Management Statement***

**December 2021**

<b>Site:</b>	Lot 2 in DP 541280 1A Elvina Avenue AVALON BEACH, NSW
<b>Client:</b>	Tim Parry c/ Shim Design Attention: Kerrie Shimeld 51 Careel Head Road AVALON BEACH, NSW 2107
<b>Author:</b>	Kyle A Hill Registered (Arb Aus #1884) Practising & Consulting Arborist Post Graduate Certificate in Arboriculture, Uni of Melb Diploma of Horticulture-Arboriculture TAFE, Grow SA Certificate of Horticulture, TAFE Certificate Advanced Tree Care TAFE Founder -Growing My Way Tree Services (1977) Member of International Society of Arboriculture Member of Arboriculture Australia

# 1 Summary

Tim Parry (property owner) via Shim Design (Kerrie Shimeld) commissioned the Growing My Way Tree Consultancy (GMW) to prepare a *Construction Impact & Management Statement* relative to the proposed *Alterations/Additions to Existing Residential Dwelling* for the property known as 1A Elvina Avenue, Avalon Beach, (from herein the subject site).

Ten (10) individual trees have been identified as being required to be discussed relative to the proposal for Alterations/Additions to Existing Residential Dwelling. The discussed in detail trees are subject to the tree management provisions as defined within the *Northern Beaches Council (from herein NBC) "Tree Management Provisions" plus the new SEPP "Vegetation in non-rural Areas, August 2017*.

The discussed trees are confirmed to be within the subject site.

Multiple other trees are located within both the subject site & adjoining common boundary properties but are not discussed as they are well away from & therefore not impacted upon the proposed works supported within this document.

No discussed tree can be supported to be replaced on the grounds of compromised Health & Vigour (i.e., of 'imminent risk' to persons). Two (2) discussed trees are assessed as being of Fair to Good Health & Vigour, one (1) tree is assessed to be of only Fair Health & Vigour. These trees are suggested to be monitored into the future.

The proposal appears (from a tree management perspective) as able to satisfy compliance criteria with both the *Australian Standard (AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites)*.

Existing & proposed to be retained motor vehicle & pedestrian access is only via Elvina Avenue.

The sole consent authority is the NBC. The old *Pittwater Council Planning Instrument (Local Environment Plan, 2014)* applies at the time of writing.

Information related to the discussed trees was gathered by onsite data collection with cross referencing to:

- Site Survey by Adam Clerke, Consulting Surveyors, dated, 28 September 2021;
- Plans, Sections & Elevations, by Shim Design, (4 sheets) dated, October 2021;
- Pittwater Council/NBC "Tree Management Provisions" &
- SEPP 'Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas, 25 August 2017.

The aim of this report is:

1. To confirm individual tree health, vigour & condition considering any impact foreseen by the proposed demolition & redevelopment.
2. Confirm the Site-Specific 'Tree Plan of Management' for trees to be retained, protected & managed is AS4970-2009 compliant. Confirm any Site-Specific Pruning is AS4373-2007 compliant

This document supports (relative to tree management) the proposal for *Alterations/Additions*.

Kyle A Hill (AQF level 5 & 8 Practising/Consulting Arborist) has prepared this report based on "Visual Tree Assessment" (VTA). Onsite Data was collected on Saturday, 20 November 2021.

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## 2 Introduction

This report contains observations & recommendations intended to assist in the management of the ten (10) trees identified as necessary to be discussed by virtue of their location & proposed works, i.e., *Alterations/Additions to Existing Residential Dwelling*. Built form within the subject site is a strip & exposed soil driveway, single-level dwelling house & double garage.

This document supports the proposed *Alterations/Additions to Existing Residential Dwelling* with respect to tree management issues.

We confirm to be familiar with both the old *Pittwater Council* & now NBC “*Tree Management Provisions*” plus the new SEPP “*Vegetation in non-rural Areas, August 2017*”.

The sole consent authority is NBC.

The subject site is NOT within any NBC designated “*Heritage Conservation Area*”. The subject site is confirmed to NOT be a listed “*Heritage Item*” nor are any of the discussed trees known to be listed on any “*Significant Tree Register*”. The discussed trees are captured as being subject to the protection provisions within the state legislated ‘*NSW Scientific Committee*’-final determination, (*Threatened Species Conservation Act*) which identifies & protects the ‘*Pittwater spotted gum forest-endangered ecological community listing*’ under ‘*NSW legislation*’. The subject site is confirmed to be within a ‘*HP*’ (High Priority), “*Wildlife Corridor*” as defined within the *Pittwater 21 DCP* (see page 8).

All discussed trees will be specified to be isolated & protected from any works (including demolition) prior to & throughout all phases of construction. Other nearby trees are assessed as not being impacted upon in any manner by the as proposed works.

The subject site is zoned “*R2*”, ‘*Low density Residential*’.

A *Preliminary Site Specific “Tree Plan of Management”* is included within this document.

### 3 Methodology

Assessment of the trees discussed has been from ground level by eye, using *Visual Tree Assessment* \* (VTA) techniques developed by Claus Mattheck. The principles of VTA are explained in his widely-used reference book “*The Body Language of Trees* (1994)”.

Assessment includes:

- Tree’s current condition & likely future health. Species tolerance to root disturbance &/or development
- Likely future hazard potential to persons & property
- Tree’s amenity value, such as significance, screening & habitat.

No root analysis, soil testing, ‘Resistograph’® drilling or aerial canopy inspection was undertaken. See the following Appendices for further information:

- Appendix A Glossary of Common Arboreal terms
- Appendix B Tree Protection & Management

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\* **VTA–Visual Tree Assessment**, as referenced is a systematic inspection of a tree for indicators of structural defects that may pose a risk due to failure. Stage 1 is made from ground level (i.e. no aerial inspection is undertaken). An aerial inspection (Stage 2) is undertaken when there are easily identified visual indicators that suggest such an inspection is merited. Visual indicators are outlined within *The Body Language of Trees* (Mattheck & Breloer, 1994). VTA is a broadly used relatively standardised approach. More complex (can be invasive) diagnostic fault detection equipment may be recommended once visual indicators of potential defects are confirmed.

## 4 Observations

### 4.1 The Site

The report discusses only trees within Lot 2 of DP 541280 (1A Elvina Avenue). The site is 1082.00m<sup>2</sup> by Site Survey in size. The site is linked to one (1) public road, one Electricity Sub Station, one (1) Public Reserve & two (2) residential lots. The subject site is Land Zoned 'R2' "Low Density Residential".

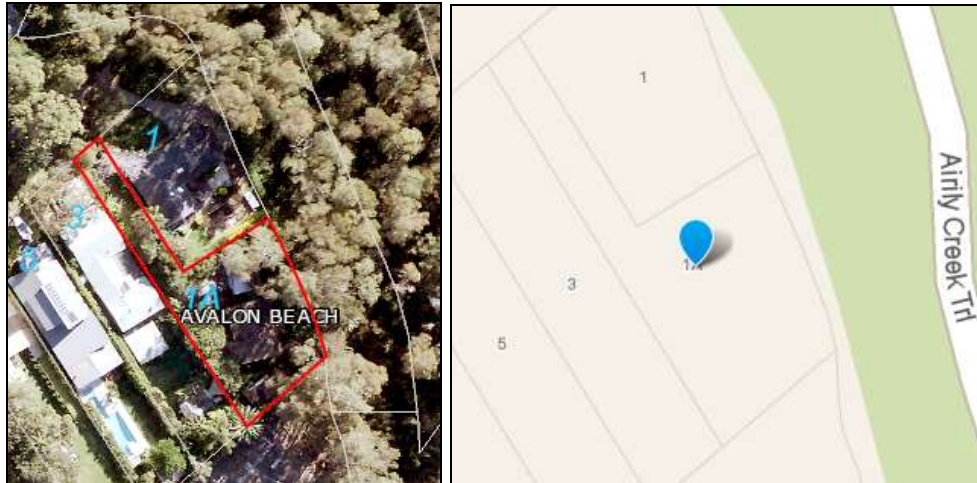


Figure 1: Aerial photograph with lot boundaries courtesy of NBC website tool.

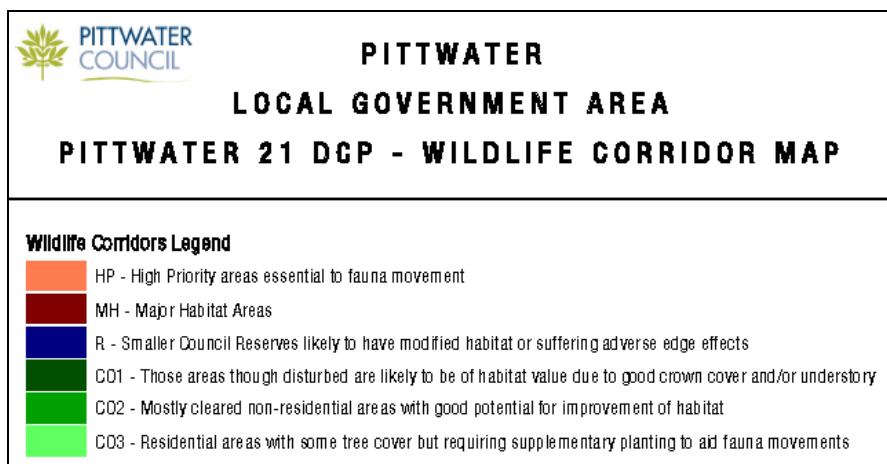
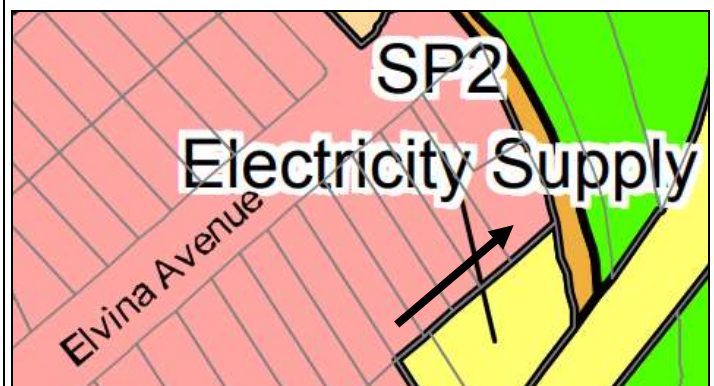


Figure 2: Confirms Pittwater 21 DCP-Wildlife Corridor Status.





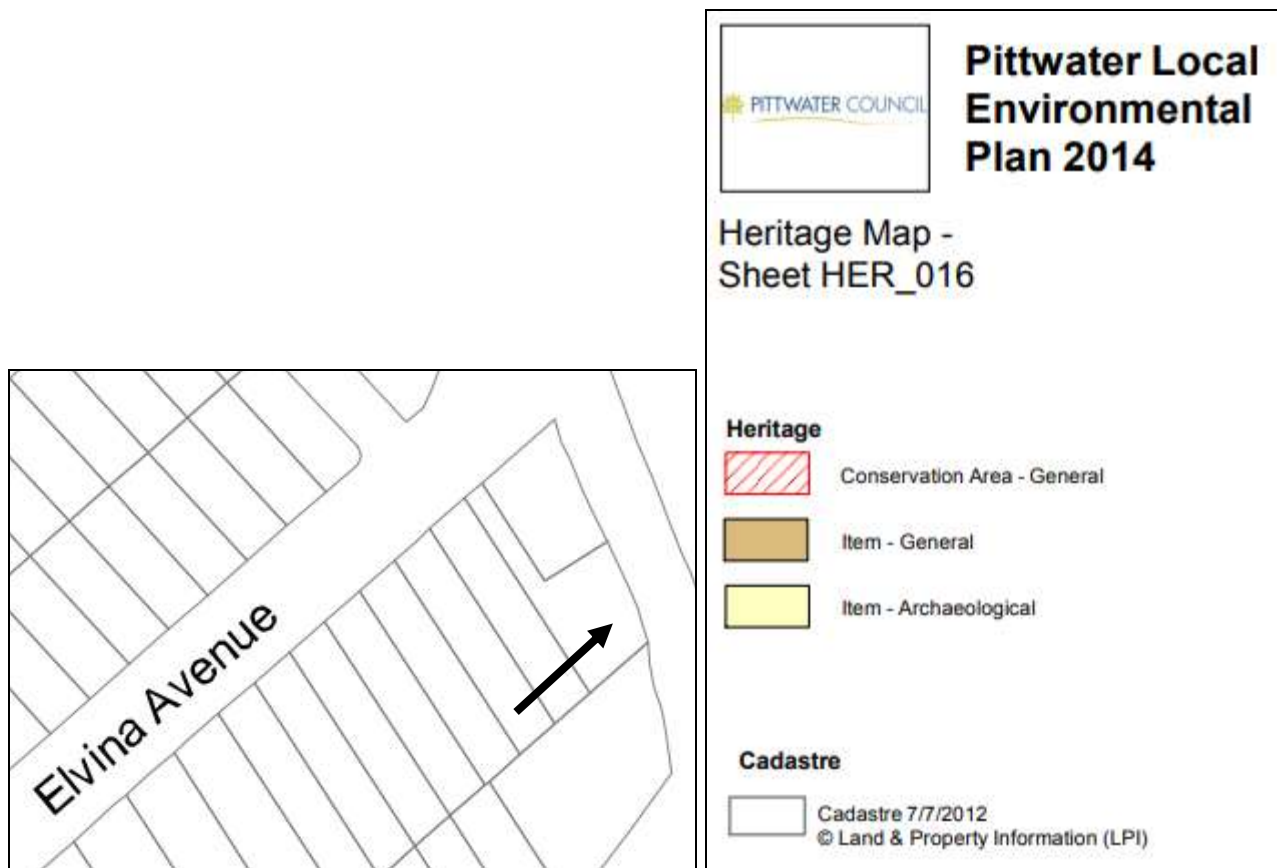
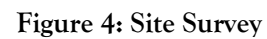


Figure 3: Above & previous page illustrates Land Zoning & Heritage Conservation Area status.

The site is confirmed to NOT be within a NBC designated “Heritage Conservation Area” (see above). The site is also confirmed to NOT be a listed “Heritage Item” nor is it near any listed “Heritage Item”. The discussed tree is NOT known to be on any ‘significant tree register’. The subject site & local environs are located within a designated ‘Wildlife Corridor’ HP – “High priority areas essential to fauna movement”.





## .2 The Proposal

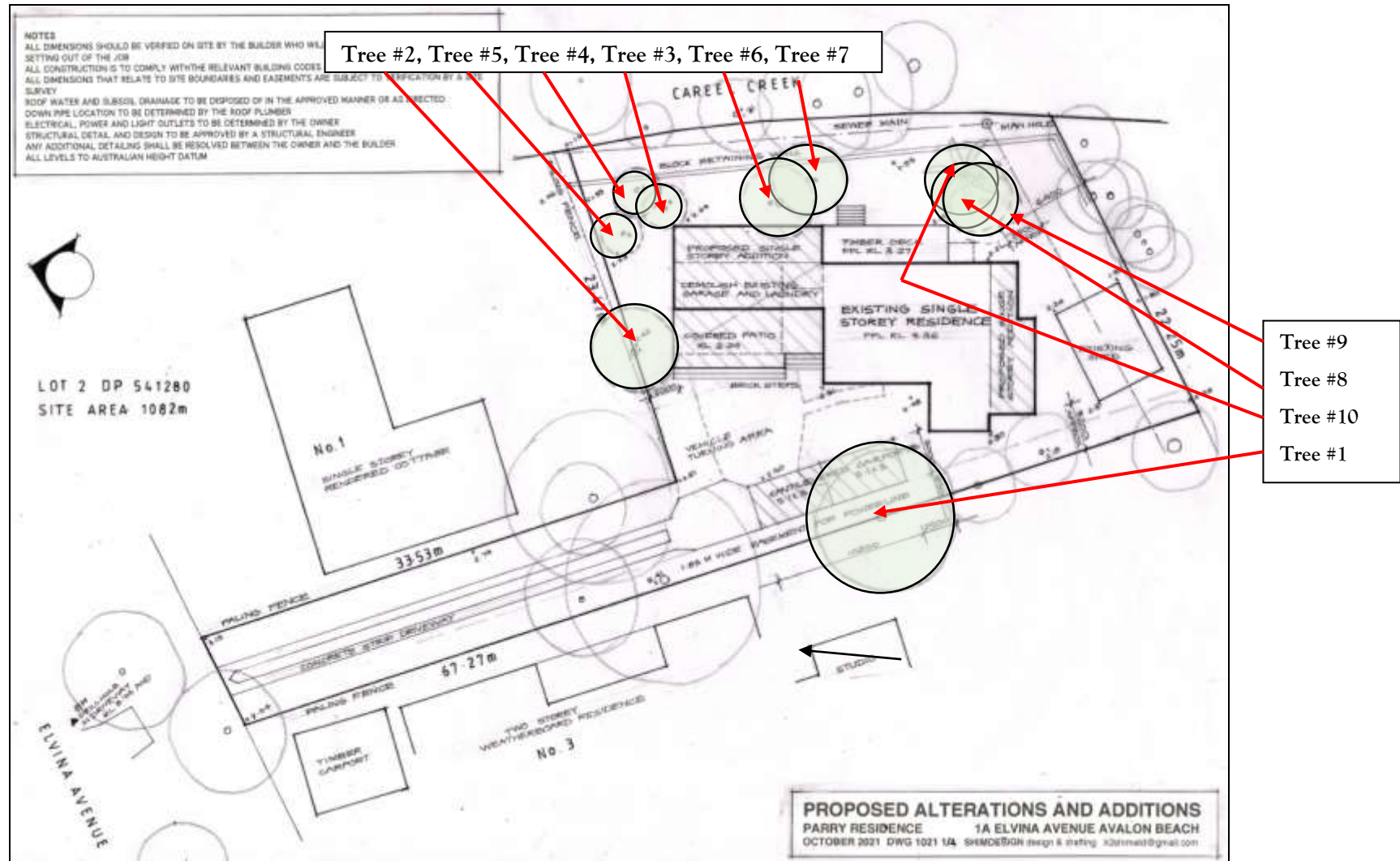
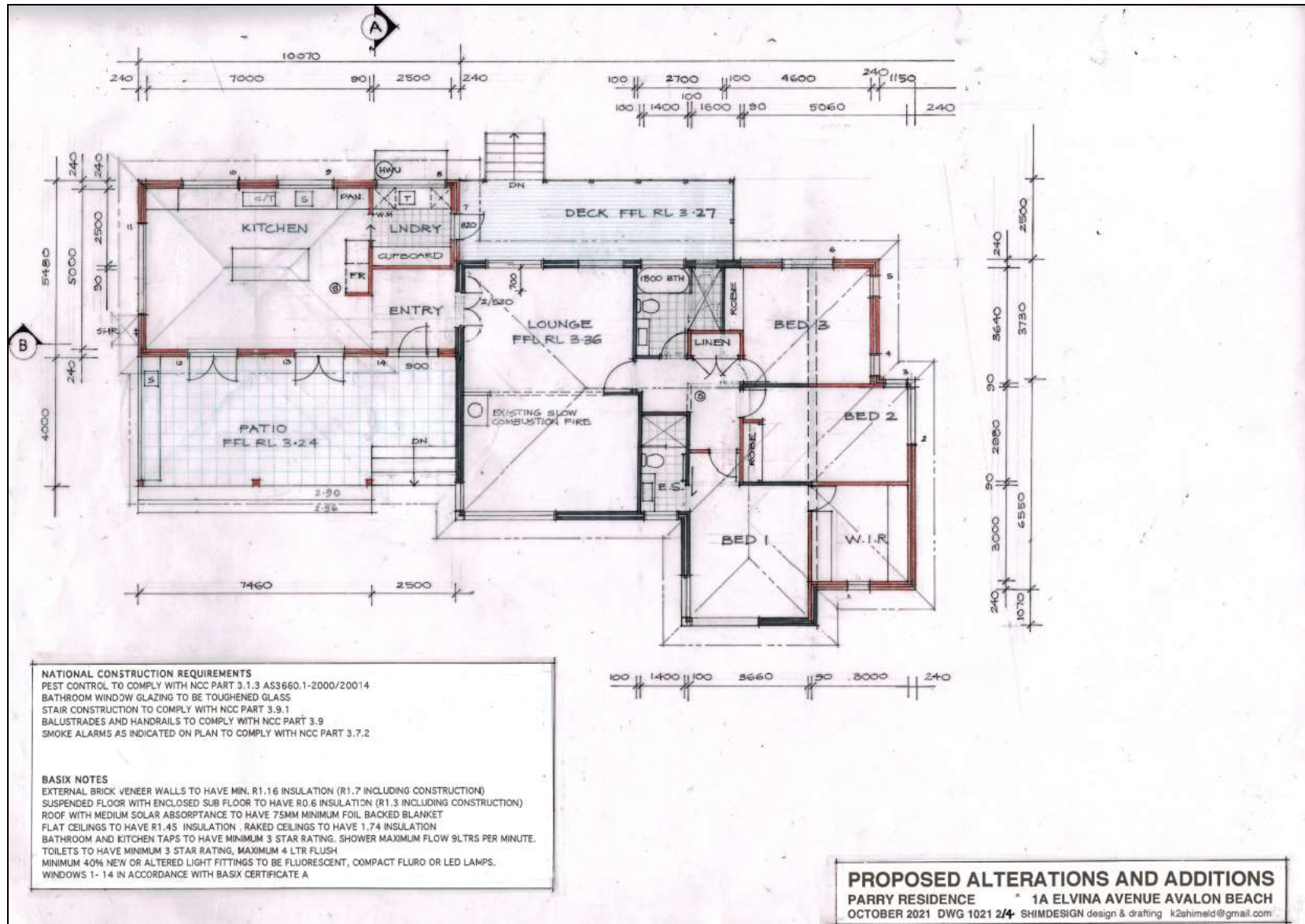


Figure 5: Site Plan showing the proposed works near the tree required to be discussed.



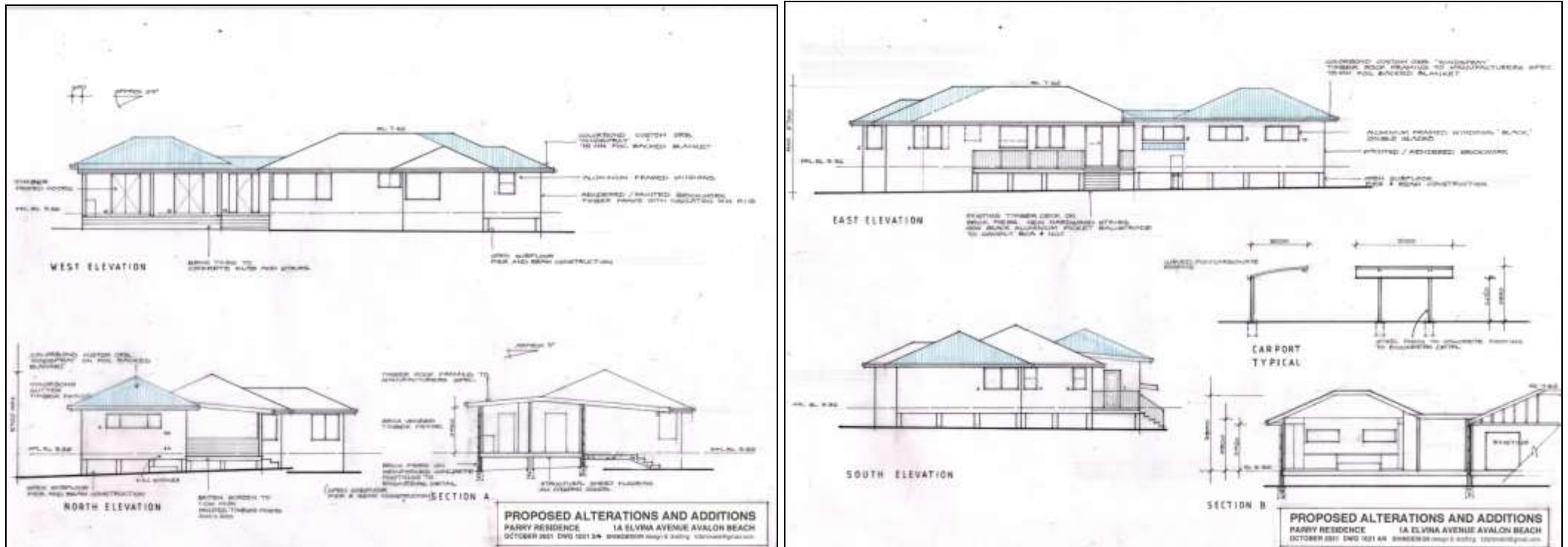


Figure 6: (Above & previous pages) Illustrates the proposed Site Plan & Elevations.



### 4.3 Tree Location & Site Images

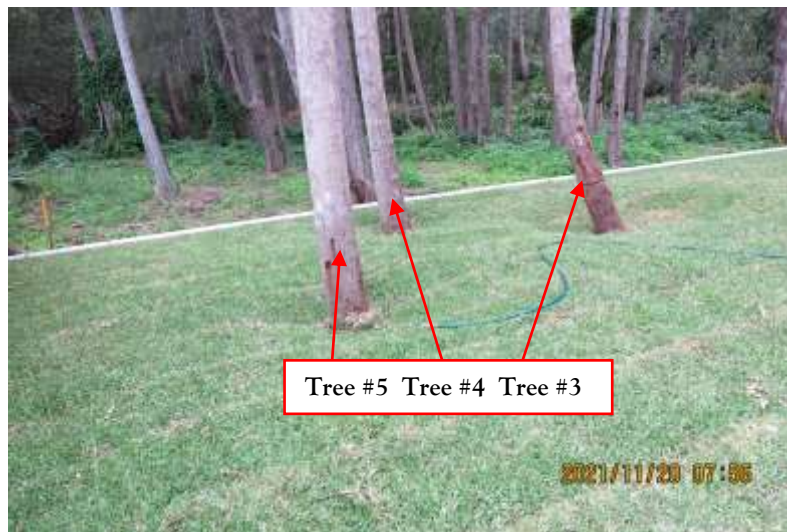




Figure 7: Illustrates tree locations as viewed onsite on Thursday, 11 November 2021.

#### 4.4 The Tree – Summary Table

Read this table in conjunction with Appendix A–Common Arboreal Terms

Trees Recommended for removal/replacement

Trees Recommended for retention

Exempt species

Trees retainable but of low amenity

	Identification	Height (m)	Crown (m)	DBH (m)	TPZ (m)	SRZ (m)	Age	Health/Vigour	Structure	Significance/Retention Values	Comments
1	<i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i> Cheese Tree	<12.00	<12.00	0.48	<5.67	2.53	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/Hugh	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
2	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<22.00	<6.00	0.37	4.44	2.32	Mature	Fair to Good & Fair to Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
3	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<12.50	<5.50	0.23	2.76	1.88	Mature	Fair to Good & Fair to Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Significant % of dead/dying branches in canopy. Tree is considered as able to be retained with site specific management plan.
4	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<13.00	<3.50	0.21	2.52	1.82	Mature	Fair to Good & Fair to Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
5	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<18.00	<6.00	0.28	3.36	2.02	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.



	Identification	Height (m)	Crown (m)	DBH (m)	TPZ (m)	SRZ (m)	Age	Health/Vigour	Structure	Significance/Retention Values	Comments
6	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<13.00	<4.00	0.53	6.36	2.65	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
7	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<20.50	<4.50	0.31	3.72	2.13	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Remove Vine on Trunk Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
8	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<20.00	<5.00	0.31	3.72	2.13	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
9	<i>Casuarina glauca</i> Swamp She Oak	<24.00	<7.00	0.46	5.52	2.49	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.
10	<i>Livistona australis</i> Cabbage Tree Palm	<11.00	<5.50	0.34	4.08	N/A	Mature	Good & Good	Typical	High/High	Retain, Protect & Manage: Tree is considered as easily retained with site specific management plan.

## 5 Discussion

The *Australian Standard (AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites)* is the guideline required to be addressed relative to best practice 'Tree Management Principles'. See Chapters 3, 4 & 5 of this document. Additionally, compliance criteria with the *Australian Standard (AS4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees)* are required to be addressed.

All ten (10) discussed trees are confirmed to be totally located within the subject site

All ten (10) discussed trees are subject to the NBC 'Tree Management' provisions. All are proposed to be retained with the with implementation of intensive management, i.e., 'live root management). Tree #2, Tree #3 & Tree #4 are assessed to be of only Fair to Good Health & Vigour. Tree #1, Tree #5, Tree #6, Tree #7, Tree #8, Tree #9 & Tree #10 are assessed to be of Good Health & Vigour.

All discussed trees are confirmed to be locally indigenous (genus/species). All discussed trees with the exception of Tree #1 & Tree #10 are the same genus/species.

On the basis of genus/species Retention & Significance values for trees proposed to be retained is High & High. Taking into account Tree #2, Tree #3 & Tree #4 display only Fair to Good Health & Vigour, their values could reasonably be determined to be lower.

Tree #1 will be specified to have a 'Tree Trunk guard' installed prior to the commencement of any works. The as proposed carport (lightweight structure) is additionally specified to be constructed with flexible footing locations & a floor built above existing grade incorporating 'Tree Root Friendly' materials, e.g., crushed sandstone, porous pavers or a 'Stone Set' like silicon bonded floor surface.

Tree #2 is specified to have installed above its root system, as close to TPZ radial distance as proposed works & existing fenced boundaries allow 'Temporary Metal Mesh Fencing Panels' with above ground supports to be instated. (See Appendix B.)

Tree #3, Tree #4 & Tree #5 again above their root systems are specified as a group to be isolated from the proposed works by installation of as close to TPZ radial distances as proposed works & existing fenced boundaries allow 'Temporary Metal Mesh Fencing Panels' with above ground supports to be instated. (See Appendix B.)

Tree #6 & Tree #7 again above their root systems are specified as a group to be isolated from the proposed works by installation of as close to TPZ radial distances as proposed works & existing fenced boundaries allow 'Temporary Metal Mesh Fencing Panels' with above ground supports to be instated. (See Appendix B.)

Tree #8, Tree #9 & Tree #10 again above their root systems are specified as a group to be isolated from the proposed works by installation of as close to TPZ radial distances as proposed works & existing fenced boundaries allow 'Temporary Metal Mesh Fencing Panels' with above ground supports to be instated. (See Appendix B.)

Compliance with the *AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites* 'TPZ' isolation strategy is to be documented in writing with supporting photographic evidence & provided to the appointed Principle Certifying Authority (from herein PCA). With official confirmation from the PCA this can often be completed by the contracted Site/Project Manager. Otherwise this can only be completed by the Sites retained Project Arborist.

Any excavation required within any specified to be retained, managed & protected tree must be completed 'manually'. Any 'live woody root' exposed less than fifty millimetres (50mm/0.05m) in diameter may be cleanly pruned without any input from the sites retained Practicing & Consulting Arborist (minimum AQF level 5 'Diploma of Horticulture/Arboriculture' with suitable similar site management experience). Any excavated site (footings/piers/services etc.) within any specified to be retained, managed & protected tree must be documented in writing with supporting photographic evidence collated by either the site/project manager or the sites retained Project Arborist & provided to the appointed Principle Certifying Authority as part of the legally required paperwork responsibilities.

Should any significant diameter 'live supporting root' (defined as being greater than 50mm/0.05m) be exposed & deemed as not able to be worked around (relative to footing/piers/services etc.) the sites retained Practicing/consulting Arborist must be summonsed to manage & document with supporting photographic evidence the strategy adopted has resulted in the least disturbance to any such exposed significant diameter 'live supporting root'. Any such strategy 'specified/adopted' can only be completed under the direct supervision/instruction of the sites retained Project Arborist & provided in writing with supporting photographic evidence to the appointed Principle Certifying Authority as part of the legally required paperwork responsibilities.

### *Preliminary "Site Specific Tree Plan of Management"*

TREE # & IDENTIFICATION	RETAIN MANAGE PROTECT/ REPLACE	MANUAL EXCAVATION (for footings/piers/s ervices)	CANOPY PRUNING	Install TPZ Fencing Install Tree Trunk Guard	Excavation Signoff	CC Signoff	OC Signoff
1 <i>Glochidion ferdinandi</i>	Retain	Yes  Tree Root friendly Carport Floor Surface	No	No  Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes  No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes  No	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes  No	Yes	Yes	Yes

TREE # & IDENTIFICATION	RETAIN MANAGE PROTECT/ REPLACE	MANUAL EXCAVATION (for footings/piers/s ervices)	CANOPY PRUNING	Install TPZ Fencing Install Tree Trunk Guard	Excavation Signoff	CC Signoff	OC Signoff
5. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes
8. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes
9. <i>Casuarina glauca</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. <i>Livistona australis</i>	Retain	Yes	No	Yes No	Yes	Yes	Yes

## 6 Conclusions

- Relative to the information as presented the GMW consultancy supports the proposed works as presented in documentation reviewed.
- The DA submission is lodged for determination by council officers as per plans referenced considering the specified Site Specific “Tree Plan of Management”.

If you have any questions relating to this report or implementation of recommendations, please contact Kyle Hill on 0412-221-962.

Kyle A. Hill

[AQF level 5 & AQF level 8 Registered with Arboriculture Australia (Reg #1884)  
Practicing & Consulting Arborist]

## 7 Limitations on the use of this report

This report is to be utilised in its entirety only. Any written or verbal submission, report or presentation that includes statements taken from the findings, discussions, conclusions or recommendations made in this report, may only be used where the whole of the original report (or a copy) is referenced in, & directly attached to that submission, report or presentation.

## 8 Assumptions

Care has been taken to obtain information from reliable resources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, Growing My Way Tree Services, can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

### Unless stated otherwise:

Information contained in this report covers only the trees that were examined & reflects the condition of the trees at the time of inspection.

The inspection was limited to visual examination of the subject trees without dissection, excavation, probing or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.

## 9 Recommended References

Barrell, J. 1993. 'Preplanning Tree Surveys: Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) is the Natural Progression', Arboricultural Journal 17:1, February 1993, pp.

Barrell, J. 1995, 'Pre-development Tree Assessments', in Trees & Building Sites, Proceedings of n International Conference Held in the Interest of Developing a Scientific Basis for Managing Trees in Proximity to Buildings, International Society of Arboriculture, Illinois

Dr. G. Watson & Dr. D. Neely, 'Trees & Building Sites', LSA Illinois USA 1995

Dr. N. Matheny & Dr. J.R. Clark, 'Trees & Development', ISA Illinois USA 1998

Phillip J. Craul, 'Urban Soil in Landscape Design', J. Wiley & Sons, New York USA 1992

## 10 Selected Bibliography

Hitchmough, J.D. 1994. 'Urban Landscape Management', Inkata Press, Sydney.

Mattheck, C. & Breloar, H. 1994 'Body Language of Trees', The Stationery Office, London.

AS 4373:2007, 'Pruning of Amenity Trees', Standards Australia.

AS 4970:2009, 'Protection of Trees on Development Sites', Standards Australia.

BS 5837:2005, 'Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction', Standards Board, UK.

## Appendix A – Glossary

### Glossary of common Arboreal terms

<b>Age:</b>	<b>I</b>	<i>Immature</i> refers to a refers to a well-established but juvenile tree
	<b>SM</b>	<i>Semi-mature</i> refers to a tree at growth stages between immaturity & full size
	<b>M</b>	<i>Mature</i> refers to a full sized tree with some capacity for further growth
	<b>LM</b>	<i>Late Mature</i> refers to a full sized tree with little capacity for growth that is not yet about to enter decline
	<b>OM</b>	<i>Over-mature</i> refers to a tree about to enter decline or already declining
	<b>LS</b>	<i>Live Stag</i> refers to a tree in a significant state of decline. This is the last life stage of a tree prior to death

**Hth & Vig** Health & Vigour

**Health** refers to the tree's form & growth habit, as modified by its environment (aspect, suppression by other tree, soils) & the state of the scaffold (ie. trunk & major branches), including structural defects such as cavities, crooked trunks or weak trunk/branch junctions. These are not directly connected with health & it is possible for a tree to be healthy but in poor condition/vigour. **Classes are:**

Excellent (E), V. Good (VG), Good (G), Fair (F), Declining (D), Poor (P), Very Poor (VP)

**Vigour** refers to the tree's growth rate/condition as exhibited by the crown density, leaf colour, presence of epicormic shoots, ability to withstand disease invasion & the degree of dieback. **Classes are:**

Excellent (E), V. Good (VG), Good (G), Fair (F), Declining (D), Poor (P), Very Poor (VP)

**Useful Life Expectancy (ULE)** refers to any individual tree specimen's potential life expectancy (viability) based on VTA assessment, three groups are described,

**Short = Less than Fifteen years**

**Medium = Fifteen – Twenty-five years**

**Long = more than Twenty-five years**

**Significant diameter roots** are defined as those being greater than 0.05m/50mm in diameter.

**Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)** refers to the tree trunk diameter at breast height (1.4 metres above ground level)

**Structural Root Zone (SRZ)** refers to a radial offset which relates to tree stability. This zone is presumed to be main location of the tree's structural support roots. It is calculated using the formula  $SRZ\ radius = (D \times 50)^{0.42} \times 0.64$ .

**Primary Root Zone (PRZ)** refers to a radial offset of ten (10) times the trunk DBH measured from the centre of the trunk. This zone often contains a significant amount of (but by no means all of a tree's) fine, non-woody roots required for uptake of nutrients, oxygen & water.

**Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)** is ideally a "No Go Zone" surrounding a tree to aid in its ability to cope with disturbances associated with construction works. **TPZ = DBH x 12**. Tree protection involves minimising root damage that is caused by activities such as construction. Tree protection also reduces the chance of a tree's decline in health or death & the possibly damage to structural stability of the tree from root damage.

To limit damage to the tree, protection within a specified distance of the tree's trunk must be maintained throughout the proposed development works. No excavation, stockpiling of building materials or the use of machinery is permitted within the TPZ.

A TPZ is required for each tree or group of trees within five metres (unless otherwise specified) of building envelopes.

**Stem/bark inclusion** refers to a genetic fault in the tree's structure. This fault is located at the point where the stems/branches meet. In the case of an inclusion this point of attachment is potentially weak due to bark obstructing healthy tissue from joining together to strengthen the joint.

**Decay** refers to the break down tissues within the tree. There are numerous types of decay that affect different types of tissues, spread at different rates & have different affect on both the tree's health & structural integrity.

**Point of Attachment** refers to the point at which a stem/branch etc join.

**Dead wood** refers to any whole limb that no longer contains living tissues (eg live leaves &/or bark). Some dead wood is common in a number of tree species.

**Die back** refers to the death of growth tips/shoots & partial limbs. Die back is often an indicator of stress & tree health.

**One dimensional crown** refers to branching habits & leaves that extend/grow in One direction only. There are many causes for this growth habit such as competition & pruning.

**Crown Foliage Density of Potential (CFDP)** refers to the density of a tree's crown in relation to the expected density of a healthy specimen of the same species. CFDP is measured as a percentage.

**Epicormic growth/shoots** refers to growth/shoots that are/have sprouted from axillary buds within the bark. Epicormic growth/shoots are a survival mechanism that often indicates the presence of a current or past stress even such as fire, pruning, drought etc.

**Over Head Powerlines (OHP)** Over head electricity wiring.

<b>LVOHP</b>	Low Voltage Over head Powerlines
<b>HVOHP</b>	High Voltage Over head Powerlines
<b>ABC</b>	Aerial Bundled Cable



## Appendix B – Tree Protection & Management

### Tree Protection & Management Prior to Excavation & During Construction

The installation of Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) fencing is to be carried out prior to commencement of all works. The most suitable fencing material is 1.8m tall chain link mesh with 50mm metal pole supports, see **detail 1: tree protection fencing**.

Trunk protection “Tree Guards” are detailed (below) by generic diagram.

A mulch layer of composted leaf & woodchip to a depth of 75mm is required within the TPZ to aid in retention of soil moisture & to protect soil from contaminants. Water is to be applied by handheld or soaker/leaky hose within TPZ as required & in Accordance with Stage 3 Water Restrictions. Watering is to be carried out by either an Arborist or is to form part of the Builder's/Contractor's contract, with recommended fortnightly checks by an Arborist.

There is to be no stock piling of building material (including waste), machinery or any other item within the TPZ of any retained tree. Access to personnel, machinery, & storage of fuel, chemicals, cement or site sheds is prohibited

Regular monitoring of protected trees during development works for unforeseen changes or decline, will aid in the success & longevity of the retained trees.

