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TREE PROTECTION SPECIFICATIONS

1. Tree Protection Measures and Protocols.
All work around existing trees to be retained shall be in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites with the clear establishment of the required Tree Protection Areas (TPA's). If the scope of work allowed within or the extent of the Tree Protection Areas of existing trees is not clear, please refer to the Contract Manager or Project Consulting Arborist for clarification.

Before any site works commence tree protection zones and other measures must be established and conveyed to those all working on the site. The Contractor shall ensure all subcontractors are inducted prior to working on the site. All inductions shall include description and identification of the Tree Protection Zones and the restriction on work and activities with regard to trees.

Damage to roots or degradation of the soil through compaction and/or excavation within TPA's is likely to cause serious damage to the tree. Any work operations required within TPA's must be carried out with extreme care. All trees, palms and other shrubs within TPA's are to be retained unless shown otherwise on the Tree Protection Plan(s). Trees marked for retention shall not be used to display signage, or as fence or cable supports for any reason. No materials stockpiling, chemicals or washout areas are permitted immediately upslope of or within the Tree Protection Area. The washing down of wheel barrows, paint cans/brushes, acids and the like shall not to be done near existing trees as the runoff is very harmful to tree roots.

No fuel powered pumps or generators or air compressors are to be placed within TPA's. No fuel or chemicals shall be stored and no equipment or vehicles shall be serviced or re-fuelled within a TPA.

2. Controlled Construction Access
Construction access points, stockpiling and storage areas shall be clearly identified on site and fenced off where appropriate. Uncontrolled access and parking of vehicles inside TPA's shall be avoided. If access is required through a tree protection area, the access way shall be treated with ground protection.

3. Tree Protection Fencing & Signage
The Tree Protection Plan(s) shows the extent of areas to be fenced and protected. Protection measures shall be certified as adequate by the Project Consulting Arborist. This fencing may form part of the general construction site fencing, where practical. It shall remain in place as long as possible and typically not be removed until the final landscape installation in those areas begins.

All tree protection fencing shall be 1800mm high galvanised chain wire or welded steel mesh. Fencing must be bolted together and secured with the necessary back stays and bracing.

Star pickets with bunting or danger tape shall not constitute acceptable tree protection fencing.

Suitable signage as defined by AS 4970-2009 Appendix C shall be affixed to the external side of the fencing at a spacing of not less than 1 sign per 20 lineal metres of fence.

If fence locations conflict with the proposed works, contact the Project Consulting Arborist and Contract Manager for resolution. No new services (unless under-bored) shall be located within or through the Tree Protection Area.

4. Trunk and Lower Branch Protection
A trunk barrier is to be erected around the circumference of the tree trunk and root buttress where shown. This barrier will consist of two to three 'rings' of 50mm diameter socked ag-line wrapped around tree trunk or branch and the ends cable tied to secure in place. A layer of battens is to be placed over and tight to the ag-lines. The battens are to have a maximum spacing of 50mm. The height of the battens is to be 2 metres or to the height of the first branches. Lower large branches may require the same protection if likely to be damaged by passing vehicles or equipment. Secure battens in place with galvanised steel bracing straps. Do not nail into or otherwise injure the trunk or bark. Battens may be made from any suitable waste timber of similar sizes and depths. All sharp or protruding edges are to be properly covered with tape or similar padding.

5. Works within the TPA's
All work within the root zone of existing trees shall be undertaken with the utmost care. If by necessity a tree requires removal of branches for building or access, pruning shall be done in strict accordance with accepted arboriculture techniques and AS 4373-2007. No rubbish, spoil or new materials shall be placed on the root zone of any existing tree or against their trunks.

6. Ground Protection
If it is proposed to create any access route, or similar, within the TPA of a retained tree, the Contractor shall install rumble boards over the TPA ground surface. No excavation shall be allowed. Contractor shall first place a suitable permeable geotextile to the extent required and then a 100mm thick layer of wood chip mulch or coarse no-fines gravel over the extent to be covered. Then place hardwood boards (minimum 3600 x 200 x 75mm) on their flat edge, side by side, with a 30 - 50mm gap to form a rumble strip. These boards are to be held together with three galvanised metal bracing straps nailed to each board. The two outer straps are to be approximately 200mm in from the ends of the boards. The third strap is to be along the centre line of the boards.

7. Provision of Temporary Irrigation
A temporary and automated (battery powered timer is sufficient) watering system to be placed within the TPAs of all trees to maintain adequate water to the retained trees and help maintain their healthy condition. This shall be a surface mounted 'residential-style' soaker hose and/or similar surface sprinkler systems. It is to be surface visible and spray delivered so that is operation can be easily visible and verified. It should be on a designated supply line, separate from other construction related water supplies to minimise its likelihood of being disconnected.

Typically, during spring and summer months it should be set to run for a minimum of 30 minutes every day, in the early morning. During, autumn and winter months it should be set to run for 1 hour once every week. The operation can be suspended temporarily in periods of extensive and prolonged rain.

The system is to remain in place for the duration of construction, or until the project consulting arborist approves it's removal. It may be removed to allow final landscape treatments to proceed. If accidentally disturbed or damaged by construction activities, it is to be reinstated as soon as practicable.

8. Structural Demolition Within TPA's
Project Consulting Arborist shall be on site during all demolition work within the TPA's to monitor and advise on tree protection. Secateurs and a handsaw shall be available to deal with and cleanly cut any exposed roots that have to be cut. Machines with a long reach may be used if they can work from outside TPA's or from protected areas within TPA's. They shall not encroach onto unprotected soil in TPA's.

Debris to be removed from TPA's must be moved across existing hard surfacing or temporary ground protection in a way that prevents compaction and disturbance of soil. Alternatively, it can be lifted out by machines provided this does not disturb TPA's or damage the canopy. If appropriate, leave below ground structures such as footings and disused pipes in place if their removal will cause excessive root disturbance.

When pulling up existing paving the Contractor shall work backwards, lifting demolished paving back onto the existing paving. Roots may be found growing under the pavement and should not be trafficked. Roots growing into existing sub-base should be left and new surface finishes placed over the top without disturbance.

9. Excavations or Trenching within TPA's
Excavation within TPA's shall not be allowed using mechanical equipment such as excavators or backhoes. Excavation within TPA's shall only be carried out carefully by hand taking care not to damage the bark and wood of any roots. Specialist tools for removing soil around roots using compressed air (air spade), or water vacuum extraction shall be an appropriate alternative to hand digging and is the preferred method.

Exposed roots to be removed shall be cut cleanly with a sharp saw or secateurs at the face of the excavation. Roots temporarily exposed must be protected by appropriate covering with damp hessian or sand. Roots greater than 50mm in diameter are to be retained and shall only be cut in exceptional circumstances and only after consultation with the Project Consulting Arborist. Roots greater than 100mm in diameter shall typically not be allowed to be cut and must be worked around.

10. Soft Landscaping Installation
Final trimming and planting shall be judiciously undertaken around trees. All soft landscaping within the tree protection zones will be installed with care to avoid root disturbance from irrigation trenching, lighting installation and the planting of larger plants. Permanent irrigation (if used) shall be installed as spray heads located outside of TPA's and spraying inwards. All other services such as small-scale electrical services shall also be designed and installed to avoid any excavation or trenching around the trees.

No significant excavation or cultivation, especially by rotary hoes or excavators, shall occur within TPA's. Where new designs require the levels to be increased, good quality and permeable top soil shall be used. It should be firmed into place but not over compacted. All areas close to tree trunks shall be kept at the original ground level. Where turf is to be installed tree trunks shall have mulched rings applied rather than grass laid up to the trunk.

The size of the installed plants shall typically be less than 5L pots so that the maximum depth of the new root balls is less than 200mm. Any planting proposed that is larger than this shall be only installed outside of the SRZ and with care to not injure roots while digging planting holes.

11. Canopy Pruning
The Contractor shall prune branches of protected trees only as directed by the Project Consulting Arborist. Pruning is only to be undertaken by a qualified arborist (under the supervision of a person with AQF Level 4 or above). The Project Consulting Arborist is to be present at all times during the pruning work. Work is to be in strict accordance with AS4373 Pruning of Amenity Trees. Do not treat wounds.

12. Root Pruning
Pruning of roots of protected trees shall only be as directed the Project Consulting Arborist. The Tree Contractor shall use only a qualified arborist (AQF Level 4 or above). The Project Consulting Arborist is to be present at all times during the root pruning.

Roots are not to be cut using normal excavation machinery of any sort. This usually results in splitting and massive disturbance well past the intended line of cut. When required to cut roots, use hand methods and sharp hand tools (e.g. secateurs, hand saw) such that the remaining root systems are preserved intact and undamaged. Roots are to be cut back by hand square to the direction of the root travel (or edge of the excavation). Do not cut any tree roots exceeding 50mm diameter unless permitted. Excavations within root zones should be kept open for as short a period as possible. Any excavated face containing roots is to be temporarily supported, where necessary, to prevent soil loss from around the other retained roots.

13. Accidental Tree Damage
Should a tree be accidentally damaged, the Contractor shall immediately notify the Project Consulting Arborist. Timing can be of the essence, particularly with bark injuries, trunk damage or chemical contaminations.

If a branch has been broken, it shall be removed and the damaged end pruned to a suitable branch collar. If the branch has been torn out of the trunk, assessment shall be made and the damage cleaned up by as much as possible without further damage to the tree.

If roots are accidentally disturbed or excavated, any broken, crushed and torn sections shall be exposed and pruned leaving clean cuts to minimise risk of infection by fungal pathogens and promote good conditions for new root growth.

Example image of acceptable ground protection rumble boards

Example image of acceptable tree protection fencing measures to be applied. (1.8m high rigid metal fencing with appropriate lateral bracing)

Example image of acceptable tree tree protection battens

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REVISION	DESCRIPTION	CHKD	DATE
A	For Development Application	RWS	14/11/22

PROJECT & CLIENT
18-22 Mundamatta Street, Villawood
NSW Land and Housing Corporation

Project No : 22.03
Designed : RWS
Drawn : RWS/AH
Scale : N/A
North

DRAWING TITLE: Tree Protection Specifications
DRAWING NUMBER: T-03
REVISION: A

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