

Statement of Heritage Impact Final V1.2 for:

Callan Park, Lilyfield

Greater Sydney Parklands

25 August 2023



Introduction

This document was prepared for Greater Sydney Parklands and serves as a record on the decision made in the self-assessment of proposed works for trees located within Callan Park, Lilyfield. The self-assessment addresses the standard exemptions under section 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977. It also supports a Review of Environmental Factors for Callan Park, to ensure the safety and amenity of the recreation area, as well as Heritage Act requirements. As heritage architects, Hector Abrahams Architects Pty Ltd are confident to advise on the minimal heritage impact of these works.

This report was prepared by Hector Abrahams and Sioned Lavery, who inspected the place in April 2023. The report considers the significance of the place, provision of the standard exemption, the Heritage Office Table 1 Questions and CMP policies.

Heritage listing

The subject place is listed as a State Heritage Item (No. 00818) as “Callan Park Conservation Area & Buildings”.

The following Statement of Significance is extracted from the CMP (2011):

Callan Park has a high level of heritage significance for the people of New South Wales:

Callan Park contains the fabric of two grand Victorian gentlemen's estates, and is able to demonstrate the pastoral character of this period. The original relationship between Garry Owen House (later Callan Park) and Broughton Hall has been retained and their grounds are still interpretable and intact. These grounds became the sites of the mental health institutions that adopted their respective names.

Callan Park demonstrates two major changes in mental health care in NSW. It contains original architecture and landscaping of both hospitals. The buildings associated with the former Callan Park mental hospital are of exceptional significance, in particular the Kirkbride Block:

The Kirkbride complex has a unique place in the history of mental hospitals in New South Wales. It is the only mental hospital which fully represented the ideal and classic 'moral therapy' style of institution. In the twentieth century it became one of the major examples of the modern custodial institutions. Although now seen as inappropriate for a modern mental health care system, it stands as a significant reminder, undoubtedly the most significant in New South Wales, of two major developments in the history of mental health care.

(Assessment in Conservation Plan for the Kirkbride Block Rozelle Hospital State Projects, NSW Public Works, May 1993, Volume 2: 102.)

The Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic, also unique in the history of mental health care in NSW, is still in operation. While most of its facilities are outdated for contemporary patient care its fabric reflects the institution's pioneering methods in voluntary patient care. The Clinic's buildings, while not all of high significance are consistent in character and material, and are mostly grouped around a unique inter war garden of outstanding aesthetic quality. The garden's links with the earlier Keep period and use in patient care make it a landscape of exceptional significance. These aspects of the Broughton Hall Psychiatric Clinic were continued with the construction of an integrated rehabilitation clinic during the first half of the 1960s.

Callan Park's landscaped spaces and landmark buildings have contributed visually and socially to the local area for over 100 years. The foreshore areas of the site are significant as rare open space elements. Callan Point is considered to be the most important Aboriginal archaeological site remaining on the southern shores of Sydney Harbour. Callan Point also contains rare examples of pre-European vegetation and unique European rock carvings.

The site as a whole has very high levels of social significance and has special associations for the local and broader community both as an open space resource and for its cultural and aesthetic value.



Figure 1 Callan Park in 1930. Planting is more restrained and formal. Source Historical Imagery.



Figure 2 Callan Park in 1955 looking east towards Balmain Road and the gatehouse. Source SLNSW.

The proposed works

This report considers immediate and ongoing management of the trees and other vegetation at Callan Park. Immediate work impacts thirty-seven trees. Eight trees are identified as having cultural significance and the work to three of these significant trees will require section 60 approval (this will be assessed in a separate document). The works to thirty-four trees fall under section 57 standard exemptions and are assessed in this report. The proposed works include:

- Removal of non-significant trees
- Pruning including: removal of dead wood, removal of damaged and decayed branches, removal of hung-up branches, and to provide building clearance.

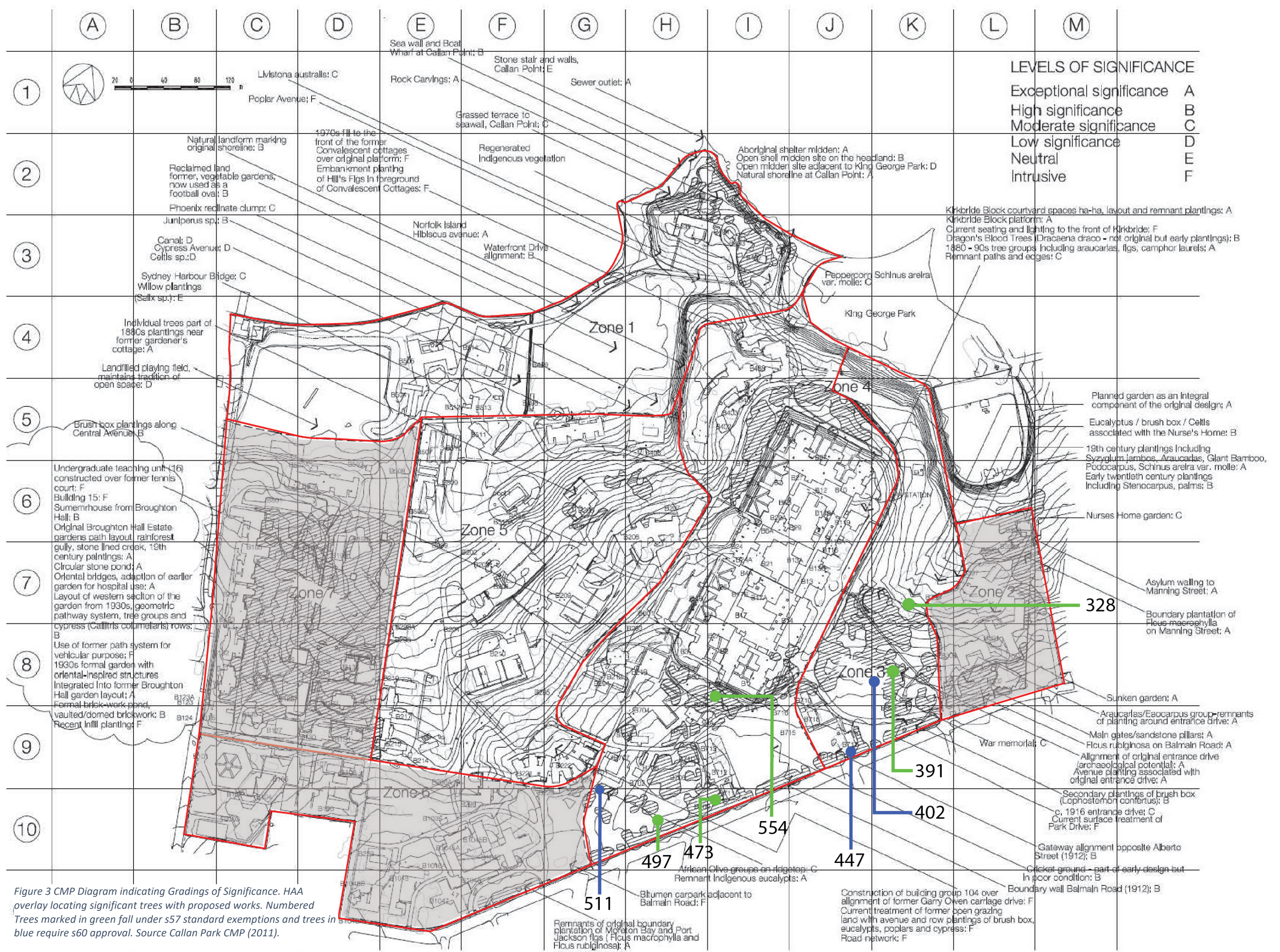
Works for ongoing management include: Pruning

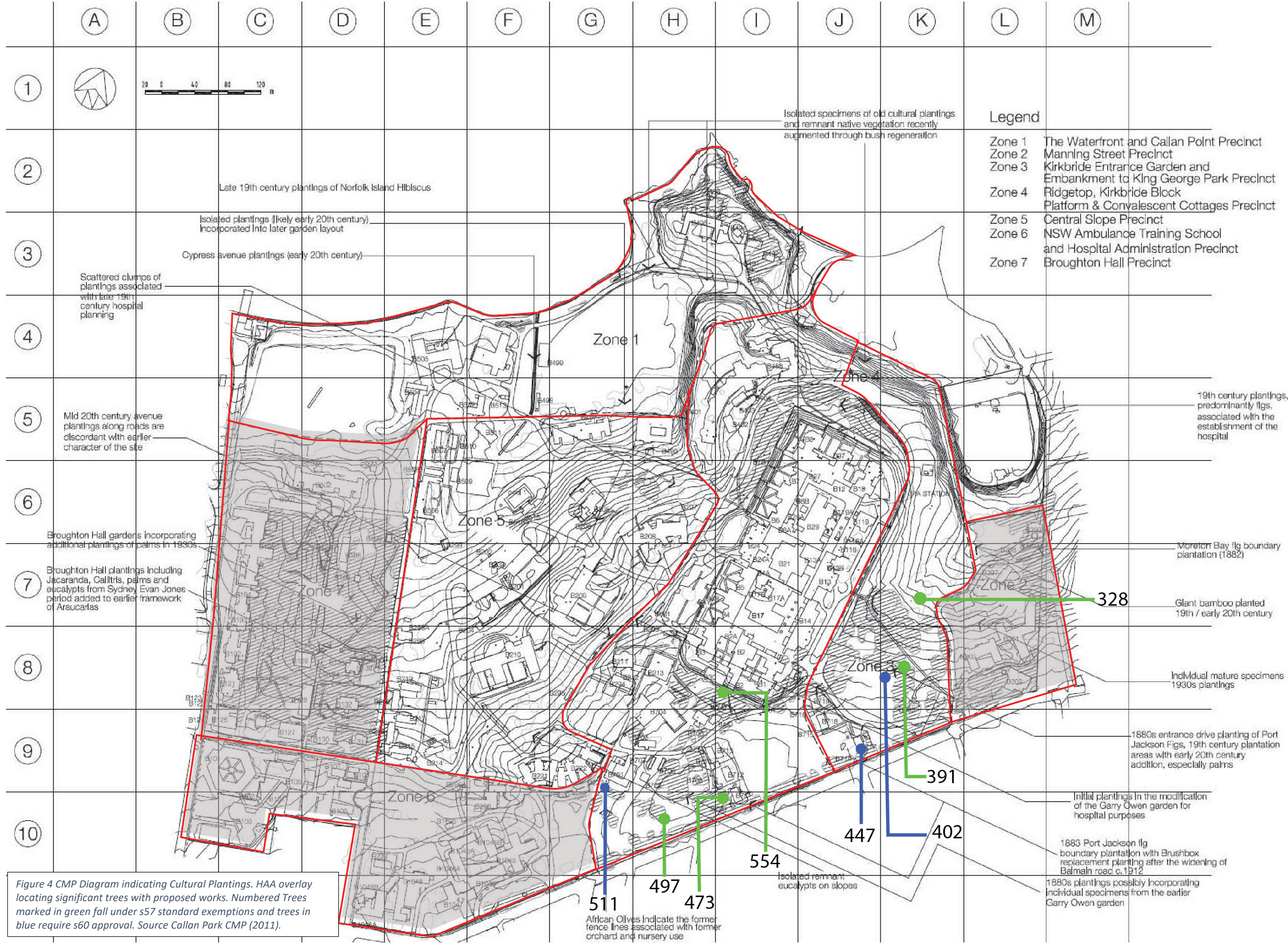
- Tree and vegetation removal (removal of significance trees will require a s60 application).
- Mucking and weed removal/management

Identification of trees

The following diagrams locate the trees, part of the immediate works addressed in this report, that are identified as significant. The diagrams do not identify all significant trees in Callan Park. The first diagram (Figure 1) indicates the level of significance for landscape elements and the second diagram (Figure 2) identifies cultural plantings. The diagrams and inventories in *Callan Park Conservation Management Plan* (2011) were both used to identify trees of significance.

See Appendix A for a full list of significant trees, impacted by the immediate works, including their arboriculture assessment and cultural significance assessment.





Assessment of heritage impact for immediate works

a) Assessment against the provision of Standard Exemption 13: Vegetation

The relevant specified works as identified in Standard Exemption 13 are:

- c. Pruning to control size, improve shape, condition, flowering or fruiting.
- d. Removal of non-significant diseased, dying, dead and/or dangerous trees and/or plant material.

Table 1: Assessment against the provision of Standard Exemption 13: Vegetation

Relevant Standards	Assessment
f. Activities/works must not alter the significant layout, contours, plant species or other significant landscape features or views.	Proposed works do not impact the layout, contours or plant species in the park. Nor do they impact significant landscape features or views.
g. Pruning of significant vegetation must not exceed 30% of the tree canopy within a period of two years.	Pruning including: removal of deadwood, damaged and decaying branches, and hangers, will not exceed 30% of the tree canopy. Where works will exceed 30% over 2 years a section 60 approval will be required.
h. Tree surgery may only be performed by a qualified arborist, horticulturist or tree surgeon and must be necessary for the health of those plants.	There is no proposed tree surgery.
i. Selective herbicide should be used when poisoning weeds. Herbicide should be applied using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. spot application around significant elements of the heritage item (e.g. ornamental or symbolic plants, remnant native vegetation, structures, exposed relics and moveable items) to avoid adverse impacts to these; and ii. spraying in non-significant areas of the curtilage. 	There is no proposed use of herbicide.
j. Removal of diseased, dead, dying or dangerous trees and/or plant material must not disturb archaeological relics (for example through stump grinding or removal of tree boles, in such situations stumps and tree boles should be left in place).	Trees to be removed are non-significant. Areas of archaeological potential are the buildings, former yards, and the location of the former entrance drive. Where trees are located within areas of archaeological potential (see Figure 3) the stump can be cut to ground level for public safety. If the stump is required to be cut below ground level stump grinding must be controlled and is to be limited to 100mm below the existing ground level of the stump only. When removing roots, only those on the surface, to remove trip hazards, can be removed by

	<p>stump grinding. The trip hazards caused by surface roots may also be removed by increasing the surface area and covering the roots.</p> <p>The stump grinding machine should be hand held to ensure control. This should ensure any potential archaeology cannot be disturbed by the tree stump removal, and that the site can be made as safe and as usable as possible by removing potential trip hazards.</p>
--	---

b) Assessment against Heritage Office Table 1 Questions

Table 2: Assessment against Heritage Office Table 1 Questions

Proposed Change to Heritage Item	Some Questions to be Answered in a Statement of Heritage Impact	Answers to Questions
New landscape works and features (including carpark and fences)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the impact of the new work on the heritage significance of the existing landscape been minimised? 	Pruning including removal of dead and damaged branches will not exceed 30%. Works are primarily for the removal of deadwood as part of the management of the park and will improve the longevity of the trees.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has evidence (archival and physical) of previous landscape work been investigated? Are previous works being reinstated? 	Yes. There are no changes to the existing landscape design. Historical landscape and plantings were investigated to determine the appropriateness of the proposed works to each tree.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the advice of a consultant skilled in the conservation of heritage landscapes been sought? If so, have their recommendations been implemented? 	Yes. Hector Abrahams Architects are experts in heritage landscapes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are any known or potential archaeological deposits affected by the landscape works? If so, what alternatives have been considered? 	Areas of archaeological potential are the buildings, former yards, and the location of the former entrance drive. Where trees are located within areas of

		archaeological potential (see Figure 3) the stump can be cut to ground level for public safety. If the stump is required to be cut below ground level stump grinding must be controlled and is to be limited to 100mm below the existing ground level of the stump only. No roots are to be removed by stump grinding. The stump grinding machine should be hand held to ensure control. This should ensure any potential archaeology cannot be disturbed by the tree stump removal, and that the site can be made as safe and as usable as possible by removing potential trip hazards.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the work impact on views to, and from, adjacent heritage items? 	There are no negative impacts to views to and from the park or within the park.
Tree removal or replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the tree contribute to the heritage significance of the item or landscape? 	No. The trees proposed for removal are not heritage significant. Heritage significant trees proposed for removal will be assessed in a separate s60 assessment.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is the tree being removed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the advice of a tree surgeon or horticultural specialist been obtained? 	<p>Trees are proposed for removal because they are dead, decaying and/or have trunk cavities.</p> <p>Yes, the proposal to remove trees is based on an arboriculture report.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the tree being replaced? Why? With the same or a different species? 	No, the trees are not proposed to be replaced. Trees are non-significant and their removal will not impact the heritage significance of the park.

c) Assessment against Conservation Management Plan

Table 3: Assessment against Conservation Management Plan

Policy	Assessment
<p>6.2 General Conservation policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Photographic recording prior to and during demolition of any element or structure is required. Recording should be undertaken in conformity with guidelines published by the NSW Heritage Office. 	<p>The trees being pruned and removed are non-significant. Photographic record of the trees being removed will be required. The photographic record should show the tree and its context and a reference plan that shows the trees location.</p>
<p>Policy 14 All changes to Callan Park should be carefully recorded.</p>	<p>Records of the trees, including photographs and location will be made prior to their removal.</p>
<p>Policy 17 An excavation permit must be obtained from the NSW Heritage Council, in accordance with the relics provisions of the Heritage Act, 1977, prior to the commencement of works in any area identified as having archaeological potential.</p>	<p>Where trees to be removed are located in an area of archaeological potential the stump will be cut to ground level for public safety. If the stump is required to be cut below ground level stump grinding must be controlled and is to be limited to 100mm below the existing ground level of the stump only. When removing roots, only those on the surface, to remove trip hazards, can be removed by stump grinding. The trip hazards caused by surface roots may also be removed by increasing the surface area and covering the roots.</p> <p>The stump grinding machine should be hand held to ensure control. This should ensure any potential archaeology cannot be disturbed by the tree stump removal, and that the site can be made as safe and as usable as possible by removing potential trip hazards.</p>
<p>Policy 16 Prior to undertaking any conservation, maintenance or upgrading works on any part of the fabric and spaces of significant buildings and landscape a Conservation Actions Schedule shall be prepared.</p> <p>The Schedule will be a succinct document which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Augments the assessment of cultural significance, by undertaking more detailed investigation, recording and assessment of the documentary and physical evidence. Determines the appropriate conservation policies. 	<p>Noted. This report includes additional historical photographs of the landscape, has determined the appropriate conservation policies and includes recommendations for ongoing management.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out a comprehensive schedule of conservation actions, based upon the conservation policies. • Can be used to seek site specific exemptions from the requirements for approval under the NSW Heritage Act for Heritage Council endorsed conservation works. 	
Policy 21 Should previously unidentified Aboriginal objects (or potential objects) be discovered during excavation, ground disturbance or vegetation removal then all works should cease immediately and the Heritage Division of the NSW Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW) informed. Depending on the outcomes of discussions with DECCW, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council may also need to be informed.	Work will cease immediately if unidentified Aboriginal or potential Aboriginal sites are discovered during tree removals.
Policy 46 Conserve the significant fabric and elements of Callan Park and its landscape setting.	Significant trees are being pruned only. Pruning of significant trees will improve their longevity. All trees to be removed are non-significant (trees of significance proposed to be removed are assessed in a separate report).. There is no negative impact of the landscape setting of Callan Park.
<p>Policy 71 Propagate new specimens from the more unusual plant species on the site for replacement planting.</p> <p><i>Some species eg: Syzigium jambos, Eleaocarpus obovatus, Syzygium moorei are unusual in cultivation and it would be ideal to propagate new specimens for use either as replacement plantings or for planting in sympathetic adaptive new design.</i></p>	Replanting will be in accordance with the <i>Callan Park Tree Management Strategy 2020</i> . The <i>Tree Management Strategy</i> calls for consideration of propagating unusual species and where possible unusual plant species will be planted in the Park.
Policy 72 A landscape management structure for the whole site should be established which ensures the conservation and maintenance of the existing landscape and provides guidelines for the creation of new landscaped areas and gardens.	This report includes ongoing management works.

Assessment of heritage impact for ongoing management works

Ongoing management of Callan Park is necessary to ensure the health of the trees and other vegetation and conservation of significant landscapes.

General recommendations for the conservation and management of the landscape include:

- Regular arboriculture oversight (every 5 years)
- Documenting trees- consider collating all resources which identify significant trees and other landscape elements into a single resource. Current significant trees are identified within the CMP on either a diagram or in the inventories and neither source is comprehensive. The two should be combined in an easily accessible format to capture all significant trees.
- Senescence plan – plan identifying trees that are likely to die over the next 20 years. The plan should include a plan for their replacement.
- Conducting regular maintenance of the trees in accordance with the recommendations of an arboriculturist.
- Where trees to be removed are located in an area of archaeological potential the stump will be cut to ground level for public safety. If the stump is required to be cut below ground level stump grinding must be controlled and is to be limited to 100mm below the existing ground level of the stump only. When removing roots, only those on the surface, to remove trip hazards, can be removed by stump grinding. The trip hazards caused by surface roots may also be removed by increasing the surface area and covering the roots.

The stump grinding machine should be hand held to ensure control. This should ensure any potential archaeology cannot be disturbed by the tree stump removal, and that the site can be made as safe and as usable as possible by removing potential trip hazards.

- Replace trees removed in accordance with the *Callan Park Tree Management Strategy 2020*. Where a significant tree has been removed it should where possible be replaced in the same location and species.
- Consent pathways
 - Proposals to remove trees should be assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced heritage professional.
 - As of August 2023, Section 57 the relevant standard exemption for works to vegetation is, *Standard Exemption 13: Vegetation* (see details in table 4). Work which falls within a section 57 Standard Exemption must be assessed and a report prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced professional. Please note that standard exemptions are subject to change and should be reviewed prior to undertaking a s57 exemption.
 - Section 60 – Works which do not fall within the Standard Exemptions will require a Section 60 application.
 - The specified activities/works and relevant standards under *Standard Exemption 13* are as follows:

Table 4: Standard Exemption 13: Vegetation Specified Activities/Works and Relevant Standards

Specified Activities/Works	Relevant Standards
<p>a. Weeding (including poisoning of weeds), watering, mowing, manual clearing of paths and drains, top-dressing, pest control and fertilising.</p> <p>b. New planting of species sympathetic to the item.</p> <p>c. Pruning to control size, improve shape, condition, flowering or fruiting.</p> <p>d. Removal of non-significant diseased, dying, dead and/or dangerous trees and/or plant material.</p> <p>e. Tree surgery.</p>	<p>f. Activities/works must not alter the significant layout, contours, plant species or other significant landscape features or views.</p> <p>g. Pruning of significant vegetation must not exceed 30% of the tree canopy within a period of two years.</p> <p>h. Tree surgery may only be performed by a qualified arborist, horticulturist or tree surgeon and must be necessary for the health of those plants.</p> <p>i. Selective herbicide should be used when poisoning weeds. Herbicide should be applied using:</p> <p>i. spot application around significant elements of the heritage item (e.g. ornamental or symbolic plants, remnant native vegetation, structures, exposed relics and moveable items) to avoid adverse impacts to these; and</p> <p>ii. spraying in non-significant areas of the curtilage.</p> <p>j. Removal of diseased, dead, dying or dangerous trees and/or plant material must not disturb archaeological relics (for example through stump grinding or removal of tree boles, in such situations stumps and tree boles should be left in place).</p>



Conclusion

There is no impact to the heritage significance of the Callan Park by the proposed works. Where trees are to be removed in areas of archaeological potential or in the vicinity of the former drive entrance no stump grinding is to occur. Where pruning, removal of dead wood or crown removal is greater than 30% a section 60 application will be required.

Sioned Lavery
Hector Abrahams Architects
25/08/2023

Appendix

Appendix A List of Significant Trees with Arboricultural and Cultural Significance Assessments

Tree No.	Species	Comments	Proposed works	Heritage Significance	Zone
328	Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay)	Dead Wood: Remove dead wood >30mm. Inspect trunk wound at 8m.	Pruning	<p>Level of Significance Landscape Elements Diagram: Significance: Exceptional Description: Based on its approximate location the tree is likely part of the pleasure garden that was an integral part of the original plan.</p> <p>Grid reference: K7</p>	Zone 3
391	Ficus rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig)	Dead Wood: Remove dead wood >30mm.	Pruning	<p>Level of Significance Landscape Elements Diagram: Significance: Exceptional Description: Avenue planting associated with original entrance drive.</p> <p>CMP Inventory: Significant: Yes Description: Evidence of the avenue of Figs and Pines designed by Charles Moore and aligned entrance drive. Evidence of Victorian picturesque landscape.</p> <p>Grid reference: J8-L8</p>	Zone 3

402	Ficus rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig)	Crown density 0-25%. Crown consists mainly of epicormic growth. Wound(s), various stages of decay.	Remove	<p>Map: Significance: Exceptional Description: Avenue planting associated with original entrance drive.</p> <p>CMP Inventory: Significance: Yes Description: Evidence of the former avenue of figs and pines designed by Charles Moore and aligned entrance drive. Evidence of Victorian picturesque landscape.</p> <p>Grid reference: J8-L8</p>	Zone 3
447	Ficus rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig)	Crown density 0-25%. Small (<25mmØ) & medium (25-75mmØ) deadwood in high volumes. Crown consists mainly of epicormic growth.	Remove	<p>Cultural Planting Diagram: Tree is part of the 1883 boundary planting after the widening of Balmain Road.</p> <p>Grid reference: J9</p>	Zone 3
473	Lophostemon confertus (Brush Box)	Dead Wood: Remove dead wood >30mm.	Pruning	<p>Cultural Planting Diagram: Could possibly be part of the 1880s plantings that incorporated earlier individual specimens.</p> <p>Grid reference: I10</p>	Zone 4
497	Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay)	Dead Wood: Remove dead wood >30mm.	Pruning	<p>CMP Inventory: Significant: Yes Description: Remnant Eucalyptus associated with asylum farm.</p> <p>Grid reference: G10, H10.</p>	Zone 4

511	Eucalyptus botryoides (Bangalay)	Small (<25mmø), medium (25-75mmø) & large (>75mmø) deadwood in low volumes. Wound(s), advanced stages of decay. Trunk cavity(s), major.	Remove	<p>Level of Significance Landscape Elements Diagram: Significance: Exceptional Description: Remnant Eucalyptus.</p> <p>CMP Inventory: Significant: Yes Remnant Eucalyptus associated with asylum farm.</p> <p>Grid reference: G10</p>	Zone 4
554	Ficus rubiginosa (Port Jackson Fig)	Dead Wood: Remove dead wood >30mm.	Pruning	<p>CMP Inventory: Significant: Yes Description: original design forming backdrop to Kirkbride Block and demonstrates historical layers of planting.</p> <p>Grid reference: I8</p>	Zone 4



+61 2 9299 7959
mailbox@haarchitects.com.au
www.haarchitects.com.au