



Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report

For the site address

Lot 10 (DP 1080361),
Lot 14-15 (DP 35818)
No. 7-9 Brighton Road and
21 Charles Street,
RIVERWOOD, NSW

Prepared for

NSW Land and Housing Corporation,
Department of Planning, Industry and
Environment

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 *Allied Tree Consultancy (ATC)* has been commissioned by *NSW Land and Housing Corporation* to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment for the development proposal at No. 7-9 Brighton Road, No. 21 Charles Street, Riverwood. This proposal includes the construction of a seniors housing development. This report includes nine (9) trees located on, and adjacent to the lots, and discusses the viability of these trees based on the proposed works.

1.2 This report will address for these trees, the:

- species' identification, location, dimensions, and condition;
- SULE (Safe Useful Life Expectancy) and STARS (Significance of a Tree Assessment Rating System) rating;
- discussion and impact of the proposed works on each tree;
- tree protection zones and protection specifications for trees recommended for retention.

2.0 Standards

2.1 Allied Tree Consultancy provides an ethical and unbiased approach to all assignments, possessing no association with private utility arboriculture or organisations that may reflect a conflict of interest.

2.2 This report must be made available to all contractors during the tendering process so that any cost associated with the required works for the protection of trees can be accommodated.

2.3 **It is the responsibility of the project manager to provide the requirements outlined in this report relative to the Protection Zones, Measures (Section 7.0) and Specifications (Section 8.0) to all contractors associated with the project before the initiation of work.**

2.4 All tree-related work outlined in this report is to be conducted in accordance with the:

- Australian Standard – AS4373; Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Work¹.
- All tree works must be carried out at a tertiary level (minimum Certificate-level 3) qualified and experienced (minimum five years) arboriculturist.
- For any works in the vicinity of electrical lines, the arboriculturist must possess the ISSC26 endorsement (Interim guide for operating cranes and plant in proximity to overhead powerlines).

¹ Safe Work Australia; July 2016; Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Work, Australia

2.5 As a minimum requirement, all trees recommended for retention in this report must have removed all dead, diseased, and crossing limbs and branch stubs to be pruned to the branch collar. This work must comply with the local government tree policy (Georges River Council) and Section 2.4.

2.6 Any tree stock subject to conditions for works carried out in this report must be supplied by a registered Nursery that adheres to the AS 2303; 2015².

- All tree stock must be of at least 'Advanced' size (minimum 75lt) unless otherwise requested.
- All tree stock requested must be planted with adequate protection. This may include tree guards (protect stem and crown) and if planted in a lawn area, a suitable barrier (planter ring) of an area, at least, 1m² to prevent grass from growing within the area adjacent to the stem.

3.0 Disclosure Statement

Trees are living organisms and, for this reason, possess natural variability. This cannot be controlled. However, risks associated with trees can be managed. An arborist cannot guarantee that a tree will be safe under all circumstances, nor predict the time when a tree will fail. To live or work near a tree involves some degree of risk, and this evaluation does not preclude all the possibilities of failure.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The following tree assessment was undertaken using criteria based on the guidelines issued by the International Society of Arboriculture.

4.2 The format of the report is summarised below;

4.2.1 Plan 1; Tree Location Relative to Site: This is an unscaled plan reproduced from the Survey Plan as referenced in Section 4.4.1, depicting the area of assessment.

4.2.2 Table 1; This table compiles the tree species, dimensions, brief assessment (history, structure, pest, disease or any other variables subject to the tree), significance, allocation of the zones of protection (i.e., Tree Protection Zone³ ;TPZ and Structural Root Zone; SRZ) for each tree illustrated in Plan 1, Section 5.0. All measurements are in metres.

² Australian Standard; 2015, AS2303, Tree stock for landscape use, Australia

³ Australian Standard, 4970; 2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites, Australia

4.2.3 Discussion relating to the site assessment and proposed works regarding the trees.

4.2.4 Protection Specification; Section 8.0 details the requirements for that area designated as the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), for those trees recommended for retention.

4.3 The opinions expressed in this report, and the material, upon which they are based, were obtained from the following process and data supplied:

4.3.1 Site assessment on the 25th February 2023 using the method of the Visual Tree Assessment⁴. This has included a Level 2 risk assessment, being a *Basic Assessment*⁵. The assessment has been conducted by Warwick Varley⁶ on behalf of *Allied Tree Consultancy*.

4.3.2 Trees included in this report are those that conform to the description of a prescribed tree by the local government policy.

4.3.3 All measurements, unless specified otherwise are taken from the tree centre.

4.3.4 Raw data from the preliminary assessment including the specimen's dimensions was compiled by the use of a diameter tape, height clinometer, angle finder, compass, steel probes, Teflon hammer, binoculars and recording instruments.

4.4 Documentation provided

The following documentation has been provided to Allied Tree Consultancy and utilised within the report.

4.4.1 Surveyor

Drawn by *Total Surveying Solutions*

Date: 26 May 2022

Reference: 220469

Drawing No: Sheet 1 to 14

4.4.2 Design

Drawn by *Sarm Architects P/L*

Date: 20 October 2023

Reference: 22009

⁴ Mattheck, C. Breloer, H., 1994, The Body Language of Trees – A handbook for failure analysis
The Stationary Office, London

⁵ Dunster J.A., 2013, Tree Risk Assessment Manual, International Society of Arboriculture, 2013, USA

⁶ Consulting Arborist, level 5 and 8

Drawing No: A000 – N903

4.4.3 Engineering (Stormwater)

Drawn by *Greenview Consulting P/L*

Date: 1 November 2023

Reference: 220535

Drawing No: C01 – C02, Rev. 5, C03, Rev. 4

4.5 Limitations of the assessment/discussion process

- 4.5.1** The assessment has considered only those target zones that are apparent to the author and the visually apparent tree conditions, during the time of assessment.
- 4.5.2** Any tree regardless of apparent defects would fail if the forces applied to exceed the strength of the tree or its parts, for example, extreme storm conditions.
- 4.5.3** The assessment has been limited to that part of the tree which is visible, existing from the ground level to the crown. Root decay can exist and in some circumstances provide no symptoms of the presence. This assessment responds to all the symptoms provided by a tree, however, cannot provide a conclusive recommendation regarding any tree that may have extensive root decay that leads to windthrow without the appropriate symptoms.

Source: Adapted from *Total Surveying Solutions*, Plan 1, see Section 4.4.1

6.0 Table 1 – Tree Species Data

Terminology/references provided in Appendix A.

Tree No.	Botanical Name Common Name	Height (m)	DBH (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Age	Crown Class	Crown Aspect	Vitality Rating	SULE Rating	STARS Rating	TPZ	SRZ
1	<i>Juniperous communis</i> Common Juniper	10	0.60 ^C	12 x 12	M	D	Sym.	A	2A ^C	Medium	7.20	2.67
Assessment Located in No. 40 Bungalow Road (i.e. behind and flush with the existing boundary fence). This tree presents as typical for the species. Crown ingress into the lot of No. 21, is tangential with that part of the boundary fence that offers the greatest length of the rear boundary.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.3	
2	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i> Broad-leaf Privet	10	0.30 0.30 ^C	8 x 8	M	D	Sym.	A	2B ^C	Low	5.09	2.31
Assessment Located in No. 40 Bungalow Road (i.e. behind the existing boundary fence). This tree presents as typical for the species. Composed of two leaders that initiate from a 0.5m high stem, the crotch is included and some symptoms suggesting an increased propensity for failure exist. Crown ingress into the lot of No. 7, is approximately 4000mm starting at 1.2m above ground. This species is a recognised weed species, and offers additional risk for persons who suffer from allergies, in particular asthma.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.3	
3	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> Magenta Lilly Pilly ^A	7	0.14 0.14 0.14 ^C	5 x 5	M	D	Sym.	A	2A	Medium	2.91	1.53
Assessment Located in No. 38 Bungalow Road (i.e. behind the existing boundary fence). This tree presents as typical for the species. Composed of three leaders that share a common root crown. Crown ingress into the lot of No. 7, is approximately 1000mm starting at 1.2m above ground. The tree centre is approximately 1300mm from the existing fence.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.3	

Tree No.	Botanical Name Common Name	Height (m)	DBH (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Age	Crown Class	Crown Aspect	Vitality Rating	SULE Rating	STARS Rating	TPZ	SRZ
4	<i>Archontophoenix cunninghamiana</i> Bangalow Palm	7	0.20	4 x 4	M	D	Sym.	A	1A	High	2.40	1.00
Assessment Located in No. 19A Charles Street (i.e. behind and flush with the existing boundary fence). This tree presents as typical for the species.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.3	
5	<i>Morus nigra</i> Mulberry tree	5	0.20 ^B	5 x 7	M	D	Sym.	A	2A	Low	2.40	1.68
Assessment This tree presents as typical for the species.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.2	
6	<i>Cupressus leylandii</i> cv. Leyland Cypress	5	0.26	4 x 4	M	C	NW	A	3A	Low	3.12	1.88
Assessment This tree forms part of a linear screen planting (trees No. 6-9) of the species. The trees have been subject to adverse pruning (lopping) which appears to be a combination of clearance for powerlines and pedestrian access for the verge. The Live Crown Ratio is 40%. The tree provides poor form, low amenity value, and will not be capable of forming a tree of aesthetic character.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.1	
7	<i>Cupressus leylandii</i> cv. Leyland Cypress	7	0.10	3 x 3	M	I	W	A	3A	Low	4.20	1.90
Assessment This tree forms part of a linear screen planting (trees No. 6-9) of the species. This tree is composed of six leaders (mean Dbh , 0.1m) The trees have been subject to adverse pruning (lopping) which appears to be a combination of clearance for powerlines and pedestrian access for the verge. The Live Crown Ratio is 30%. The tree provides poor form, low amenity value, and will not be capable of forming a tree of aesthetic character.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.1	
8	<i>Cupressus leylandii</i> cv. Leyland Cypress	8	0.25	2 x 4	M	I	W	A	3A	Low	3.00	1.85
Assessment This tree forms part of a linear screen planting (trees No. 6-9) of the species. The trees have been subject to adverse pruning (lopping) which appears to be a combination of clearance for powerlines and pedestrian access for the verge. The Live Crown Ratio is 20%. The tree provides poor form, low amenity value, and will not be capable of forming a tree of aesthetic character.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.1	

Tree No.	Botanical Name Common Name	Height (m)	DBH (m)	Crown Spread (m)	Age	Crown Class	Crown Aspect	Vitality Rating	SULE Rating	STARS Rating	TPZ	SRZ
9	<i>Cupressus leylandii</i> cv. Leyland Cypress	8	0.30 0.35 0.27	7 x 5	M	C	SW	A	3A	Low	6.41	2.54
Assessment This tree forms part of a linear screen planting (trees No. 6-9) of the species. The trees have been subject to adverse pruning (lopping) which appears to be a combination of clearance for powerlines and pedestrian access for the verge. The Live Crown Ratio is 50%. The tree provides poor form, low amenity value, and will not be capable of forming a tree of aesthetic character.											DEVELOPMENT IMPACT See Section 7.1.1	

- A. Incomplete identification of species due to insufficiently available plant material
- B. Diameter taken below 1.4m due to low stem bifurcation
- C. Estimate due to the overgrown area and/or limited access
- D. Deciduous species, void of foliage at the time of assessment
- E. Level 3 assessment required to determine the accurate rating

7.0 Site Assessment

The area of assessment comprises three lots, each adjacent to one another, and located on the corner of Brighton Road and Charles Street.

Overall, the residential lots have a slight gradient, and a northerly aspect. Each lot contains a single-story brick dwelling and no garage. Each has a crossover and drive that service the rear yard. The yards of No. 9 and 21 have had the rear yards sealed in concrete, and additional metal sheds constructed.

The grades of the lots adjoining the southern boundary where trees No. 1-3 occur are higher than the lots, being No. 21 and 7-9. That is, a timber retaining wall exists on the assumed boundary and beneath the fence adjacent to tree No. 1 and is approximately 350mm high. A similar grade difference of 400mm occurs between the yards adjacent to tree No. 2, although no retaining wall is apparent.

The trees are all planted species.

A group of neighbouring shrubs occur flush with the fenceline with No. 21, and between trees No. 1 and 2. These are predominately exempt species and do not cater for sufficient height to be included in this report.

The trees labeled as A, which have been included on the survey drawing (Plan 1) however excluded from this report because of the failure to conform to the description of a prescribed tree based on the Georges River Councils Development Control Plan.

Tree A: trees less than 4m in height.

7.1 Proposed development

The proposed development consists of the demolition of existing site structures and the construction of a seniors housing development, drive access, and drainage infrastructure.

Neighbours trees: Trees No. 1, 2, 3 and 4 are located in the adjacent lots, therefore constitute ownership by a second party. Any proposed works within the zones of protection for these trees must not adversely impact these zones, and the trees shall be retained and protected from any site works unless permission for removal is granted by the tree owner and Georges River Council.

Based on the exempt status, tree No. 2 will not require consent by Georges River council.

Assumption 1: The excavation required for the retaining walls will need to be further from the outside edge of the proposed wall to allow for construction of the wall, waterproofing and drainage, therefore, the actual cut has been assumed within this report to be up to 300mm from the line indicating the location of the retaining wall. All calculations for the encroachment of any zone of protection (TPZ, SRZ) has been based on this assumption.

The calculations included in the following discussion have not considered;

- subsurface utilities that have not been included in the design,
- Work methods related to subsurface utilities, for example concrete encasing or replacement of existing lines
- or work methods related to construction (stockpiling, site sheds, scaffolding) unless otherwise specified.
- Public infrastructure including footpaths, new kerb/guttering, subsurface utilities on Brighton Road and Charles Street.

These may also increase the encroachment and tree impact and therefore the opportunity for tree retention.

This report discusses the impact of the proposed design on the trees. Nine (9) trees have been listed within this report based upon the vicinity of the proposed works. This has included any tree where any part of the zones of protection; Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and Structural Root Zone (SRZ), encroach into the area proposed for work. Recommendations based on the tree significance and condition, together with the impact on these trees regarding the proposed development (based on the documents contained in Section 4.4) and mitigation where available follow.

7.1.1 Trees providing a limited useful life expectancy

Trees No. 6, 7, 8 and 9

These trees provide low significance based on the species, habit and rating and could be removed due to the low amenity value and limited useful life expectancy, and irrespective of the proposed works.

7.1.2 Trees directly conflicting with the design

Tree No. 5

This tree is located in the footprint of the proposed design and would require removal based on this premise alone. The conflict is cut required to establish grades. This tree does not warrant sufficient significance to amend the design for retention.

7.1.3 Trees subject to a major encroachment

Trees No. 1, 2, 3 and 4

These trees are not directly located in the footprint of the proposed design, however, are located close and adjacent to the design footprint and subject to a *major encroachment*, that is, in excess of 10% of the TPZ. The extent and type of encroachment for each tree are discussed and the relative implications.

Tree No. 1: Encroachment: 13%; based on drawing A200 (J), the encroachment consists of excavation for the retaining wall, see Assumption 1. This is three percentage points in excess of a minor encroachment and will not adversely impact on the tree. Taking into account the existing shed on concrete slab exists within the similar footprint as the proposed excavation, the extent of impact is low. The crown structure poses no conflict and no pruning is required.

Tree No. 2: Encroachment: 37%; based on drawing A200 (J), the encroachment consists of excavation for the retaining wall, see Assumption 1. This is excessive and extends well into the SRZ, therefore the impact will destabilise the tree as well as cause decline. The design will not accommodate this tree, and either the design would require modification to accommodate the tree, or the tree is removed. This tree is not considered to pose sufficient significance to warrant a design change. This tree is a neighbouring asset. Therefore, a discussion with the owner of No. 40 Bungalow Road is required to determine how to proceed with the proposal.

Tree No. 3: Encroachment: 12%; based on drawing A200 (J), the encroachment consists of excavation for the retaining wall, see Assumption 1. This is two percentage points in excess of a minor encroachment, and will not impact on the vitality (health). The small ingress of the dripline will not be impacted.

Tree No. 4: Encroachment: 13%; based on drawing A200 (J), the encroachment is the excavation required for the drive. This is three percentage points in excess of a minor encroachment, and will not impact on the vitality (health). The dripline is not impacted.

7.2 Sub-surface utilities

No drawings have been provided for the proposed route of sub-surface utilities, other than stormwater. Any trenching, other than what has been allowed for should be avoided within the area of the TPZ's for any tree nominated for retention. Any proposed route shall be re-routed outside of the TPZ. Under

boring may be required if a limitation for the route of a service is restricted to an area that falls within the TPZ from any tree. Any excavation in the area of a TPZ must be authorised and conditioned by the project arborist.

7.3 Protection measures

Tree protection measures will be required during the demolition and construction stage. However, the design of these will be pending the work methodology and final design. The project arborist shall be contracted after the completion/confirmation of design work for the instruction of the protection measures implementation, that is the Arboricultural Method Statement. Examples of the protection measures are contained in Appendix B.

7.3.1 Conditions for compliance

The following conditions are required before any works proceed on site.

Site induction; All workers related to the construction process and before entering the site must be briefed about the requirements/conditions outlined in this report relative to the zone of protection, measures, and specifications before the initiation of work. This is required as part of the site induction process.

Project Arborist; A project arborist who conforms to the requirements of the AS 4970 is required to be nominated immediately after a *Notice of Determination* is issued, and they are to be provided with all related site documents.

7.4 Compliance Documentation

The following stages will require assessment and documentation (report, letter, certification) by the project arborist or person responsible for the specific work type, and the related documentation is to be issued to the principal certifying agent.

7.4.1 Table 2; Assessment/Certification stages

Hold Points	Work type	Document required
Pre- Construction	Installation of the protection measures, Section 7.3	Certificate ¹
During construction	Any <u>further works</u> required within the area of the TPZ, or decline related to the trees that have not been covered by this report.	Report Brief
During construction	Any crown modification including pruning or root disturbance.	Report Brief

1. Requirement for the issue of a Crown Certificate

2. Requirement for the issue of Occupation of the development

Construction refers to the time between the initiation of demolition and until an occupation of the development certificate is issued.

Project Arborist person nominated as responsible for the provision of the tree assessment, arborist report, consultation with stakeholders, and certification for the development project. This person will be adequately experienced and qualified with a minimum of a level 5 (AQF); Diploma in Horticulture (Arboriculture)⁷.

8.0 Protection Specification

The retention and protection of these trees requires the remaining Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) not subject to encroachment to conform to the conditions outlined below. These conditions provide the limitations of work permitted within the area of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and must be adhered to unless otherwise stated.

Any engineering drawings issued as part of the Crown Certificate must conform with these requirements.

1. Soil levels within the TPZ must remain the same. Any excavation within the TPZ must have been previously specified and allowed for by the project arborist:
 - a) So it does not alter the drainage to the tree.
 - b) Under specified circumstances,
 - Added fill soil does not exceed 100mm in depth over the natural grade. Construction methodologies exist that can allow grade increases in excess of 100mm, via the use of an impervious cover, an approved permeable material or permanent aeration system or other approved methods.
 - Excavation cannot exceed a depth of more than 50mm within the area of the TPZ, not including the SRZ. The grade within the SRZ cannot be reduced without the consent from a project arborist.
2. No form of material or structure, solid or liquid, is to be stored or disposed of within the TPZ.
3. No lighting of fires is permitted within the TPZ.
4. All drainage runoff, sediment, concrete, mortar slurry, paints, washings, toilet effluent, petroleum products, and any other toxic wastes must be prevented from entering the TPZ.

⁷ Based upon the definition of a 'consulting arborist' from the AS 4970; Protection of trees on development sites; 2009, Section 1.4.4, p 6.

5. No activity that will cause excessive soil compaction is permitted within the TPZ. That is, machinery, excavators, etc. must refrain from entering the area of the TPZ unless measures have been taken, in consultation with the project arborist.
6. No site sheds, amenities or similar site structures are permitted to be located or extend into the area of the TPZ unless the project arborist provides prior consent.
7. No form of construction work or related activity such as the mixing of concrete, cutting, grinding, generator storage or cleaning of tools is permitted within the TPZ.
8. No part of any tree may be used as an anchorage point, nor should any noticeboard, telephone cable, rope, guy, framework, etc. be attached to any part of a tree.
9.
 - (a) All excavation work within the TPZ will utilise methods to preserve root systems intact and undamaged. Examples of methods permitted are by hand tools, hydraulic, or pneumatic air excavation technology.
 - (b) Any root unearthed which is less than 50mm in diameter must be cleanly cut and dusted with a fungicide, and not allowed to dry out, with minimum exposure to the air as possible.
 - (c) Any root unearthed which is greater than 50mm in diameter must be located regarding their directional spread and potential impact. A project arborist will be required to assess the situation and determine future action regarding retaining the tree in a healthy state.

9.0 Summary of tree impact by design

The proposed development consists of the demolition of existing site structures and the construction of a seniors housing development, drive access and drainage infrastructure. The report has been limited to the discussion contained in Sections 4.5.1 and 4.5.2. Based on the design supplied, the following summary provides the impacts imposed on the trees included in this report.

9.1 Trees No. 1, 3 and 4

These trees are not adversely impacted by the design, that is, they conform to an acceptable encroachment based on the nominated zones of protection (TPZ, SRZ) and the requirements of the Protection Specification, Section 8.0. The proposed design does not adversely affect these trees.

9.2 Tree No. 5

The proposed design will conflict with the location of this tree and it is unable to be retained based on the design. This tree will require removal.

9.3 Trees No. 6, 7, 8 and 9

These trees provide poor form and a limited useful life expectancy and could require removal irrespective of the proposed works.

9.4 Tree No. 2

This tree is subject to a major encroachment, and the design will not accommodate this tree. Either the design would require modification to accommodate the tree, or the tree is removed. This tree is not considered to pose sufficient significance to warrant a design change. Although will require owner's consent for removal.

9.5 Sub-surface utilities

No drawings have been provided for the proposed route of sub-surface utilities, other than stormwater. Any trenching, other than what has been allowed for should be avoided within the area of the TPZ's for any tree nominated for retention. Any proposed route shall be re-routed outside of the TPZ. Under boring may be required if a limitation for the route of a service is restricted to an area that falls within the TPZ from any tree. Any excavation in the area of a TPZ must be authorised and conditioned by the project arborist.

9.6 Protection measures

Protection measures (outlined in Section 7.3 and 7.4) are required to be implemented for the trees nominated for retention (referenced in Section 9.1) and installed before initiation of site works (including

demolition/excavation) and retained until the landscaping works are required unless otherwise specified.

All workers related to the construction process and before entering the site must be briefed about the requirements/conditions outlined in this report relative to the zone of protection, measures, and specifications before the initiation of work.

A project arborist is required to be nominated, and the stages and related certification or similar documentation is to be issued to the principal certifying agent.

The opinions expressed in this report by the author have been provided within the capacity of a Consulting Arborist. Any further explanation or details can be provided by contacting the author.

Assessed and Prepared by Warwick Varley

Consulting Arborist; Principal
Level 5 and 8; Arborist
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification
IACA and ISA Member



10.0 Appendix A- Terminology Defined

Height

Is a measure of the vertical distance from the average ground level around the root crown to the top surface of the crown, and on palms - to the apical growth point.

DBH

Diameter at Breast Height – being the stem diameter in meters, measured at 1.4m from ground level, including the thickness of the bark.; Mult. refers to multiple stems, that is in excess of 4 stems.

Crown Spread

A two-dimension linear measurement (in metres) of the crown plan. The first figure is the north-south span, the second being the east-west measurement.

Age

Is the estimate of the specimen's age based upon the expected lifespan of the species. This is divided into three stages.

Young (Y)	Trees less than 20% of life expectancy.
Mature (M)	Trees aged between 20% to 80% life expectancy.
Over-mature (O)	Trees aged over 80% of life expectancy with probable symptoms of senescence.

Crown Aspect

In relation to the root crown, this refers to the aspect the majority of the crown resides in. This will be either termed Symmetrical (Sym.) where the centre of the crown resides over the root crown or the cardinal direction the centre of the crown is biased towards, being either North (N), South (S), East (E) or West (W).

Vitality Rating

Is a rating of the health of the tree, irrespective and independent of the structural integrity, and defined by the 'ability for a tree to sustain its life processes' ((Draper, Richards, 2009). This is divided between three variables, and based on the assessment of symptoms including, but not limited to; leaf size, colour, crown density, woundwood development, adaptive growth formation, and epicormic growth.

A: Normal vitality, typical for the species

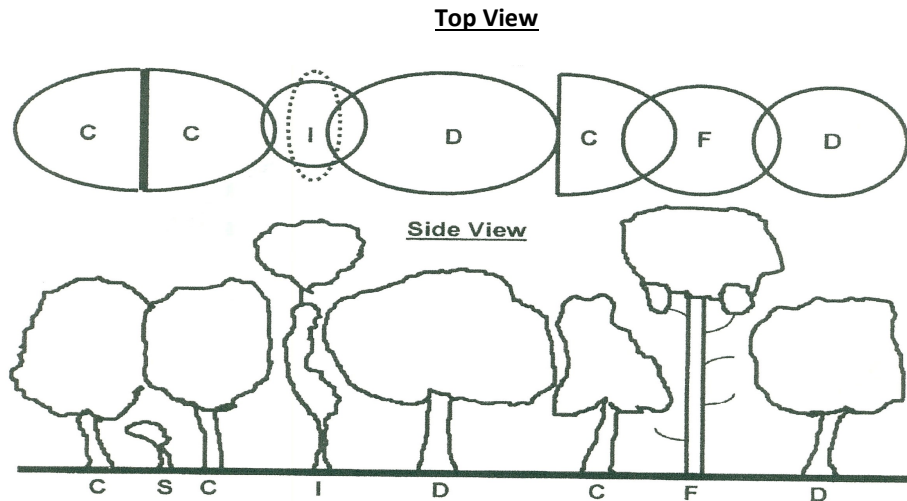
B: Below average vitality, possibly temporary loss of health, partial symptoms.

C: Poor vitality; obvious decline, potentially irreversible

Crown Class

Is the differing crown habits as influenced by the external variables within the surrounding environment. They are:

D – <i>Dominant</i>	Crown is receiving uninterrupted light from above and sides, also known as emergent.
C – <i>Codominant</i>	Crown is receiving light from above and one side of the crown.
I – <i>Intermediate</i>	Crown is receiving light from above but not the sides of the crown.
S – <i>Suppressed</i>	Crown has been shadowed by the surrounding elements and receives no light from above or sides.
F – <i>Forest</i>	Characterised by an erect, straight stem (usually excurrent) with little stem taper and virtually no branching over the majority of the stem except for the top of the tree which has a small concentrated branch structure making up the crown.



D C, I & S, and side view, after (Matheny, N. & Clark, J. R. 1998, Trees Development, Published by International Society of Arboriculture, P.O. Box 3129, Champaign IL 61826-3129 USA, p.20, adapted from the Hazard Tree Assessment Program, Recreation and Park Department, City of San Francisco, California).

Levels of assessment

Level 1: Limited visual: a visual tree assessment to manage large populations of trees within a limited period and in order to identify obvious faults which would be considered imminent.

Level 2: Basic assessment: a standard performed assessment providing for a detailed visual assessment including all parts of the tree and surrounding environment and via the use of simple tools.

Level 3: Advanced assessment: specific type assessments conducted by either arborist who specialise with specific areas of assessment or via the use of specialised equipment. For example, aerial assessment by use of an EWP or rope/harness, or decay detection equipment.

TPZ; Tree Protection Zone

Is an area of protection required for maintaining the trees vitality and long-term viability. Measured in meters as a radius from the trees centre. The requirements of this zone are outlined within the Protection Specification, Section 8.0, and are to be adhered to unless otherwise stated.

The size of the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) has been calculated from the *Australian Standard, 4970; 2009* – Protection of Trees on Development Sites

The TPZ does not provide the limit of root extension, however, offers an area of the root zone that requires predominate protection from development works. The allocated TPZ can be modified by some circumstances; however will require compensation equivalent to the area loss, elsewhere and adjacent to the TPZ.

SRZ; Structural Root Zone

Is the area around the tree containing the woody roots necessary for stability. Measured in meters as a radius from the trees centre. The requirements of this zone are outlined within the Protection Specification, Section 8.0, and are to be adhered to unless otherwise stated.

Protection Measures

These are required for the protection of trees during demolition/construction activities.

Protective barriers are required to be installed before the initiation of demolition and/or construction and are to be maintained up to the time of landscaping. Samples of the recommended protection measures are illustrated in Appendix B.

All other definitions are referenced from;

Draper D.B., Richards P.A., 2009, Dictionary for Managing Trees in Urban Environments CSIRO Pub., Australia

Significance Rating, Significance of a Tree Assessment Rating System (S.T.A.R.S), IACA, 2010⁸

Tree Significance – Assessment Criteria

1. High Significance in landscape

- The tree is in good condition and good vitality;
- The tree has a form typical for the species;
- The tree is a remnant or is a planted locally indigenous specimen and/or is rare or uncommon in the local area or of botanical interest or of substantial age;
- The tree is listed as a Heritage Item, Threatened Species or part of an Endangered ecological community or listed on Councils significant Tree Register;
- The tree is visually prominent and visible from a considerable distance when viewed from most directions within the landscape due to its size and scale and makes a positive contribution to the local amenity;
- The tree supports social and cultural sentiments or spiritual associations, reflected by the broader population or community group or has commemorative values;
- The tree's growth is unrestricted by above and below ground influences, supporting its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ – tree is appropriate to the site conditions.

2. Medium Significance in landscape

- The tree is in fair-good condition and good or low vitality;
- The tree has form typical or atypical of the species;
- The tree is a planted locally indigenous or a common species with its taxa commonly planted in the local area
- The tree is visible from surrounding properties, although not visually prominent as partially obstructed by other vegetation or buildings when viewed from the street,
- The tree provides a fair contribution to the visual character and amenity of the local area,
- The tree's growth is moderately restricted by above or below ground influences, reducing its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ.

3. Low Significance in landscape

- The tree is in fair-poor condition and good or low vitality;
- The tree has form atypical of the species;
- The tree is not visible or is partly visible from surrounding properties as obstructed by other vegetation or buildings,
- The tree provides a minor contribution or has a negative impact on the visual character and amenity of the local area,
- The tree is a young specimen which may or may not have reached dimension to be protected by local Tree Preservation orders or similar protection mechanisms and can easily be replaced with a suitable specimen,
- The tree's growth is severely restricted by above or below ground influences,

⁸ IACA, 2010, IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System (STARS), Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists, Australia, www.iaca.org.au

unlikely to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ – tree is inappropriate to the site conditions,

- The tree is listed as exempt under the provisions of the local Council Tree Preservation Order or similar protection mechanisms,
 - The tree has a wound or defect that has potential to become structurally unsound.
- Environmental Pest / Noxious Weed Species
- The tree is an Environmental Pest Species due to its invasiveness or poisonous/ allergenic properties,
 - The tree is a declared noxious weed by legislation.

Hazardous/Irreversible Decline

- The tree is structurally unsound and/or unstable and is considered potentially dangerous,
- The tree is dead, or is in irreversible decline, or has the potential to fail or collapse in full or part in the immediate to short-term.

The tree is to have a minimum of three (3) criteria in a category to be classified in that group.

Note: The assessment criteria are for individual trees only, however, can be applied to a monocultural stand in its entirety e.g.

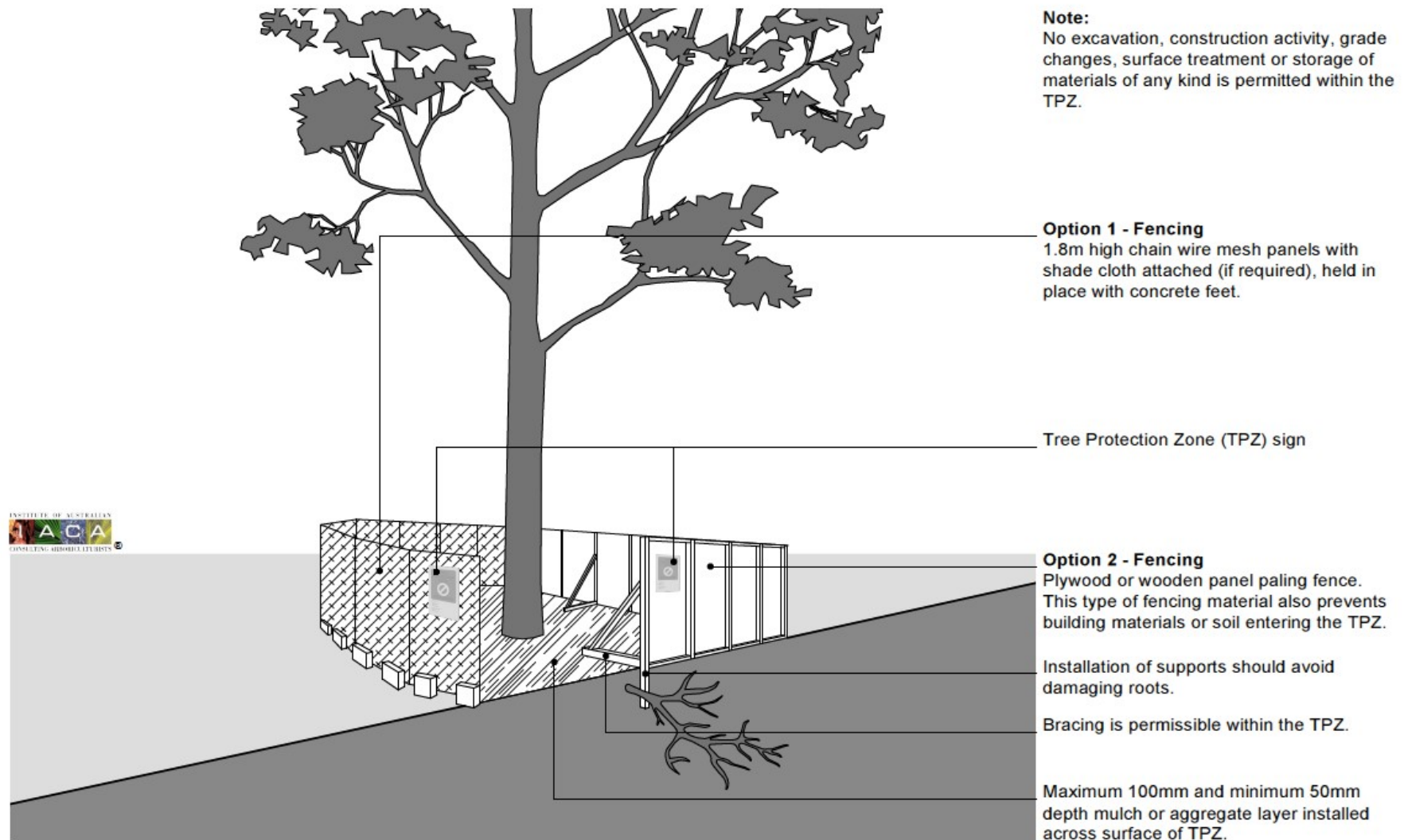
Table 3; Tree Retention Value – Priority Matrix.

		Significance				
		1. High	2. Medium	3. Low		
		Significance in Landscape	Significance in Landscape	Significance in Landscape	Environmental Pest / Noxious Weed Species	Hazardous / Irreversible Decline
Estimated Life Expectancy	1. Long >40 years					
	2. Medium 15-40 Years					
	3. Short <1-15 Years					
	Dead					
Legend for Matrix Assessment						
		Priority for Retention (High) - These trees are considered important for retention and should be retained and protected. Design modification or re-location of building/s should be considered to accommodate the setbacks as prescribed by the Australian Standard AS4970 <i>Protection of trees on development sites</i> . Tree sensitive construction measures must be implemented e.g. pier and beam etc if works are to proceed within the Tree Protection Zone.				
		Consider for Retention (Medium) - These trees may be retained and protected. These are considered less critical; however their retention should remain priority with removal considered only if adversely affecting the proposed building/works and all other alternatives have been considered and exhausted.				
		Consider for Removal (Low) - These trees are not considered important for retention, nor require special works or design modification to be implemented for their retention.				
		Priority for Removal - These trees are considered hazardous, or in irreversible decline, or weeds and should be removed irrespective of development.				

Safe Useful Life Expectancy – S.U.L.E (Barell 1995)

	1. Long	2. Medium	3. Short	4. Removal	5. Moved or Replaced
	Trees that appeared to be retainable at the time of assessment for more than 40 years with an acceptable level of risk.	Trees that appeared to be retainable at the time of assessment for 15 – 40 years with an acceptable level of risk.	Trees that appeared to be retainable at the time of assessment for 5 – 15 years with an acceptable level of risk.	Trees that should be removed within the next 5 years.	Trees which can be reliably moved or replaced.
A	Structurally sound trees located in positions that can accommodate future growth.	Trees that may only live between 15 and 40 years.	Trees that may only live between 5 and 15 more years.	Dead, dying, suppressed or declining trees through disease or inhospitable conditions.	Small trees less than 5m in height.
B	Trees that could be made suitable for retention in the long term by remedial tree care.	Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed for safety or nuisance reasons.	Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed for safety or nuisance reasons.	Dangerous trees through instability on recent loss of adjacent trees.	Young trees less than 15 years old but over 5m in heights
C	Trees of special significance for historical, commemorative or rarity reasons that would warrant extraordinary efforts to secure their long term retention.	Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new planting.	Trees that may live for more than 15 years but should be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new planting.	Damaged trees through structural defects including cavities, decay, included bark, wounds or poor form.	Trees that have been pruned to artificially control growth.
D		Trees that could be made suitable for retention in the medium term by remedial tree care.	Trees that require substantial remedial tree care and are only suitable for retention in the short term.	Damaged trees that are clearly not safe to retain.	
E				Trees that may live for more than 5 years but should be removed to prevent interference with more suitable individuals or to provide space for new plantings.	
F				Trees that are damaging or may cause damage to existing structures within 5 years.	
G				Trees that will become dangerous after removal of other trees for reasons given in (A) to (F).	

Appendix B- Protection measures; Protective fence



Stem and Ground protection

