

SITE BACKGROUND

THE PROPOSED REDESIGN OF A BATTER WITHIN THE NEPEAN BUSINESS PARK IS SITUATED ADJACENT TO OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD. CURRENTLY, THE SITE AREA IS CHARACTERIZED BY ROWS OF EXISTING TREES PLANTED ALONG THE ROAD. A LARGE EXISTING EMBANKMENT (1-4M HIGH) CURRENTLY IS THE MAIN LEVEL TRANSITION FROM OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD TO THE SITE AREA.

THE EXISTING TREES WERE PLANTED IN INCONSISTENT ROWS IN THE 1970S AND 1980S TO SCREEN THE MINING OPERATION IN THIS AREA. SOME TREES CAN BE SEEN TO HAVE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE DUE TO IMPROPER PRUNING WHICH HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY UNDERTAKEN TO PROVIDE CLEARANCE FROM EXISTING POWER LINES THAT INTERFACE BETWEEN THE TREES AND THE ROAD. THE OVERALL STRUCTURE AND HEALTH OF SOME TREES HAS BEEN COMPROMISED DUE TO THIS.

AUSTRALIAN TREE CONSULTING (ATC) SERVICES WERE ENGAGED TO UNDERTAKE AN ARBORIST REPORT ON THE EXISTING TREES ALONG OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD. ATC HAVE RECOMMENDED THE REMOVAL ALL OF THESE TREES AS:

- ORIGINALLY NOT PLANTED TO A GOOD STANDARD. SOILS PLANTED IN ARE POOR AND THE EXISTING TREES WERE NOT PROVIDED ADEQUATE SPACING WHICH HAS RESULTED IN ETIOLATION AND POOR TREE STRUCTURE.
- 160 TREES HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL DUE TO HAZARD, STRUCTURAL DEFECTS, DECLINING HEALTH AND PAST POOR LOOPING WHICH HAS COMPROMISED RETENTION. DUE TO A LARGE PORTION OF TREES BEING RECOMMENDED FOR REMOVAL, THE RETAINED TREES WILL BECOME EXPOSED AND HAVE A LOWER LIKELIHOOD OF SURVIVING.
- THERE IS A HIGH CHANCE THAT TREES WILL FAIL INTO THE SITE OR ON OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD, CREATING A RISK TO USERS, SURROUNDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND POWER LINES.

PROPOSED BATTER DESIGN

THE PROPOSED BATTER DESIGN SEEKS TO REMOVE AND REPLACE EXISTING TREES AND REDEFINE THE BATTER CONDITION ALONG THE OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD FRONTAGE TO THE SITE. THE PROPOSED DESIGN WILL:

- PROVIDE A GREATER VARIETY OF SPECIES DIVERSITY TO THE AREA.
- PROVIDE TREES THAT WILL BE CLEAR FROM POWERLINES, EVEN IN MATURITY.
- PROVIDE A NEW PLANTED BATTER BY HYDROSEEDING AND IMPROVED SOILS.
- PROVIDE A VISUAL UPLIFT TO OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD AND THE SITE FRONTAGE.



FIGURE 1. FACING WEST ALONG OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD



FIGURE 1. FACING EAST ALONG OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD



FIGURE 1. ELEVATION OF TREES ALONG OLD CASTLEREAGH ROAD

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