

6 August 2019

**RE: EXISTING TREES IN ROAD RESERVE AND IMPACTS FROM ROAD
CONSTRUCTION**

Dear Sir/Madam

With regard to the existing trees within the road reserve at Manor Road and part Harrington Road, Harrington, and further to previous correspondence (date 26 June), the following is relevant.

I am a Certificate 5 qualified Arborist (AQF 5), having completed my Diploma in Horticulture (Arboriculture) in 2010. I have no vested interest in the removal of the trees on this site and specifically, I will not be involved in any such removal.

Following the advice provided previously, it has been requested that the proponent examine alternative options for the relevant works to determine if the trees assessed are able to be retained (by altering the proposal). Plans are attached which identify the proposal in its current format and also potential modifications; the relevant plans are:

- Sheet 3 – proposal in its current form which complies with Councils engineering requirements;
- Sheet 4 – proposal with footpath removed;
- Sheet 5 – proposal with footpath and kerb and gutter removed;
- Sheet 6 – comparison of Sheets 3, 4 and 5;
- Sheet 7 – proposal with footpath and kerb and gutter removed and the inclusion of structural soils.
- Sheet 8 – similar to sheet 7 excepting retaining the existing drain alongside the road and cutting outlets for water to divert to the wetland.

As discussed in the previous correspondence, the initial proposal (ie Sheet 3) will have an unacceptable impact on the SRZ and TPZ of the trees, thus requiring the removal of the trees. Alternative proposals put forth by both sheets 4 and 5 do not alter this situation, and hence, the trees will be required to be removed.

Sheets 7 and 8, which include the use of Structural soils in the filling works, would potentially result in the retention of 53 trees on site, however, this does not take into consideration the fact that the fill cannot be used right up to the tree and instead must be battered down to prevent fungal problems such as collar rot on the trees.

Structural soils are generally used to allow for root growth within the soils and are predominantly utilised in the planting of new trees in restricted environments (such as paved road reserves in built up areas) – in these instances, the trees are new plantings. The proposed use of structural soils in this instance is to allow for aeration of the root system and also to allow for hydrological flows. Structural soils can be a mixture of

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carefully selected and placed soils of different aggregate sizes, or a similar result may be obtained using a coarse sand. The concern is that once compaction is applied, the structural soils will not work as designed and therefore the trees will ultimately die as a result. The death of trees as a result of soil compaction will generally take 5 – 8 years and will therefore result in a significant future problem for Council (for trees in the road reserve) and for the development operator (for trees located on private land).

It is reiterated that as per *AS 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites* which states that there can be no interference within the SRZ and only works in up to 10% of the TPZ, the real result is that all trees excepting for Trees 23 and 24 (which are located on the northern side of the road) must be removed due to unacceptable impacts on the SRZ and the TPZ. It is considered that there are no viable alternatives.

Kind regards

TATTERSALL LANDER PTY LTD



Ben Folbigg
Arborist (AQF 5)