

Impact Assessment Report Genesis Care Campbelltown

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Erilyan

Date: 4th June 2021

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Statement of Authorship

This study and report were undertaken by OGP at Genesis Care - Camden Rd, Campbelltown. The author of the report is Vicki Beecher with qualifications BSc. majoring in Geology and Climate Science with over 25 years' experience in this field, AQF level 5 Horticulture, AQF level 8 Horticulture (Arboriculture) and AQF level 6 Landscape Construction.

Limitations Statement

Information presented in this report is based on an objective study undertaken in response to the brief provided by the client. Any opinions expressed in this report are the professional, objective opinions of the authors and are not intended to advocate any proposal or pre-determined position.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Impact Assessment Statement was prepared for Mr Richard Curtin of Erilyan on behalf of his clients at Genesis care – Camden Rd Campbelltown (the site) with respect to proposed development of the site including residential aged car facility, parking, driveway access and associated landscaping works.
- 1.1.2 Richard Curtin of Erilyan acting on behalf of his clients have instructed Our Garden Path Pty Ltd to undertake an inspection of trees located on the site and within the footprint of proposed pathways and driveway areas, and cul-de-sac area of Camden Rd, Campbelltown.

- i. The following documentation was provided to assist with the onsite assessment of trees and the preparation of this report:

- Architectural Package Development Combined Set DA000 Rev 6, Da010 Rev 9, Da011 Rev 16, DA012 Rev 19, DA013 Rev 5, DA101 Rev 25, DA102 Rev 20, DA103 Rev 20, DA104 Rev 21, DA105 Rev 12, DA201 Rev 12, DA202 Rev 12, DA301 Rev 13, DA 301 Rev 13, DA303 Rev 8, DA 800 Rev 5, DA801 Rev 5 and DA900 Rev 7 prepared by Team 2 Architects– dated May 2021.

- 1.1.3 This report is to be used in its entirety only. Any written or verbal submission, report or presentation that includes statements taken from the findings, discussions, conclusions or recommendations made in this report may only be used where the whole original report (or a copy) is referenced to and directly attached to that submission, report or presentation. Information contained in the report covers only the trees that were inspected and reflects the trees condition at the time of the inspection. There is no guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the subject trees may not arise in the future.
- 1.1.4 General guidance notes regarding the protection of trees on development sites have been given as Appendix 7 of this report. These notes contain basic requirements and procedures to ensure that the impacts of construction work on site trees are minimised. Advice from the project arborist is to be sought prior to undertaking works within a tree protection zone.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The subject site identified as Cnr of Kellicar Rd and Camden Rd Campbelltown - Lot Number 1 DP883417, with a total site area of approx. 4810 sqm. The block is currently free of construction with a grassed area and four (4) specimen trees.

Trees identified are located on the council verge and are managed by Campbelltown Council.

Heritage data for the site was not available within VLEP 2015, Campbelltown councils' website.

1.2.2 Existing site features include:

- A level block with grassland area

1.2.3 The image below shows the subject site (highlighted). Lot number is not shown.



Fig 1: Aerial image (SIX Maps, accessed -4th June 2021) showing site.

2 Inspection Method

- 2.1 On Thursday 13th May 2021 - Vicki Beecher attended the site to undertake the tree assessment and collect data.
- 2.2 The tree(s) were assessed using the principles of a ground based Visual Tree Assessment (VTA)¹ and methods consistent with modern arboriculture. No aerial (climbing) inspection, tissue sampling or diagnostic testing was undertaken as part of the inspection process unless otherwise stated. Weather conditions at the time of the inspection were clear and fine.
- 2.3 The physical dimensions of the tree(s) including height, radial canopy spread, and trunk diameter have been estimated or measured. Refer Tree Assessment Criteria. Tree data collected at the time of the inspection can be found within the Tree Assessment Schedule, Appendix 1.

¹ Mattheck, C. and Breloer, H (2006), *The Body Language of Trees – A Handbook for Failure Analysis*, The Stationary Office. Pages 118-122.

- 2.4. Methodology for determining vigour, structure and age class can be found as Appendix 3.
- 2.5. The tree has been given Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) rating. Methodology used to calculate these ratings can be found as Appendix 4.
- 2.6. The landscape significance of each tree has been assessed using the Institute of Australian Consulting Arborists (IACA) Significance of a Tree Assessment Rating System (STARS). The STARS assessment criteria can be found as Appendix 5.
- 2.7. Tree protection zone has been scaled and plotted over the proposed works and can be found as Appendix 2.

3 The Trees

- 3.1 Four (4) trees have been identified as being impacted by the proposed development.
- 3.2 The identified trees are both native and a single exotic species. Tree data can be found within the tree assessment schedule Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Tree 1 is located on the council verge and is displaying normal vigour and fair condition. No die back evident or fungal fruiting bodies observed. There are several hollows identified in Tree 1 which at the time of inspection were occupied by avian species unknown.
- 3.3 Trees 2 is located on the council verge and is displaying normal vigour and fair condition. Approximately 10% die back and less than 10% deadwood was observed. A fruiting body of bracket fungus (shelf fungus) a species of the Polyporacea family, was observed on 1st order branch located on the Northern aspect of the tree. A hollow located on the southern vertical main leader was observed to be active at the time of inspection.
- 3.4 Tree 3 is located on the council verge and is displaying normal vigour and good condition. No dieback or deadwood was observed. No fungal fruiting bodies were evident on Tree 3.
- 3.5 Tree 4 is located on the council verge and is displaying normal vigour and good condition. No dieback or deadwood was observed. No fungal fruiting bodies were evident on Tree 4. Tree 4 is a deciduous species and had commenced autumnal leaf drop therefore deadwood or dieback cannot be confirmed. Tree 4 has 3 main leaders at approx. 500mm from ground level with included bark at the junction. Decay from a previous pruning site is migrating into the leader junction.
- 3.6 All trees requiring assessment with respects to the impact of the proposed development to said trees are the focus of this report.

4 Impacts of Proposed Development Works

- 4.1 Tree 1 is located adjacent to the alignment of the proposed footpath and carpark entry. There is a 59% encroachment into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). Any encroachment above 10% is classified as major under the conditions of AS4970-2009, the impact of this encroachment is considered minor and cannot be managed during construction works. There is a 33% encroachment into the Structural Root Zone of Tree 1.
- 4.2 Tree 2 is located within the alignment of the proposed road and as such cannot be retained.
- 4.3 Tree 3 is located adjacent to the alignment of the proposed footpath, road and carpark. There is a 38% encroachment into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). Any encroachment above 10% is classified as major under the conditions of AS4970-2009, the impact of this encroachment is considered minor and can be managed during construction works. There is an 8% encroachment into the Structural Root Zone of Tree 3 by footpath and road.
- 4.4 Tree 4 is located within the council verge. There is a 4% encroachment into the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). Any encroachment below 10% is classified as minor under the conditions of AS4970-2009, therefore, the impact of this encroachment is considered minor and typically can be managed onsite. The SRZ is free from proposed works.

5 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 5.1 Trees 1 will be significantly impacted by the proposed works with encroachments unable to be managed, therefore Tree 1 cannot be retained.
- 5.2 Tree 2 lies within the development footprint for the proposed cul-de-sac; therefore Tree 2 cannot be retained.
- 5.3 The proposed encroachment to Tree 3 is minor, and as such can be managed onsite.
- 5.4 The proposed encroachment to the Tree Protection Zone of Tree 4 is considered major however, these encroachments can be managed during construction works.
- 5.5 The proposed encroachment to the Structural Root Zone of Tree 4 is considered major. Non-Destructive Root Investigation works will need to be undertaken to ascertain location of roots prior to any excavation works. Roots up to 40mm in diameter are to be pruned by supervising arborist, an assessment at the time of the root investigation works may result in a recommendation to remove Tree 4.
- 5.6 Trees 3 and 4 are to be protected throughout the lifetime of the project.
- 5.7 Any excavation into the tree protection zone of Trees 3 and 4 must be done under the supervision of the project arborist.

- 5.8 No stockpiling is to occur within the protection zone.

6 Site Specific Tree Protection Requirements

- 6.1 Prior to the commencement of any construction works a project arborist is to be appointed. The project arborist is to advise on, monitor, inspect and ensure compliance where trees are retained within and where required adjacent to the site. Any work within a designated tree protection zone requires authorisation from the project arborist.
- 6.2 Prior to construction works, identified tree removals are to be undertaken. The removal of trees 1 and 2 is to be undertaken by suitably qualified tree workers (minimum AQF level 3 or equivalent) and in accordance with Safe Work Australia's Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Works. All appropriate approvals and consents are to be obtained prior to tree removal works commencing.
- 6.3 It is understood that the ability to establish a tree protection zone, to its fullest extent, may be difficult and impractical due to physical site restrictions and the need for a workable area. It is recommended that the protection measures are established under consultation between the property owner, construction contractor and project arborist. Tree protection measures may be altered and adjusted under guidance of the project arborist as construction works progress. Where encroachments through or over a tree protection zone are required appropriate ground protection measures are to be implemented.
- 6.4 Trees 3 and 4 are to be protected through the installation of 1.8m chain wire mesh fencing at the outer extent, where possible, of the TPZ or with protective trunk battens. It is recommended that timber battens with the dimensions of length 2000mm, width 75mm and depth 30mm are used. The battens are not to be directly screwed or nailed into the tree.
- 6.5 The health and condition of trees retained on the site is to be monitored throughout the duration of construction works by the project arborist. It is recommended that monthly visits are undertaken by the project arborist. All visits are to be documented by the project arborist with a copy of any reporting provided to the construction contractor.
- 6.6 Any discernible change in the characteristics of any retained tree throughout the construction period is to be referred to the project arborist and an inspection undertaken. These changes can include, but are not limited to:
- A change in foliage colour and or density
 - Dieback or death of branches or areas of the tree canopy
 - Occurrence of branch failure
 - Infestation by pest species

6.2 The project arborist

- 6.2.1 A project arborist shall be engaged prior to any works commencing on the site. The project arborist shall have a minimum qualification of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 5 in Arboriculture.
- 6.2.2 The project arborist is to advise on, monitor, inspect and ensure compliance where trees are retained within and where required adjacent to the development site.
- 6.2.3 Any work within a designated tree protection zone requires authorisation from the project arborist.

6.3 Site Personnel

- 6.3.1 It is the principal contractor's responsibility to ensure that all site personnel, including contractors, are to be made aware of the relevant tree protection requirements and the role of tree protection zones on the site.
- 6.3.2 It is the principal contractor's responsibility to be aware of the development conditions relating to trees retained on the site and provide a program of works to the project arborist prior to works commencing.

6.4 Tree and vegetation removal and pruning

- 6.4.1 Trees and vegetation approved for removal by the relevant consent authority shall be undertaken prior to any other works commencing on site, including the establishment of tree protection zones.
- 6.4.2 All tree removal works are to be undertaken by suitably qualified tree workers (minimum AQF level 3) and in accordance with Safe Work Australia's Guide to Managing Risks of Tree Trimming and Removal Works.

All appropriate approvals and consents are to be obtained prior to tree and vegetation removal works commencing.
- 6.5.3 All tree pruning works are to be undertaken in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees. Page 8 of 18
- 6.6.4 All care shall be taken to avoid damaging trees identified for retention during removal and pruning works.

6.5 Root Pruning

- 6.5.1 Root pruning is only to be undertaken when approved by the project arborist.
- 6.5.2 All tree pruning works are to be undertaken in accordance with Section 9 of the Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- 6.5.3 All root pruning cuts are to be made using sharp clean tools such as secateurs, pruners or handsaws, into clean woody tissue perpendicular to the direction of root growth.

- 6.5.4 It should be understood that the effects of root pruning are not always predictable and can result in a decline in tree health and/or condition.

6.6 The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

- 6.6.1 The tree protection zone is the designated area around a tree to protect the trunk, roots and crown during development works. It should be noted that the establishment of tree protection zones to their fullest extent may not be possible due to environmental or site constraints. Where this occurs, their establishment is to be undertaken under the guidance of the project arborist.
- 6.6.2 Tree protection fencing is to be installed in compliance with Section 4 of the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites. 3.5.3 The following activities unless otherwise authorised by the project arborist are restricted within the tree protection zone:
- Machine excavation including trenching
 - Excavation for silt/sediment fencing
 - Cultivation
 - Storage of materials or stockpiling of soil/spoil
 - Parking and/or operation of plant machinery
 - Preparation of chemicals, including preparation of cement products
 - The parking of vehicle and/or plant
 - Refuelling
 - Dumping of waste
 - Washing down and cleaning of equipment
 - Placement of fill
 - Lighting of fires
 - Soil level changes
 - Temporary or permanent installation of utilities and signs
 - Physical damage to the trees

Any work within a designated tree protection zone requires authorisation from the project arborist.

6.7 Tree protection fencing

- 6.7.1 Tree protection fencing is to be installed at the limits of the TPZ or as determined by the project arborist. Fencing shall consist of 1.8m high interlocking chain link or plywood fencing panels. The fencing shall be erected in such a way as to prevent building materials, soil and unauthorised personnel entering the TPZ.

6.7.2 Further details regarding tree erection of tree protection fencing can be found as Appendix 3.

6.8 Signage

6.8.1 Signs identifying the TPZ shall be attached to the tree protection fencing and clearly visible from within the development site. The contact details of either the site manager or project arborist shall be displayed on the sign.

6.9 Ground protection

6.9.1 Where temporary access or encroachment into or through a TPZ is required ground protection measures are to be implemented. The purpose of ground protection measures is to avoid damage to tree roots and compaction of the soils within the TPZ.

6.9.2 Ground protection generally consists of 100mm deep layer of mulch overlaid with rumble boards or road plates (light traffic <3t). Where heavy traffic (>3t) through or over the TPZ is required, the existing ground is to be protected by a geo-textile fabric covered with a 300mm layer of compacted road base or railway ballast.

6.9.3 Further details regarding tree erection of tree protection fencing can be found as Appendix 3.

6.10 Excavation within the TPZ

6.10.1 Excavations within the TPZ may only be undertaken under the supervision and authorisation of the site arborist.

6.10.2 All excavation within the tree protection zone must be carried out carefully using spades, forks, and trowels, taking care not to damage the bark and wood of any roots. Specialist tools for removing soil around roots using compressed air may be an appropriate alternative to hand digging. All soil removal must be undertaken with care to minimise disturbance of roots beyond the immediate area of the excavation. Where possible, flexible clumps of smaller roots, including fibrous roots, should be retained if they can be displaced temporarily or permanently beyond the excavation without damage. If digging by hand, a fork should be used to loosen the soil and help locate any substantial roots. Once roots have been located, the trowel should be used to clear the soil away from them without damaging the bark.

6.10.3 Roots temporarily exposed must be protected from direct sunlight, drying out and extremes of temperature by a 10mm thick wrapping of jute or hessian matting.

6.10.4 Excavations within a TPZ are to be restricted to the footprint of any proposed structure. Battering, benching and over excavation is to be avoided.

- 6.10.5 Bulk excavation within a TPZ may only be undertaken when all associated root issues have been addressed by the project arborist.

6.11 Demolition of structures and surfaces within the TPZ

- 6.11.1 The demolition of existing structures and surfaces within the TPZ is to be supervised by the project arborist.
- 6.11.2 Where possible existing structures are to be dismantled manually using hand tools. Demolition works should start closest to the tree and work backwards moving out of the TPZ avoiding damage or compaction to the soil. Heavy machinery such as excavators should not be used within the TPZ unless they can be positioned on and work from existing hard surfaces such as concrete slabs.
- 6.11.3 Tree roots exposed by the demolition of existing site structures are to be kept in place and advice sought from the project arborist.

6.12 Trunk and branch protection

- 6.12.1 Where necessary trunk protection may be required. Trunk protection is installed by first wrapping the stem of the tree in hessian or like material then strapping timber battens over the top. It is recommended that timber battens with the dimensions of length 2000mm, width 75mm and depth 50mm are used. The battens are not to be directly screwed or nailed into the tree.
- 6.12.2 Where necessary branch protection may be required. Branch protection is installed in the same fashion as the trunk protection mentioned above but cut to suit the shape of the branch. Refer diagram point 3.8.
- 6.12.3 Further details regarding tree erection of tree protection fencing can be found as Appendix 3.

6.13 Scaffolding

- 6.13.1 Where possible scaffolding shall not be erected or installed within the TPZ nor come into contact with any part of a tree scheduled for retention and protection.
- 6.13.2 Where scaffolding is required within the TPZ suitable ground protection measures are to be implemented. Flexible branches shall be temporarily tied back to avoid the need for unnecessary pruning or potential tree damage.
- 6.13.3 Further details regarding the erection of scaffolding within the TPZ can be found as Appendix 4.

6.14 Damage to Trees

- 6.14.1 Damage to any part of the tree including roots, bark, trunk, branches and leaf material shall be avoided.
- 6.14.2 Damage to trees may also be incurred by contamination of the TPZ through chemical, paint or cement wash out.
- 6.14.3 The ripping and tearing of roots by excavators or shovels will cause damage and potentially impact tree health. Where roots are accidentally damaged during the works they are to be exposed back to intact woody tissue and pruned in accordance with the arborist's recommendations.
- 6.14.4 Any damage to any part of a retained tree is to be reported to the project arborist immediately.

6.15 Soft landscaping within the TPZ

- 6.15.1 Soft landscaping works are regarded as the installation of plants or organic ground covers (mulch). New tree plantings requiring excavation should refer to section 2.9.
Excavation within the TPZ. Hard landscaping features such as retaining walls, edging and footpaths are regarded as construction works and require assessment from the project arborist prior to construction.
- 6.15.2 Where fill is required for planting it is to be of an approved courser grade than the site soils and allow for free gaseous and water exchange into the natural soil profile.

6.16 Utilities and services within the TPZ

- 6.16.1 Where possible the installation of utilities and services are to be kept out of the TPZ.
- 6.16.2 Where this is not deemed possible trenchless or underground boring techniques are to be employed. Underground boring should be no less than 600mm below the existing soil level.
- 6.16.3 Suspension of service wires through the TPZ should be kept clear of the trees canopy and regulatory safety clearances observed.

Appendix 1:

	Tree name		Tree dimensions			Vigour Low, Normal, Excellent	Condition Poor, Fair, Good	Age class Young, Mature, Old, Dead	SULE category	Landscape Significance	TPZ radius (m)	SRZ radius (m)	Retention Value	Remove Retain	Comments
	Botanical name	Common name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	D.B.H. (mm)										
1	<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>	Willow gum	20 - 25	7 x 7	1020	N	F	M	M	M	12.24	3.38	M	Remove	Main trunk at ~ 1.6 – 2m above ground level. Observed active hollow om 1 st order limb with a northern aspect ~300mm Ø. Approx. 5% deadwood. No dieback observed. No evidence of fungal bodies present.
2	<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>	Willow gum	20 - 25	7 x 8	1390	N	F	M	M	M	15	3.61	M	Remove	Bracket fungus on Nth first order branch which contains a hollow. Southern vertical main leader observed active hollow. Deadwood 10%, dieback ≤10%.
3	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Swamp mahogany	10-15	6 x 6	800	N	G	M	M	H	9.6	3.14	M	Retain	First order branch with an eastern aspect at 400mm above ground level. Low branching canopy spread with 5 first order branches beneath 2m. No dieback or dead wood observed. No evidence of fungal fruiting bodies.
4	<i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>	Honey locust	5 - 10	4 x 4	300, 320, 380	N	G	M	M	M	2	1.5	M	Retain	Three leaders with included bark at junction. Decay descending into southern leader from previous pruning point. Regular previous past pruning points. No dieback or deadwood evident however tree is deciduous and had began leaf drop.

Appendix 2 Draft Development Design Showing Tree Protection Zones and Structural Root Zones

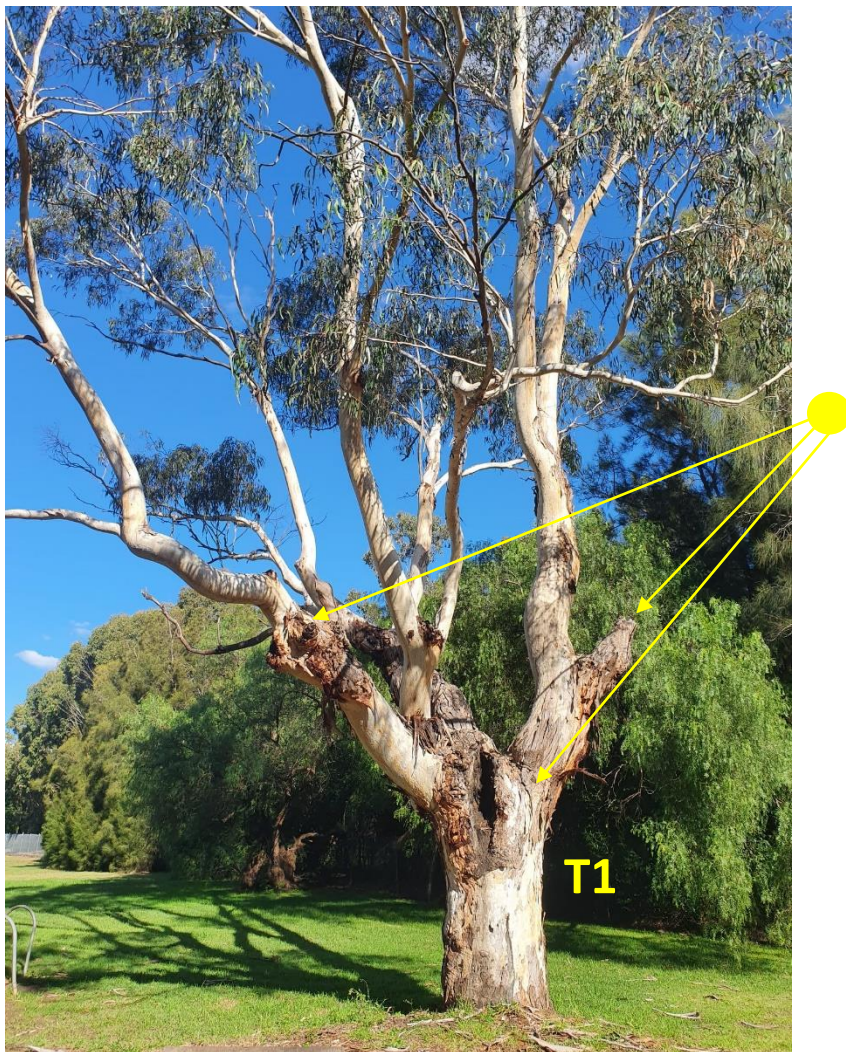


Appendix 2: Tree location plan	Extract from Architectural package - DA Comined Set Issue plan DA -011 V 16 Indicative protection zones shown in green have been calculated as per AS4970 scaled and plotted. Red dashed circle indicates Structural Root Zone. TPZ encroachments into T1 – 59%. SRZ encroachments into T1 -33%. Tree 2 is in the alignment of the proposed road. TPZ encroachments into T3 – 38%. SRZ encroachments into T3 -8% and TPZ encroachments into T4 – 4%. SRZ is clear of works.	LEGEND: <div><div>T1</div><div>Tree identification number</div><div>Tree protection zone</div></div>
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Appendix 4: Site Photographs



Image 1: Trees 1 to be removed for driveway access to site, Tree 2 to be removed to accommodate cul-de-sac. Trees 3 and 4 to be removed.



Hollows were observed to be active - by unknown avian species during time of inspection.

Image 2: Tree 1 to be removed, note hollows on both main trunk and 1st order limbs.



Image 3: Tree 2 located in development footprint for proposed cul-de-sac.

Appendix 5 Tree assessment criteria

Tree number: Identifying number given to individual (or group) trees.

Botanical Name: Latin name for tree showing genus and species.

Common Name: The common name given to the tree.

Tree Dimensions: The physical dimensions of the tree.

- **Height:** Estimated or measured height of tree in meters.
- **Spread:** Estimated or measured radial canopy spread of tree in meters.
- **Diameter at Breast Height (DBH):** The diameter of trunk in given in millimetres measured at 1.4m from ground. The D.B.H of trees/shrubs with multiple or groups of stems are given as a range or defined by the number of stems defined by the preceding smaller text. DBH is estimated where full access to the tree is restricted.

Age Class: An estimation of how old the tree is in relation to its life expectancy.

- **Young** – Age less than 20% of life expectancy of tree in situ
- **Mature** – Age 20% - 80% of life expectancy of tree in situ
- **Old** – Age greater than 80% of life expectancy of tree in situ
- **Dead** – Tree is dead

Vigour: Ability of a tree to sustain its life processes. This is independent of the condition of a tree but may impact upon it. Vigour can appear to alter rapidly with change of seasons (seasonality) e.g., dormant, deciduous or semi-deciduous trees. Vigour can be categorised as Dormant, Low, Normal and High.

Dormant Vigour – Determined by the existing turgidity in the lower order branches in the outer extremity of the crown, with good bud set and formation, and where the last extension growth is distinct from those most recently preceding it, evident by bud scale scars. Normal vigour during dormancy is achieved when such growth is evident on a majority of branches throughout the crown.

Low Vigour – Reduced ability of a tree to sustain its life processes. This may be evident by the atypical growth of leaves, reduced crown cover and reduced crown density, branches, roots and trunk, and a deterioration of their functions with reduced resistance to predation. This is independent of the condition of a tree but may impact upon it, and especially the ability of a tree to sustain itself against predation.

Normal Vigour – Ability of a tree to maintain and sustain its life processes. This may be evident by the typical growth of leaves, crown cover and crown density, branches, roots and trunk and resistance to predation. This is independent of the condition of a tree but may impact upon it, and especially the ability of a tree to sustain itself against predation.

High Vigour – Accelerated growth of a tree due to incidental or deliberate artificial changes to its growing environment that are seemingly beneficial, but may result in premature aging or failure if the favourable conditions cease, or promote prolonged senescence if the favourable conditions remain, e.g. water from a leaking pipe, water and nutrients from a leaking or disrupted sewer pipe, nutrients from animal waste, a tree growing next to a chicken coop, or a stock feed lot, or a regularly used stockyard, a tree subject to stringent watering and fertilisation program, or some trees may achieve an extended lifespan from continuous pollarding practices over the life of the tree.

Condition: A tree's crown form and growth habit, as modified by its environment (aspect, suppression by other trees, soils) the stability and viability of the root plate, trunk and structural branches (first (1st) and possibly (2nd) order branches), including structural defects such as wounds, cavities or hollows, crooked

trunk or weak trunk/branch junctions and the effects of predation by pests and diseases. These may not be directly connected with vigour and it is possible for a tree to be of normal vigour but in poor condition. Condition can be categorised as Dead, Poor, Fair and Good.

Dead Condition – Tree is no longer capable of performing any of the following processes or is exhibiting any of the following symptoms; Photosynthesis via its foliage crown (as indicated by the presence of moist, green or other coloured leaves), Osmosis (the ability of the roots system to take up water), Turgidity (the ability of the plant to sustain moisture pressure in its cells), Epicormic shoots or epicormic strands in Eucalypts (the production of new shoots as a response to stress, generated from latent or adventitious buds or from a lignotuber), Permanent leaf loss, Permanent leaf wilting (the loss of turgidity which is marked by desiccation of stems leaves and roots), Abscission of the epidermis (bark desiccates and peels off to the beginning of the sap wood).

Poor Condition - Tree is of good habit or misshapen, a form that may be severely restricted for space and light, exhibits symptoms of advanced and irreversible decline such as fungal, or bacterial infestation, major die-back in the branch and foliage crown, structural deterioration from insect damage e.g. termite infestation, or storm damage or lightning strike, ring barking from borer activity in the trunk, root damage or instability of the tree, or damage from physical wounding impacts or abrasion, or from altered local environmental conditions and has been unable to adapt to such changes and may decline further to death regardless of remedial works or other modifications to the local environment that would normally be sufficient to provide for its basic survival if in good to fair condition. Deterioration physically, often characterised by a gradual and continuous reduction in vigour but may be independent of a change in vigour, but characterised by a proportionate increase in susceptibility to, and predation by pests and diseases against which the tree cannot be sustained. Such conditions may also be evident in trees of advanced senescence due to normal phenological processes, without modifications to the growing environment or physical damage having been inflicted upon the tree. This may be independent from or contributed to by vigour.

Fair Condition - Tree is of good habit or misshapen, a form not severely restricted for space and light, has some physical indication of decline due to the early effects of predation by pests and diseases, fungal, bacterial, or insect infestation, or has suffered physical injury to itself that may be contributing to instability or structural weaknesses, or is faltering due to the modification of the environment essential for its basic survival. Such a tree may recover with remedial works where appropriate, or without intervention may stabilise or improve over time, or in response to the implementation of beneficial changes to its local environment. This may be independent from or contributed to by vigour.

Good Condition - Tree is of good habit, with crown form not severely restricted for space and light, physically free from the adverse effects of predation by pests and diseases, obvious instability or structural weaknesses, fungal, bacterial or insect infestation and is expected to continue to live in much the same condition as at the time of inspection provided conditions around it for its basic survival do not alter greatly. This may be independent from or contributed to by vigour.

Estimated Age – The estimated age of each tree has been assessed based on its species, size, location, health and condition. Age ranges are given as less than fifteen years (<15), fifteen to forty years (15-40), forty to eighty (40-80) and eighty plus (80+). Where possible historical imagery has been used to classify tree age.

Safe Useful Life Expectancy – Refer Attachment 5

Comments: Any noteworthy or significant points regarding the tree.

Appendix 6: Safe Useful Life Expectancy description and categories

Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE)

SULE is the length of time that the arboriculturist assesses an individual tree can be retained with an acceptable level of risk based on the information available at the time of inspection. It is a snapshot in time of the potential an individual tree has for survival in the eyes of the assessor. SULE is not static – it is closely related to tree health and the surrounding conditions. Alterations in these variables may result in changes to the SULE assessment. Consequently, the reliability all SULE assessments have will decrease as time passes from the initial assessment and the potential for changes in variables increases.

SULE Assessment Categories

Long SULE (L): Trees that appear to be retainable at the time of the assessment for more than 40 years with an acceptable level of risk.

Medium SULE (M): Trees that appear to be retainable at the time of the assessment for 15-40 years with an acceptable level of risk.

Short SULE (S): Trees that appear to be retainable at the time of the assessment for 5-15 years with an acceptable level of risk.

Remove (R): Trees that should be removed within the next 5 years.

Young or Small Trees (Y): Trees that can be reliably moved or replaced.

Appendix 7: Tree Significance Assessment Criteria and Retention Value Matrix

IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System (STARS)® (IACA 2010)®

In the development of this document IACA acknowledges the contribution and original concept of the Footprint Green Tree Significance & Retention Value Matrix, developed by Footprint Green Pty Ltd in June 2010.

The landscape significance of a tree is an essential criterion to establish the importance that a particular tree may have on a site. However, rating the significance of a tree becomes subjective and difficult to ascertain in a consistent and repetitive fashion due to assessor bias. It is therefore necessary to have a rating system utilising structured quantitative criteria to assist in determining the retention value for a tree. To assist this process all definitions for terms used in the *Tree Significance – Assessment Criteria* and *Tree Retention Value – Priority Matrix*, are taken from the IACA Dictionary for Managing Trees in Urban Environments 2009.

This rating system will assist in the planning processes for proposed works, above and below ground where trees are to be retained on or adjacent a development site. The system uses a scale of High, Medium and Low significance in the landscape. Once the landscape significance of an individual tree has been defined, the retention value can be determined.

Tree Significance – Assessment Criteria

1. High significance in landscape

- The tree is in good condition and good vigour
- 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 council's 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 vigour
- 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 vigour
- The tree has form atypical of the species

- The tree is not visible or is partly visible from the 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 dimensions 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, 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 the 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 in 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 monoculture stand in its entirety e.g. hedge.

References

Australia ICOMOS Inc. 1999, The Burra Charter – The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, International Council of Monuments and Sites, www.icomos.org/australia

Draper BD and Richards PA 2009, Dictionary For Managing Trees in Urban Environments, Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists (IACA), CSIRO Publishing, Collingwood Victoria, Australia.

Footprint Green Pty Ltd 2001, Footprint Green Tree Significance & Retention Value Matrix, Avalon, NSW Australia, www.footprintgreen.com.au

Appendix 8: General guidance notes for protecting trees on development sites

1.0 Purpose of this guidance note

- 1.1 This guidance note details the basic general requirements that must be followed when trees are retained on and in some cases adjacent to development sites. The tree protection requirements are determined by the tree species, the existing physical constraints of the growing environment both above and below ground and the development proposal itself.
- 1.2 This guidance note should always be used in conjunction with the tree assessment information specific for the particular site.
- 1.3 The aim of this guidance note is to provide site personnel with a basic understanding of the requirements needed to successfully protect and maintain trees whilst development works are undertaken. All personnel working adjacent to or within tree protection zones must be properly briefed about their responsibilities towards the trees and their retention.
- 1.4 This guidance note is based on the Australian Standard AS4970 – 2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* and AS 4373 – 2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*.

2.0 Site Personnel

- 2.1 All site personnel including contractors are to be made aware of the relevant tree protection requirements and the role of tree protection zones on the site.

3.0 The project arborist

- 3.1 A project arborist shall be engaged prior to any works commencing on the site. The project arborist shall have a minimum qualification of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level 5 in Arboriculture.
- 3.2 The project arborist is to advise on, monitor, inspect and ensure compliance where trees are retained within and where required adjacent to the development site.
- 3.3 Any work within a designated tree protection zone requires authorisation from the project arborist.

4.0 Tree and vegetation removal and pruning

- 4.1 Trees and vegetation approved for removal by the relevant consent authority shall be undertaken prior to any other works commencing on site, including the establishment of tree protection zones.
- 4.2 All tree removal works are to be undertaken by suitably qualified tree workers (minimum AQF level 2) and in accordance with the NSW Workcover Code of Practice for the Amenity Tree Industry 1998.
- 4.3 In addition, all tree pruning works (including roots) are to be undertaken in accordance with the Australian Standard AS4373-2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*.
- 4.4 All care shall be taken to avoid damaging trees identified for retention during removal and pruning works.

5.0 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

- 5.1 The tree protection zone is the designated area around a tree to protect the trunk, roots and crown during development works.
- 5.2 Tree protection fencing is to be installed in compliance with Section 4 of the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.
- 5.3 The following activities unless otherwise authorised by the project arborist are restricted within the tree protection zone:
 - Machine excavation including trenching
 - Excavation for silt/sediment fencing
 - Cultivation
 - Storage
 - Preparation of chemicals, including preparation of cement products

- The parking of vehicle and/or plant
- Refuelling
- Dumping of waste
- Washing down and cleaning of equipment
- Placement of fill
- Lighting of fires
- Soil level changes
- Temporary or permanent installation of utilities and signs
- Physical damage to the trees

5.4 Any work within a designated tree protection zone requires authorisation from the project arborist.

6.0 Signage

6.1 Signs identifying the TPZ shall be attached to the tree protection fencing and clearly visible from within the development site. The contact details of either the site manager or project arborist shall be displayed on the sign.

6.2 Further reference to the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* should be made regarding signage.

7.0 Tree protection fencing

7.1 Tree protection fencing is to be installed at the limits of the TPZ or as determined by the project arborist. Fencing shall consist of 1.8m high interlocking chain link or plywood fencing panels. The fencing shall be erected in such a way as to prevent building materials, soil and unauthorised personnel entering the TPZ.

8.0 Trunk and branch protection

8.1 Where necessary trunk protection may be required. Trunk protection is installed by first wrapping the stem of the tree in hessian or like material then strapping timber battens over the top. It is recommended that timber battens with the dimensions of length 2000mm, width 75mm and depth 50mm are used. The battens are not to be directly screwed or nailed into the tree.

8.2 Where necessary branch protection may be required. Branch protection is installed in the same fashion as the trunk protection mentioned above but cut to suit the shape of the branch.

8.3 Reference to Section 4.5.2 of the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* should be made for further details.

9.0 Ground protection

9.1 Where temporary access or encroachment into the TPZ is required ground protection measures are to be implemented. The purpose of ground protection measures is to avoid damage to tree roots and compaction of the soils within the TPZ.

9.2 Ground protection generally consists of 100mm deep layer of mulch overlaid with rumble boards or road plates (light traffic). Where heavy traffic through or over the TPZ is required the existing ground is to be protected by a geo-textile fabric covered with a 300mm layer of compacted road base or railway ballast.

9.3 Reference to Section 4.5.3 of the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* should be made for further details.

10.0 Excavation within the TPZ

10.1 Excavations within the TPZ may only be undertaken under the supervision and authorisation of the site arborist.

- 10.2 All excavation within the tree protection zone must be carried out carefully using spades, forks, and trowels, taking care not to damage the bark and wood of any roots. Specialist tools for removing soil around roots using compressed air may be an appropriate alternative to hand digging, if available. All soil removal must be undertaken with care to minimise disturbance of roots beyond the immediate area of the excavation. Where possible, flexible clumps of smaller roots, including fibrous roots, should be retained if they can be displaced temporarily or permanently beyond the excavation without damage. If digging by hand, a fork should be used to loosen the soil and help located any substantial roots. Once roots have been located, the trowel should be used to clear the soil away from them without damaging the bark.
- 10.3 Roots temporarily exposed must be protected from direct sunlight, drying out and extremes of temperature by appropriate covering.

11.0 Fill within the TPZ

- 11.1 Where possible soil levels are not to be raised within the TPZ. Retaining walls and alternate engineering solutions are to be considered to avoid over battering and encroachment into the TPZ.
- 11.2 Where fill is required within the TPZ it is to be of an approved courser material than the existing site soil and allow for free gaseous and water exchange into the natural soil profile.

12.0 Pier and beam footings within the TPZ

- 12.1 Where footings are required within the TPZ they are to be of pier and beam type construction. Excavation shall be restricted to pier/post holes only. All other footing and foundation parts shall be constructed and installed above the existing ground level.
- 12.2 Pier locations within the TPZ are to be excavated using non-destructive techniques and where possible to their full extent. Where this is not achievable a minimum depth of 600mm shall be excavated. Any further excavation that is then to be undertaken mechanically is to be of a diameter less than that excavated by hand whilst avoiding compaction of the soils within the TPZ.
- 12.3 A degree of flexibility should be built into the design to allow for the pier locations to be moved if structural or significant roots are found. A minimum clearance distance of 100mm shall be allowed around significant roots.

13.0 Scaffolding

- 13.1 Where possible scaffolding shall not be erected or installed within the TPZ nor come into contact with any part of a tree scheduled for retention and protection.
- 13.2 Where scaffolding is required within the TPZ suitable ground protection measures are to be implemented. Flexible branches shall be temporarily tied back to avoid the need for unnecessary pruning or potential tree damage.
- 13.3 Further reference to section 4.5.6 of the Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* should be made for further details.

14.0 Damage to Trees

- 14.1 Damage to any part of the tree including roots, bark, trunk, branches and leaf material shall be avoided.
- 14.2 Damage to trees may also be incurred by contamination of the TPZ through chemical, paint or cement wash out.
- 14.3 The ripping and tearing of roots by excavators or shovels will cause damage and potentially impact tree health. Where roots are accidentally damaged during the works they are to be exposed back to intact woody tissue and pruned in accordance with the arborist's recommendations.
- 14.4 Any damage to any part of a retained tree is to be reported to the project arborist immediately.

15.0 Demolition of structures and surfaces within the TPZ

- 15.1 The demolition of existing structures and surfaces within the TPZ is to be supervised by the project arborist.

- 15.2 Where possible existing structures are to be dismantled manually using hand tools. Demolition works should start closest to the tree and work backwards moving out of the TPZ avoiding damage or compaction to the soil. Heavy machinery such as excavators should not be used within the TPZ unless they can be positioned on and work from existing hard surfaces such as concrete slabs.
- 15.3 Tree roots exposed by the demolition of existing site structures are to be kept in place and advice sought from the project arborist.

16.0 Soft landscaping within the TPZ

- 16.1 Soft landscaping works are regarded as the installation of plants or organic ground covers (mulch). New tree plantings requiring excavation should refer to section 10.0 *Excavation within the TPZ*. Hard landscaping features such as retaining walls, edging and footpaths are regarded as construction works.
- 16.2 Where possible trees to be retained shall be incorporated into the landscape design.
- 16.3 Where fill is required for planting it is to be of an approved courser grade than the site soils and comply with section 11.2.

17.0 Utilities and services within the TPZ

- 17.1 Where possible the installation of utilities and services are to be kept out of the TPZ.
- 17.2 Where this is not deemed possible trenchless or underground boring techniques are to be employed. Underground boring should be no less than 600mm below the existing soil level.
- 17.3 Suspension of service wires through the TPZ should be kept clear of the trees canopy and regulatory safety clearances observed.