

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

WINIM Developments Pty Ltd  
**Attn: Jessica Duce**  
Suite 214, 40 Yeo Street  
Neutral Bay  
NSW 2089

**RE: Westmead Catholic Education Campus – Masterplan**

**Department of Planning, Industry and Environment – Request for Additional Information**

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This document was prepared for WINIM in relation to the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the Westmead Catholic Community (WCC) at 2 Darcy Road, Westmead. It is understood that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) have requested additional information in relation to the proposed removal of several trees along the Darcy Road frontage.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment & Tree Protection Specification (Rev C, dated 25.02.2020) identified that twenty-one (21) trees (Trees 193-213) would need to be removed within the vicinity of the Darcy Road frontage. Three (3) trees (Trees 214-216) were proposed for retention. The trees were proposed for removal due to extensive earthworks including the creation of a batter to facilitate the change in level between the Chapel site and Darcy Road. It is not possible to install this batter and retain the trees.

Based on advice from the architect it is understood that the existing retaining wall presents as a walled entry to the site. A battered frontage was designed to present a more engaging street edge that opens the Parish facilities up to the public realm and presents a more welcome entry. It is understood the State Design Review Panel support *“the orientation of the parish church and the treatment along Darcy Road, which is now open and welcomes pedestrians onto the site.”*

Trees 193-216 are generally a mix of Australian native species including *Corymbia*, *Eucalyptus* and *Casuarina* species which appear as semi-mature specimens in aerial photographs from the site in 2009. Refer to Figure 1. None of the trees are of high or very high Landscape Significance. Of the locally indigenous species within this group, none of the trees are sufficiently large to be remnant specimens, and aerial images of the site from 1943 show the site largely cleared and has since been replanted.

The trees range in good to poor health and structural condition and five (5) trees (Trees 193, 195, 196, 199 and 208) along the frontage have a transient (<5 years) or short (5-15 years) Useful Life Expectancy.

Trees 214, 215 and 216 which are proposed for retention are some of the larger and better-quality trees along the frontage and will not be impacted by the battering works. In addition, an amended Landscape Plan shows Trees 158-161 which are located adjacent to the existing playing courts to be retained.

The proposed landscape treatment includes extensive new tree planting along the Darcy Road frontage with approximately twenty-five (25) new trees proposed in the area. The proposed trees species include both locally indigenous and Australian native species supplied as advanced sized (75-200L) specimens which will have immediate impact in offsetting the loss of canopy from the frontage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if require any additional information or have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Anna Hopwood – Director

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**Figure 1:** Aerial photograph of the site from 2009

