

Newcastle Grammar – Landscape Response to Submissions

Government Architect – SDRP Item 2

2. The proponent should clarify if the location and design of the bush tucker garden have been discussed and developed with the local Aboriginal community. Additionally, please ask them to explain if the bush tucker garden on the rooftop is protected from the sports court with netting?

Response:

An initial site meeting with the local Awabakal Aboriginal stakeholder representative Peter Townsend was held on 03.09.21 where the landscape proposal for the school was discussed. As part of this meeting, we talked about potential planting and integration of species that are of significance to the local Aboriginal community groups and how this could be an important learning opportunity. We were also provided with the following list of plant species by Peter following the meeting.

Plant Species

Canopy and Mid story trees/plants

Eucalyptus robusta - Swamp Mahogany
Melaleuca quinquinervia - Broad leaved paperbark
Melaleuca styphelioides - Prickly leaved paperbark
Melaleuca linariifolia - Narrow leaved paperbark
Acmena smithii - Lilly pily
Glochidial ferdinandi - Cheese tree
Banksia serrata - Oldman banksia
Banksia robur - Swamp banksia
Cupaniopsis - Tuckeroo
Alphitonia excelsa - Red ash

Shrubs and Ground covers

Carex appressa - Tall sedge
Hardenbergia violacea - False sarsaparilla
Hibbertia scandens - Climbing guinea flower
Dianella caruela - Blue flax lilly
Viola hederacea - Native Violet
Solanum aviculare - Kangaroo apple
Blechnum sp - Hard fern
Lomandra longifolia - Spiky mat rush
Gahnia clarkei - Saw sedge
Rubus parvifolius - Native raspberry
Correa alba - White correa
Westringia fruticosa - Coastal rose

Many of these plant species are widely used in commercial landscapes and therefore have been integrated within the proposed plant species list for the school.

We understand these plants not only provided a source of food for the local Aboriginal communities, but also provided a source of materials to produce tools and implements. Given the varied use of these plants within Aboriginal communities we propose to reconsider the bush tucker garden as a broader indigenous trail with integration of the above plant species throughout the landscape spaces of the school. This would include both bush tucker planting as well as other important plant species used for tool making or with important cultural value. This allows plant species with varying growing conditions such as moisture, sun and shade to be planted in different parts of the school depending on their requirements. Informative signage can be integrated within the boardwalk design and other landscape elements to inform staff, students, and visitors of the importance of each species within Aboriginal cultures.

Further discussion around the indigenous trail is to occur with the Aboriginal stakeholder group in future stages of the project to ensure all concerns and ideas are integrated within the ongoing detailed design of the school landscape spaces.

Planting on the rooftop adjacent to the basketball courts will consist of robust and hardy species some of which are included within the plant list above such as *Lomandra tanika*, *Correa alba* and *Westringia fruticosa*, planted within raised planters. These species will tolerate occasional impacts from ball games played by primary school aged children therefore it is not envisaged that specific screening / netting be provided between the planting and the courts.

Government Architect – Advice of EIS Item 4c.

c. Refine the placement of the western boundary trees to reflect a relationship with the proposed stage 1 building. For example, the trees could align or deliberately misalign with the arches and parabolas.

Tree planting of *Banksia serrata* and *Banksia robur* together with understory species are proposed along the western frontage of the school facing Union Street. The intent of their placement deliberately does not reflect the arrangement of the building. Trees have been placed to provide a consistent visual buffer between the undercover play space and Union Street. The Undercroft play and learning spaces partially extend out beyond the roofline of the proposed building. The continuous canopy of the Banksias protects these spaces from harsh western sun along this frontage while offering a level of privacy from Union Street.