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Assessment of vegetation on Site 9, corner of Sarah Durack Avenue and Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park and on adjoining lands

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1.0 Introduction

The vegetation on Site 9 at the corner of Sarah Durack Avenue and Olympic Boulevard, Sydney Olympic Park (the Site) and on the adjoining land (Figure 1) was assessed by Dr AnneMarie Clements and Tony Rodd on 21 June 2007, at the request of Noel Samyia of PTW Architects, Interiors or Planning.

2.0 Vegetation

In preparation for the Olympics in 2000, the entire Olympic Park site was landscaped with Australian native nursery stock.

2.1 Methods

The vegetation of the Site and adjoining land was assessed from nine Spot locations (A to H). All species present were recorded, except for the very few minor weeds present. The vegetation at each of these locations was photographed, as well as additional photographs of adjoining land (see photographic record).

Nomenclature is consistent with Harden (1990-1993, 2002), Harden and Murray (2000) and subsequent taxonomic changes as published in *Telopea*, the Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens' journal of systematic botany, and in other Australian taxonomic literature. The Royal Botanic Gardens' PlantNet website (plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au) incorporating Flora Online is the major source for updated taxonomy.

2.2 Observations

2.2.1 On site

The Site is currently used as a bitumen carpark with wide perimeter plantings adjoining the footpath in Sarah Durack Drive and the street landscaping of Olympic Boulevard. The wide perimeter planting on the Site was recorded in three Spot locations (A, B and D).

At Spot locations A and B (close to Sarah Durack Drive) the tufted perennial native grass *Pennisetum alopecuroides* had been densely planted to cover almost all the ground at a height of approximately 1 m. There were scattered saplings of *Eucalyptus racemosa* (Narrow-leaved Scribbly Gum). There were two saplings approximately 4 and 6 m tall at Spot location A and three saplings approximately 4 m tall at Spot location B. None of the saplings were well shaped nor tall. On the soil surface, there was evidence of bark mulch from the landscaping in 2000.

Approximately mid-way along western boundary (Spot location D), there was a mixed planted grove of *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River Oak) and *C. glauca* (Swamp Oak) up to 10 m in height, over an understorey of planted *Lomanadra longifolia* (Spiky Mat-rush). The *Casuarina* spp. planted naturally occur along rivers, creeks and on swamp land.

None of the plantings on the Site are of significance.

2.2.2 On the adjoining sites

2.2.1 Adjoining the east boundary of the Site

Between the multistorey carpark to the east and the Site, there was a planting bed (Spot location E). In the planting bed the NSW North Coast monocot *Doryanthes palmeri* (Spear Lily) and *Eucalyptus racemosa* from 4 to 6 m in height, had been planted over an understorey of planted *Lomandra longifolia* and *Pennisetum alopecuroides*. The herbaceous weed, *Sonchus oleracea* (Milk Thistle), was present in small patches within the planting bed.

On the Site of the multistory carpark there was an area of mass planting fronting Sarah Durack Avenue (sampled in Spot location G). The species planted included *Corymbia citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum) and *C. maculata* (Spotted Gum) over an understorey of planted *Lomandra longifolia*. The plantings were healthy and most of the trees had relatively straight trunks. There were signs of competition between these over-planted trees.

2.2.2 To the south-east

There is the Sydney Olympic Golf Driving Range. The vegetation on this site consists of mown grass and scattered landscape plantings.

2.2.3 Street landscaping

2.2.3.1 Olympic Boulevard

Araucaria cunninghamii (Hoop Pine) was planted on both sides of Olympic Boulevard (Spot location D) and on the median strip (Spot location D). *Araucaria cunninghamii* grows to a large tree up to 50m tall in ideal conditions. It naturally occurs north from Macleay River in NSW to northern Queensland and New Guinea in most types of rainforest.

The *Araucaria cunninghamii* have been planted approximately 5 m apart over an understorey consisting of alternating strips of mown *Cyndon dactylon* (Couch) and wood chip. The tree plantings were 10 m to 12 m in height (see photographic record).

2.2.3.2 Sarah Durack Drive

There were no street plantings on the southeastern side of Sarah Durack Drive. In the centre of Sarah Durack Drive (Spot location F) there is a planted row of *Eucalyptus paniculata* (Grey Ironbark) over an understorey of planted *Dianella caerulea* (Blue Flax-lily).

On the northwestern side of Sarah Durack Drive (Spot location H), there is a planted row of *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* (Mugga Ironbark) over an understorey of planted *Pennisetum alopecuroides*.

3.0 Conclusions

There are no flora constraints on the Site, with no major tree plantings on the Site or adjoining Sarah Durack Drive.

4.0 Recommendations

During any construction on Lot 9, Lot 9 should be fenced with all access from Sarah Durack Drive, with no access from Olympic Boulevard.

No major roots of *Araucaria cunninghamii* planted for the 2000 Olympic Games along Olympic Boulevard are likely to have extended onto Site 9. No additional tree protection, other than boundary site fencing, is recommended.