

26 November 2021

Our Ref: R/2019/20/D  
File No: 2021/517328  
Your Ref: SSD-10384-Mod-1

Candice Pon  
Planning Officer  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Via Planning Portal

Dear Candice

**Request for Advice – SSD 10384 MOD 1 – Removal and replacement of 2 trees on Gloucester Walk**

Thank you for your correspondence dated 9 November 2021 inviting the City of Sydney Council (“the City”) to provide comments on the proposed modifications to the approved State Significant Development (SSD) application for the adaptive reuse, alterations and additions to the Sirius building.

The proposed modification seeks consent for the removal of two additional trees known as Trees 50 and 51 located along Gloucester Walk to the east of the development site. The City has reviewed the proposed modification and provides the following comments for your consideration.

**1 Tree Removal**

The City notes that the original applications proposed the retention of the trees with the canopies contributing to the canopy coverage to the site. The Arborist Report provided in the EIS also stated that *“the proposed building works will not be of any disturbance of significance to tree numbers 50 and 51 as the existing masonry wall at the boundary is being retained in situ. There is a proposal to replace the existing paving in these trees’ TPZs/SRZs – any works to replace the existing paving will need to be done with care and at a finished level that allows for protection and retention of the roots under the existing paving.”*

The proposed modification now seeks the removal of Trees 50 and 51 to allow the existing retaining wall and material with the structural root zone (SRZ) of these trees to be removed. Based on the advice contained in the submitted structural engineers report prepared by SCP dated 21 September 2021, it understood that the existing retaining wall and footings do not comply with current standards and would require enlargement to comply.

It is noted that the pad footings for the future SoHo structure and podium above will require the demolition of the existing retaining wall footings, however, the proposed pad footing will be located within the existing building footprint, some distance from the trees. Further, the consulting Arborist has not provided any recommendations that would allow

for the retention of these trees, relying on the belief that that these works are within the theoretical SRZ and that they are affecting nearby paving and piping as justification.

Overall, the removal of these high landscape value trees is not supported by the City and modifications to the proposed design are recommended that would involve typical work methods (i.e. tree sensitive methodologies to retain the existing soil/retaining wall) to allow the trees to be retained.

## 2 Landscaping

Separate to the City's objection to the proposed removal of Trees 50 and 51, the following comments are provided regarding landscaping. The amended Landscape Plans prepared by 360 Degrees dated 29 October 2021 'Revision H' highlights the replacement planting of Trees 50 and 51 as a recent amendment, however, the proposed species has also changed. As an example, an *Ulmus parvifolia* 'Yarralumla' (Chinese Weeping Elm) has been changed to three *Livistona australis* (Cabbage Palm).

Some other tree species have been amended in accordance with previous recommendations, however, it is recommended that a complete detailed and scaled landscape plan, prepared by a qualified landscape architect or landscape designer be submitted for further consideration. The landscape plan should include:

- (i) Details of earthworks and soil depths including mounding and retaining walls and planter boxes (if applicable);
- (ii) Location, numbers, type and supply of plant species, with reference to the relevant Australian Standard;
- (iii) Details of planting procedure and maintenance;
- (iv) Details of drainage, waterproofing and watering systems.

Overall, the City does not support the removal of Trees 50 and 51. The application has not been accompanied by adequate arborist advice discussing alternatives or tree-sensitive design solutions that would result in the retention of the trees and the removal of the retaining wall to accommodate the new development. It is recommended that the design and work methodologies are amended to be tree sensitive and retain Trees 50 and 51. This may include a new retaining wall along the existing retaining wall within the carpark and relocation / redesign of the proposed pad footing for the new podium.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about the above, please contact Marie Burge, Senior Planner, on 9265 9333 or at [mburge@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mburge@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



**Andrew Rees**  
**Area Planning Manager**