

Department of Planning and Environment

Our ref: DOC22/632940
Your ref: SSD-8865-Mod 2

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Infrastructure Assessment
Department of Planning and Environment
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Parramatta NSW 2150

Subject: St Anthony of Padua Catholic School Redevelopment Modification 2, 125-165 Tenth Avenue and 140-170 Eleventh Avenue, Austral (SSD-8865-Mod 2)

Thank you for your e-mail received on 22 July 2022 requesting input from the Environment and Heritage Group (EHG) for the above modification application. The documents submitted with the application have been reviewed and comments are provided below.

Impacts to Cumberland Plain Woodland (CPW) and trees identified for retention

The subject site is biodiversity certified and a remnant patch of CPW comprising seventy-two trees and a stand-alone CPW Tree identified as Tree 496 in the Aborigicultural Impact Assessment Report (AIAR) prepared by Moore Trees dated 26 March 2021 have been identified for retention. The Modification Report (page 24) prepared by URBIS also advises that there will be no further impacts to trees or vegetation because of the proposed modification.

However, the Preliminary Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan (PS&ECP) submitted with Modification 2 (Drawing No. C2.01 Issue 4 prepared by Warren Smith Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd dated 19/05/22) conflicts with the proposed retention of Tree 496. In this regard, it shows that a large sediment basin will be constructed in the area where Tree 496 is located. Further, the PS&ECP shows that a catch drain will be constructed that intersects the area of CPW that has been identified for retention.

EHG therefore recommends that the PS&ECP for the site is amended to:

- relocate the sediment basin away from Tree 496 and its associated tree protection zone (TPZ) so it can in fact be retained, and
- relocate the proposed catch drain so that it is located outside of the area of CPW identified for retention to reduce impacts to retained trees and CPW.

If, however, the catch drain cannot be relocated outside of the area of retained CPW further mitigation measures will be required such as constructing the catch drain by hand under the supervision of a suitability qualified arborist (Diploma in Arboriculture/AQF 5) with experience in the protection of trees on development sites. In addition, any disturbance to CPW should be rehabilitated as part of the landscape plan.

Further to the above, the Preliminary Bulk Earthworks Cut and Fill Plan (PBEC&FP) (Drawing No. C3.02 Issue 5 prepared by Warren Smith Consulting Engineers Pty Ltd dated 23 May 2022) and other plans showing ground levels indicate that anywhere from 0.2m to up to 1m of fill will be placed within the TPZ of Tree 496. In addition, the Concept Proposal Site Plan (Drawing Number AA00004 prepared by

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DWP dated 24 June 2022) advises that the TPZ of Tree 496 will be graded to suit new works. Such a large extent of fill will be detrimental to the health of the tree. It also appears that part of the TPZ of Tree 496 will also be impacted by cut of up to a metre. It is therefore recommended that the existing ground level within the TPZ of Tree 496 is maintained as much as possible or alternatively set at a level that a qualified arborist (Diploma in Arboriculture/AQF 5) considers would not be detrimental to the health of the retained tree. As such it is recommended that the PBEC&FP is amended to reduce impacts on this tree noting it has been identified for retention.

Considering the above identified issues, EHG also recommends that an updated AIAR or an Addendum to the existing AIAR is prepared to assess proposed impacts to retained trees associated with civil works and to identify any additional required mitigation measures to maintain the health of trees identified for retention.

Landscape Plan

The proposed modification will also result in changes to the approved Landscape Plans including relocating proposed plantings to accommodate ramps. It is however, noted that amended Landscape Plans have not been submitted with the modification application to reflect relocated landscaping locations and to demonstrate that there are no changes to the number of trees proposed in the landscape design.

Flooding

In relation to flooding, EHG have reviewed the Modification 2 Report including the attached Flooding Statement and the Updated Flooding Assessment associated with Modification 1 for SSDA 8865. EHG advise that Modification 2 does not change the flooding conditions from Modification 1.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact Angela Taylor, Senior Conservation Planning Officer 9585 6146 or angela.taylor@environment.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Harrison".

04/08/22

Susan Harrison
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Biodiversity and Conservation