

File Ref: EXT/2023/0001

13 January 2022

Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta
NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam,

SSD-10371-Mod 4- Trinity Grammar School

Thank you for providing Council with the opportunity to comment on the proposed modification for the development at Trinity Grammar School

Council has reviewed the submitted information and raises concern regarding not only works proposed, but also the works that have already been undertaken on the site.

In particular concern is raised regarding the impact the proposed extension of the basement would have on the trees on the western boundary of the site. It is considered the incursion of the proposed basement to the structural root zones of the affected trees is not sufficient to mitigate the impact to their viability and health.

In addition, works including storing of materials, scraping and excavation have already occurred within close proximity of the trees approved to be retained (area circled in red). It is unclear whether this work is contrary to any existing conditions of consent. An aerial image taken on 20 November 2022 is included for reference purposes below:





Whilst it is noted that that an Arboricultural Impact Addendum dated 15 November 2022, prepared by Meredith Gibbs of Australis Tree Management has been submitted for review and comment, it appears that the author may not have been to site (work appears to have started between May and August of 2022). In this regard, in order to provide accurate advice, an updated assessment is required.

A visual inspection from the front of the site carried out on 12 January 2023 reveals that there are trees in decline as a result of the works that have already been carried out. I would urge you to request the applicant provide an amended Arboricultural assessment report that reflects the current state of the site, and if there are any trees that have been impacted by the works, that adequate conditions are imposed for the remaining trees to retain their viability and additional conditions are imposed for replacement planting to compensate for the trees that have been damaged and are no longer viable as a result of the works carried out.

Conclusion

Having regard to the above, it appears works have already been carried out to facilitate the excavation of the basement and these works have potentially compromised the existing trees located on the western boundary.

It is considered that further information be requested addressing the identified matters before determining any application for this site.

If you need any further assistance in relation to the above matters, please contact me on 9335 2113 or email ruba.osman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ruba Osman". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ruba Osman
Manager Development Assessment