

15 October 2020

**Karissa Kendall**

Project Director, Infrastructure Delivery, Major Projects  
SINSW  
Level 1, 1 Oxford Street  
Darlinghurst NSW 2010

Dear Karissa

**SSD 9914 - Darlington Public School, Response to Submission  
Landscape Design Interventions to Maximise Tree Retention**

The following is a summary of design interventions to maximise tree retention for the new development at Darlington Public School.

**Tree 12**

To retain Tree 12 a dry creek bed, featuring sandstone boulders and steppers, has been included in the design. This is intended to mimic the existing stepped conditions and soil levels surrounding T12 (which includes existing brick retaining walls and steps. This species has been retained to provide an important reference for the Flora of the Blackwattle Creek riparian zone. The She-Oak is a feature of this community. To mimic the existing levels is a real challenge that has been taken up in the project and, with Arborist supervision, we believe we can create a cove-like dry creek bed that will interpret the original habitat of the She-Oak.

**Tree 18**

Tree 18 is located in, and surrounded by, a mix of garden & built surfaces including steps, brick walls and fences. This tree has been retained by ensuring that minimal changes to soil levels occur in the TPZ. The surrounding concrete and structures will be removed and some tapering of soil and additional soil buildup will occur on the edge of the TPZ to allow the kick-about area to be graded to meet EFSG guidelines and deliver a suitable surface for kick-about games. An amphitheatre of terraced seating steps are included in the design to control the existing stepped surface levels. Where the terraced seats approach the TPZ of Tree 18, pier and beam footings will be explored with the Arborist to minimise impact to tree roots.

**Trees 35-39, 44-46**

To retain this group of mature eucalypts, terrace seats and walls have been designed in the place of existing structures surrounding these trees to minimise excavation and additional impacts to tree health.

The removal of rubber softfall around these trees (and installation of floating deck) was included in the landscape design works to improve soil aeration and moisture conditions and tree health.

It is proposed that work in these areas will be minimised by employing localised piling for the suspended deck. All works are to be undertaken by hand and/or under the supervision of the arborist.

**Trees 12-15**

The existing condition of these trees is a combination of concrete footpaths, walls and fences. The landscape design includes removal of the pavements and increased garden to improve tree health. The following improvements and design solutions are proposed for Trees 12 to 15.

To minimise damage to tree roots, the use of natural play elements is maximised, with minimal introduced play equipment. Where low (300-400mm) walls are required to mitigate existing levels, these have been replaced in the garden beds using sandstone blocks - minimising the need for footings. Nature play elements include recycled tree boughs design be stacked one over the other. Footings for raised balancing beams are minimised with timber

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sleepers to sit on or be bolted to other staggered sleepers. The library deck is located over an area of existing paving with piers to be supervised by the arborist.

## **Proposed New Tree Sizes**

The landscape design for the school includes 36 new trees. A range of tree sizes are proposed and could include several advanced specimens comprising the following mix:

6 x 100L (*Flinersia australis*)

3 x 200L (*Banksia integrifolia*)

1 x 400L (*Magnolia grandiflora*)

The landscape design is committed to the quantity & range of sizes and species, the combination of which is subject to the final planting plan and nursery availability.

Yours sincerely,

**Natalie McEvoy**  
**Senior Landscape Architect**