



# Naturally Trees

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Biodiversity and Ecological Impact Assessments &  
Bushfire Protection Assessment Services**

14 December 2016

Taronga Conservation Society Australia  
Bradleys Head Road  
Mosman NSW 2088

To whom it may concern,

**PRUNING TREE 93:  
Australia Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat  
Bradleys Head Road, Mosman NSW**

This letter has been commissioned by Matthew Spooner, Project Manager, to provide comment on the likely impact caused by pruning of one *Ficus microcarpa* 'Hillii' (Hills Fig) as part of the proposed development of Australia Habitat and Taronga Wildlife Retreat.

The subject tree is identified as Tree 93 and had been included within an earlier Arboricultural Impact Appraisal and Method Statement (report) compiled by Naturally Trees dated 10 March 2016. This letter is to be read in conjunction with this earlier report, which provides preliminary information on dimensions and protection of the subject tree.

The proposal is to construct two accommodation pods near Tree 93. Pod C will be located to the northern side of the canopy and Pod D to the western side. Pod C and Pod D will come within 7.5m and 6.5m respectively from Tree 93.

The canopy is symmetrical and extends approximately 9-10m from the trunk centre.

The construction of Pod C will require minor tip pruning of the northern canopy and will have no impact to the tree. The construction of Pod D, and the associated walkway, will require the pruning of several second order branches.

As trees grow older, less living healthy wood should be removed from the tree. There is no absolute rule for the amount of living wood that can be removed from an older tree (Shigo, 1989). The Australian Standard AS4373:1996 *Pruning of Amenity Trees* states that when pruning a tree, as little as possible should be removed and should be undertaken to maintain the natural habit of the tree (other than specific pruning requirements e.g. remedial pruning, clearance pruning). The International Society of Arboriculture and the American Standard ANSI A300 caution that not more than 25% of the foliage should be removed from a mature tree within a growing season (Harris, Clark & Matheny, 1999; Gilman & Lilly, 2002)

Based on my findings, I estimate between 15% and 20% canopy loss will occur to provide adequate clearances. The tree displays very good vigour and therefore providing the tree is pruned in accordance with AS4373 Australian Standards *Pruning of Amenity Trees*, there should be no adverse impacts to the trees longevity. It is recommended that the pruning be carried out in stages. Therefore, an initial prune is to be carried out prior to commencement of works and a second pruning to occur when Pod C and D are constructed.



For further information regarding the subject tree, please contact Naturally Trees. A photo log is attached to provide further clarification on the extent of pruning.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Scales', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Scales  
Dip. Horticulture / Arboriculture  
Mobile: 0417 250 420



Photo log:



Figure 1: Pruning requirement for Pod C (Spooner 2016).





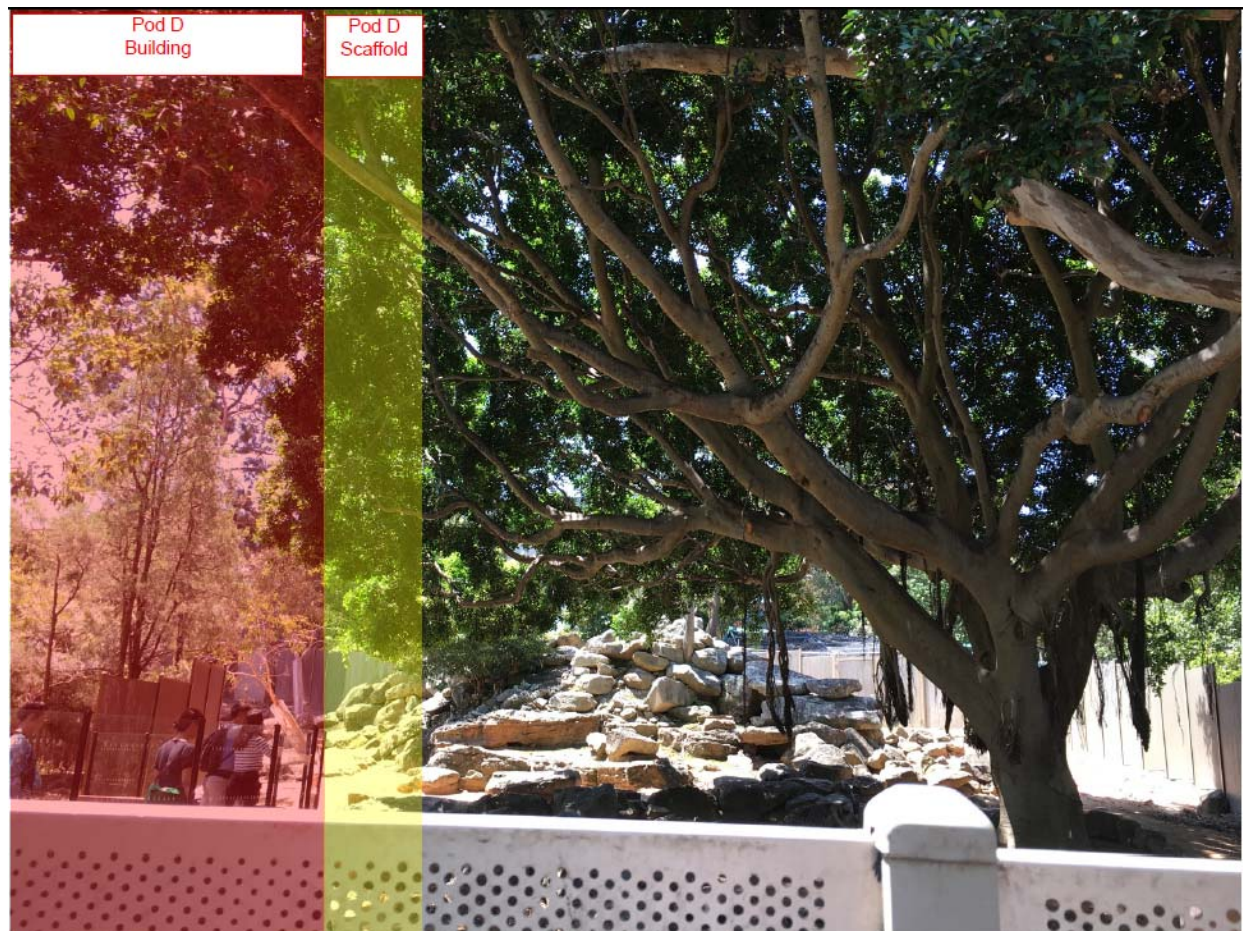


Figure 2: Pruning requirement for Pod D (Spooner 2016).

