

18th March 2020

Attn: Mark Moeller

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The Services Building G12
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RE: Darlington Terraces Project
Comparative Analysis – Trees 11 & 25

This document was prepared for the University of Sydney in relation to the Darlington Terraces Project. It is understood this project includes the construction of new student accommodation and communal landscape spaces. The purpose of this document is to provide the University of Sydney with a comparison of the potential opportunities and constraints in relation to two (2) trees which are located on property which has been designated for future development.

The trees are identified as Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) and Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) within the University's Tree Management Inventory and are located within rear garden areas of the existing terraced houses on Darlington Road within the University's Darlington Campus.

Both Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) and Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) are large, mature specimens which are generally in good health and structural condition. Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is a taller specimen which is located closer to the Darlington Lane site boundary. Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) is a shorter specimen which is located more centrally within the rear garden area. Whilst not highly visible from Darlington Lane, the crown of Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) spreads across the rear garden of three (3) properties. Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) has higher landscape significance based on its height, location and visibility from the street.

Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) has an ascending branch structure and a relatively open crown which is typical of the species. The crown form of Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) has been influenced by the previous lopping of the first order branches just above the point of crown break at approximately 2.5m above grade. The resultant epicormic shoots are now mature and form a dense crown.

The Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) areas calculated in accordance with *Australian Standard 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Site (2009)* is similar for both trees. The use of tree sensitive design and construction methods to minimise the impact of development works on the trees and maximise opportunities for development would be required irrespective of which tree is retained.

Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is located closer to the rear boundary whereas Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) is centrally located within the rear garden. This places a greater percentage of the TPZ of Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) outside of the site boundaries and therefore less setbacks and tree sensitive design within the site will be required.

Crown Lifting/ Reduction Pruning may be required to increase vertical clearance beneath the canopy of the trees for building and construction access. However, it is expected that any impacts on the crown form of Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) would be minimal. Crown Lifting/Reduction Pruning would have a greater impact on the crown form of Tree 25 *Quercus ilex* (Evergreen Oak) due to its short trunk and low spreading crown. Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is likely to require more frequent deadwood removal due to the nature of the species.

In summary, both trees have a high retention value. However, Tree 11 *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is of higher landscape significance and is better positioned with a more suitable crown form in regards to development opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if require any additional information or have any questions.

Yours sincerely



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