

65 Calder Road

DARLINGTON NSW 2008

23 July 2014

RE: REF SSD 6123

Proposed destruction of eucalypt grove at Darlington by  
Sydney University under its Campus Improvement Plan

Dear Mr McManus

As a 30 year resident of Darlington, I am writing to express my concern regarding the university's proposal to remove the grove of Eucalypt (Tallowood) trees. The grove consists of 19 trees plus a well formed hedge which front Shepherd Street between Calder Road, and Boundary Street.

These are to be replaced by a three (possibly four) storey building as raised access is planned on the ground floor.

This small area of garden is the only vestige of greenery left to the residents of Shepherd Street. The rest of the boundary line is taken up with ugly brick, and cement buildings as far as Cleveland Street.

The construction of yet another building so close to homes in, and facing Shepherd Street would result in these homes being overlooked by more brick walls, bright overnight lighting, noise from air conditioners as well as the loss of winter sun, and light - as numbers 145 – 154 Shepherd Street currently are. Not to mention the depression of facing yet another brick, and cement vista.

The beautiful Eucalypt grove is the only respite we have from the University's ugliness. This area has provided sanctuary for a whole ecology of wildlife unique to the city, and has evolved over the last 20 years providing a seasonal breeding, and feeding area for vast numbers of native birds – at least 10 different species. – plus bats, and possums. The hedge along the fence provides shelter to delicate wrens, and other tiny thicket creatures.

The University has magnanimously stated that the front row of trees would be retained, but the front row consists of **only two trees!!**

The university has correctly proclaimed that this land is not community property, but with their past history of razing the suburb of Darlington – from the Darlington Centre to City Road stretching to Shepherd Street – Where now is our community property?

Darlington is now reduced to only six or seven streets.

At one time, terrace houses fronted Shepherd Street, but they have been replaced by the bleak Engineering Buildings. To date, hundreds of Victorian terraces (I believe 650) plus the Victorian Gothic Darlington Post Office, and Town Hall were gutted.

The old Darlington School, and Anzac Gates were to meet the same fate, but were saved by the residents.

I realize today's University cannot be held responsible for the mistakes of the past, but surely now in 2014 it is time to cease the destruction, and stop distressing the residents whose homes are in the proximity of the University borders.

I Hope, as does all of the community that this grove of eucalypt trees with its unique beautiful wildlife will not be destroyed. We need this buffer of greenery in front of the vast expanse of brick, and cement buildings.

Once this area has gone it is lost forever, and has not Darlington not lost nearly all of it's suburb, and identity already?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Hanson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

MARY HANSON