

20th September 2016

**Attn: Adam Goff**

University of Sydney  
Services Building G12  
22 Codrington Street  
Darlington NSW 2008

**Re: treeiQ Response to Submission for SSD 7081 – Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) Building**

Please see below our response in relation to the tree management issues raised by Office of the Government Architect regarding the proposed FASS project. Specifically, the submission outlines that the scope of landscaping works and alignment of the eastern entry path should be reconsidered to preserve the health of significant trees.

The landscape proposal indicates that the majority of the existing sandstone retaining walls to the south of the R D Watt building and on the Science Road frontage are to be retained. A new entry path is proposed to the east of the RD Watt Building and the existing footpaths running east/west to the front of the building are to be extended.

Tree 230 is identified as a *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) and is proposed for removal. Tree 230 is in fair health due to dieback in upper crown, and the presence of small (<25mm) diameter deadwood and small (<25mm) diameter epicormic growth.

Trees 229 and 231 are identified as a *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) and are proposed for retention. Tree 229 will be subject to Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) encroachment from the sandstone wall reconstruction. These works represents a *Minor Encroachment* (less than 10% of the TPZ) as defined by *Australian Standard 4970 2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites* (AS-4970). A Minor Encroachment is considered acceptable by AS-4970 when it is compensated for elsewhere and contiguous within the TPZ.

Tree 231 will be subject to TPZ encroachment from the construction of the eastern entry path. These works represent approximately 18% of the TPZ area and are defined as a *Major Encroachment* by AS-4970.

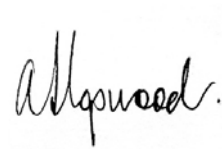
Clause 3.3.4 of the AS-4970 outlines that tree species and tolerance to root disturbance should be considered when determining the potential impact of the encroachment. *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box) has a proven record for use within the built environment and is able to withstand alterations to site conditions. This is evident in the many specimens planted as street trees in the City of Sydney and Woollahra Local Government Areas that are subject to high levels of root disturbance/loss from footpath and kerb works.

Based on the above, it expected that with the use of best practice tree management during the development period as recommended in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report & Tree Protection Specification, these works should not significantly impact the health or Useful Life Expectancy of the Tree 231.

In addition, to limit the potential impact of encroachment on Tree 231 it is recommended that the layout of the footpath extension to the north of the tree should be flexible. In particular, the new steps should be positioned to allow for the retention of roots (>25mmØ) as determined by the Project Arborist. The most appropriate location for the steps could be determined by preliminary hand excavation/root mapping during the construction stage of the project. Furthermore, new retaining walls for the footpath extension should be constructed on piers rather than strip footings to minimise excavation in the TPZ. Piers locations should be hand excavated and positioned to avoid roots (>25mmØ) as determined by the Project Arborist.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Anna Hopwood

