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STURT NOBLE ARBORICULTURE



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## Arboriculture Impact Assessment Report STATION STREET FOOTBRIDGE, MENANGLE

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Purpose of this Report

Sturt Noble Arboriculture was engaged by Mirvac Homes (NSW) c/o Calibre to prepare an Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report and Tree Protection Recommendations in relation to the proposed Station Street footbridge between Stevens Road and Road No. 01 in Stage 2. The footbridge will allow pedestrians to move safely over the rail corridor.

This report deals with trees between the Stage 1 development and the future Stage 2 development and on the rail corridor easement.

The purpose of this report is to:

- Assess and review the health and condition of existing trees by undertaking a Visual Tree Assessment.
- Assess each individual tree's suitability to be retained as a sustainable part of the proposed development in the long term, considering the likely impacts of works proposed.
- Provide recommendations for tree removal, retention and protection.
- Provide recommendations where appropriate to enable trees to be retained or have better long term health outcomes and minimize potentials for hazard.
- To provide information on appropriate tree protection measures, appropriate setbacks, constraints and tree management procedures during site works.

This report has been carried out as per the Methodology outlined in **Appendix 1** 

## 1.2 Background

The preparation of this report has been prepared in awareness and consideration of the following standards, controls and guidelines:

- Wollondilly Shire Council's Development Control Plan 2016 including:
  - Control 6.3 Heritage Conservation Area Menangle
  - PART 10 Tree removal
- Australian Standard AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees

It has also taken into consideration advice from the following reports:

- Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Pedestrian Bridge, Station Street Menangle, Project No. 34876, 23.04.2021 by Biosis
- Sturt Noble Arboricultural Impact Assessment ARB-1819-001 rev C dated 16/11/2018 as approved with DA/2019/93

### 1.3 The Proposal

This impact assessment has been prepared based on the following plans:

- Detail and Contour Survey over part Lot 202 D.P. 590247 and part Lot 11 D.P. 1262205, DWG ref. 300058-DET-004-A, 27/04/2021 prepared by ADW Johnson
- Engineering Plan 17-003293-02-PED\_LD\_SWC\_DESIGN (002), 15/08/2022 prepared by Calibre
- Soil and Water Management and Site Regrading Plan 17-003293.002.PED Drawing No. 101, 01/07/2021 prepared by Calibre

Refer to plans Appendix 2.

The proposed works to the site include:

- Site regrading
- Construction of new kerb, ramp, pavement and footbridge
- Excavation for services and utilities

The plans provided by Calibre Consulting and Bridge Design of the proposed new footbridge are quite thorough and will allow us to make a reasonably complete assessment.

## 1.4 Foreseeable Construction Impacts

Foreseeable impacts noted from the proposed development, construction type and anticipated methodology include:

- Excavations and filling for site regrading
- Excavations and construction of new kerb ramps, road surfacing and pavements
- Excavations and trenching for underground stormwater services
- Excavations and footings for new footbridge
- Soil level changes including the placement of fill material for the footings and to make up grades
- Laying impermeable paving to paths
- Movement and storage of plant, equipment & vehicles;
- Erection of site sheds;
- Storage of building materials, waste and waste receptacles.

# 2.0 PLANNING CONTROLS

## 2.1 Planning Definitions

Wollondilly Shire Council's Development Control Plan 2016 Volume 1 – General defines the following:

"Native Vegetation means any of the following types of indigenous vegetation:

- (a) trees (including any sapling or shrub, or any shrub);
- (b) understorey plants;
- (c) groundcover (being any type of herbaceous vegetation);
- (d) plants occurring in a wetland.

Vegetation is indigenous if it is a species of vegetation, or if it comprises species of vegetation, that existed in the state before European settlement.

In this section a tree is considered to be a tree or shrub which meets one of the following:

- (a) is greater than 3 metres in height; or
- (b) The trunk has a circumference of 450mm at 1 metre above ground level; or
- (c) has a branch span of greater than 3 metres."

#### 2.2 Council Consent

Wollondilly Shire Council's DCP notes the following planning and approval requirements:

- Any prescribed tree or native vegetation shall not be ringbarked, cut down, topped, lopped, removed, poisoned, injured, or wilfully destroyed without a Tree and Bushland Vegetation Removal Permit unless authorised by a current Development Consent.
- Some trees as outlined in the DCP are exempt. These species can be removed without consent from Council. These include:
  - Removal of a tree or other form of vegetation being carried out under the following legislation:
  - (a) Action required, or authorised to be carried out under the Electricity Supply Act 1995, the Roads Act, 1993 or the Surveying and Spatial Information Act 2002.
  - (b) The Clearing of Native Vegetation that is authorised by a development consent or a Property Vegetation Plan under the Native Vegetation Act, 2003.
  - (c) Functions as required to protect persons from dangers to their safety and health, and to protect property from destruction or damage, arising from floods and storms under the State Emergency Services Act, 1989.
  - (d) Works for which an order or permit has been issued by the NSW Rural Fire Services under the Rural Fires Act, 1997.
  - (e) Any removal authorised for removal from the NSW Rural Fire Service 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for NSW.
  - (f) Removal carried out in accordance with a license, permit, authority or approval under the Water Act, 1912 or the Water Management Act, 2000.

- (g) Removal for the purpose of the construction, operation and maintenance of infrastructure by Water NSW in the exercise of its land management activities within SP2 zones, including roads, tracks, viewing platforms, signs and recreation facilities.
- (h) Removal on Crown Lands within the meaning of the Crown Lands Act, 1993 or on crown public roads within the meaning of the Roads Act, 1993, where removal is being undertaken or authorised by the Department of Lands.
- (i) Any clearing carried out in accordance with an order under the Trees (Disputes between Neighbours) Act, 2006 or other like Neighbourhood Dispute legislation.
- Removal of a tree or other vegetation species that is a declared noxious weed by the NSW Government under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1993 or that is a species of tree identified on Councils exempt list, regardless of size (unless the tree is listed as a heritage item)
- The row of established vegetation that runs along Stevens Road shall be retained during any future development

## 3.0 THE EXISTING SITE

#### 3.1 The Site

The project is located between Stevens Road and Moreton Park Road, Menangle, NSW, within Lot 11 D.P. 1262205, Lot 202 D.P. 590247 and within the public road boundaries. The site is situated within the Wollondilly Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA). Refer Figure 1 – Site location plan. It is located within the Menangle development area.

The site is between existing Stage 1 development and future Stage 2 development and this report assesses the trees in that area. Stage 1 is to the west of the rail corridor while Stage 2 is to the east.

The site currently consists of a vehicular bridge that runs perpendicular to the rail corridor which forms part of Station Street. Stevens Road and Moreton Park Road run parallel to the rail corridor and the ground level falls steeply from these roads to the train tracks. The proposed Stage 2 road is north of the termination of Moreton Park Road and currently consists of a private dirt road. The Stage 2 area is largely cleared agricultural land with trees being a combination of scattered groupings of exotic and native (non endemic) species.



Figure 1: Location Plan

#### 3.2 Soils

The bedrock at the site belongs to Ashfield Shale and comprises dark grey to black shale and laminate. The soil belongs to the Theresa Park soil group, which is characterised by gently undulating slopes, mostly less than 5%, on Tertiary and Quaternary flood plains and terraces of Nepean Rive south of Cobbitty Creek. Soils in this landscape are highly variable and include poorly structured orange to red silty loam. The landscape is susceptible to localised flooding, seasonal water logging, very high erosion and concentrated flows.

#### 3.3 Vegetation Communities

Biosis completed a Flora and Fauna Assessment for the area directly affected by the pedestrian bridge. The study area was found to be dominated by remnant canopy trees with highly disturbed understorey and groundcover species which consist primarily of exotic grasses and weeds. The study area has previously been cleared with remnant native species and exotic introduced species distributed linearly along the side of Stevens Road, with smaller remnant patches also occurring at the edges of Station Street. Two native vegetation communities were found in the study area:

- PCT 849 Grey Box Forest Red Gum grassy woodland on flats of the Cumberland Plain, Sydney Basin Bioregion which forms part of the Cumberland Plain Woodland CEEC
- Urban Native/Exotic

The occurrence of *Eucalyptus crebra* (Tree Nos. 2 and 3) within this area identifies it as part of the Cumberland Plain Woodland.

No threatened flora species were recorded in the study area and according to the Flora and Fauna Assessment by Biosis, they are unlikely to occur.

One *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Tree 4A) was surveyed on the eastern side of the rail corridor and is a dominant species in the Shale Plains Woodland ecological community and could be a remnant bushland specimen.

#### 3.4 The Trees

Seven trees have been surveyed as part of this assessment. Four are within the road reserve along Stevens Road and Station Street while the remaining three are within the rail corridor. Five trees are native and two are exotic species. Refer to **Appendix 2** for tree locations and numbers.

Each of the trees assessed has been allocated a Sustainable Retention Index Value (SRIV) that is based on their health, vigour, structure and age class. The SRIV does not take into account the impact of the proposed development.

A complete and detailed tree assessment schedule was prepared and is included in **Appendix 3**.

Trees 10 and 11 have previously been assessed by Sturt Noble Arboriculture and have been approved for removal on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021, Consent No. DA/2019/93/2.

Trees 1, 5, 6, 8 – 11 have previously been assessed by Sturt Noble Arboriculture in relation to Consent No. DA/2019/93/2 dated 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021. Trees 1, 5 and 6 have been reassessed in light of the newly proposed works. Trees 8-11 are not part of this assessment. They remain on the plans for reference.

We were unable to ascertain the exact TPZ of Tree 4A as it is located on railway land and surrounded by a significant vegetation barrier. An estimate has been provided by Sturt Noble Arboriculture.

## 3.5 Special Tree Conditions

Tree preservation orders do not apply to Tree Nos. 1A and 2A that are African Olives (*Olea europaea*) and are on Council's exempt list.

Wollondilly Shire Council's Development Control Plan 2016 Volume 1 Section 10.3 item 4 states: "Removal of any tree or other form of native vegetation that Council is satisfied is dying or dead and is not required as the habitat of native fauna. The owner of the land (or persons acting on their behalf) on which the tree or vegetation exists must provide to Council written justification, including photographs, from an arborist or other suitably qualified person. Works must not be undertaken until Council has provided written advice that it is satisfied that the tree or vegetation is dying or dead." Based on this clause, we recommend that permission is sought from Council to remove Tree 3 that has been identified as dead by Sturt Noble Arboriculture.

Wollondilly Shire Council's Development Control Plan 2016 Volume 1 Section 6.9 item 14 states: "The row of established vegetation that runs along Stevens Road shall be retained during any future development."

There are no endangered tree species on site. Three trees are part of indigenous plant community Cumberland Plains Woodland, two *Eucalyptus crebra* (Tree Nos. 2 and 3) and one *Eucalyptus tereticornis* (Tree No. 4A).

We could not locate the Council's Significant Tree Register at the time of writing this assessment.

# 4.0 ABORICULTURE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

## 4.1 Construction Assumptions

It is assumed for this report that the following activities will impact on existing trees:

- Excavations and filling for site regrading
- Excavations and construction of new kerb ramps, road surfacing and pavements
- Excavations and trenching for underground service
- Excavations and footings for new footbridge
- Soil level changes including the placement of fill material for the footings and to make up grades
- Laying impermeable paving to paths
- Movement and storage of plant, equipment & vehicles
- Erection of site sheds
- Storage of building materials, waste and waste receptacles

#### 4.2 Trees to be removed

The plans show that five trees will need to be removed to accommodate the proposed development.

Table 1: Trees to be removed

Construction works critical to the following trees	Removal recommended due to death/ poor health	Tree species to be removed (exempt and can be removed without consent)				
T2	Т3	T1A, T2A				

Trees 2 and 3 are located within the rail corridor. Approval will need to be sought for the removal of both of these trees.

Since the previous arboricultural assessment undertaken by Sturt Noble in 2019, Tree 3 has died. We recommend removal of the dead tree as it could become a hazard as it deteriorates.

Trees 1A and 2A are on Council's exemption list and can be removed without application for consent.

### 4.3 Trees to be retained

With implementation of the tree protection measures it should be possible to retain all other trees on the developed site. The plans show that five trees are proposed to be retained.

Table 2: Trees to be retained

Clear of all works	Minor encroachment from	Major encroachment from				
	works	works				
T4A	NA	T1, T4, T5, T6, T7				

Trees 4, 5, 6 & 7 will be majorly impacted by trenching for underground services with a maximum encroachment of 33.7%. These trees are suitable for underboring and we recommend underboring at a minimum depth of 1.5m for the full extent of the TPZ is utilised to install underground services . In this way T4, T5, T6, T7 can be retained with only minor impacts.

The TPZ of Tree 1 will be moderately impacted by proposed the new kerb line. The encroachment is moderate at 15.1% and the tree can be retained if appropriate tree protection works are undertaken.

These encroachments are in my opinion of lesser importance as the TPZ's are located in an impervious graded gravel road surface with poor conditions for feeder root establishment. In addition, Tree nos. 1,5 and 6 would have already been impacted by construction of the road kerb along the western side of Stevens Road. It is highly probable that any structural or large roots would have been severed at this stage of the works. The existing trees appear to have accommodated this disturbance.

We do note a footpath kerbside of Trees 1,5 and 6 is now indicated on revised drawings. The engineers have specified permeable paving laid on a gap graded subbase ABOVE existing grades with no cut. Subject to this been carried out T1, T5, T6 can be retained with only minor impacts.

We were unable to ascertain the TPZ of Tree 4A as it is located on railway land and surrounded by a significant vegetation barrier. However, based on a visual assessment of the size of the tree we have supplied an estimated TPZ and we believe it is clear of all works.

Proposed design and construction of the footbridge and associated services should consider the Tree Protection Zones as discussed in the following sections to minimise any adverse impact.

Careful consideration is especially required to all works proposed in the Stevens Road Reserve to ensure impacts to the street trees are minimised. This shall include the works themselves, their location and construction methodology

#### 4.4 Works within Tree Protection Zones

Any disturbance to soils within TPZ's could destabilise the trees or impact on long term health. Should any changes to soil within the TPZ/ SRZ be proposed further discussion and assessment must be undertaken.

The plan in **Appendix 2** indicates trees TPZ's and SRZ's and should be used to inform later design decisions and temporary tree protection fences.

### 4.5 Pruning works

In addition to Tree Protection Zones, the extent of the canopy (canopy dripline) should also be considered, particularly in relation to construction activities and along access points.

Significant pruning of trees to accommodate digging machinery is generally not acceptable. Trees may not be pruned by more than 10% without consent.

Branches should be temporarily pushed or tied where possible to minimise the amount of pruning works.

## 4.6 Ongoing management of trees to be retained

A number of the trees identified to be retained have structural defects and/or deadwood at the time of assessment. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance should be undertaken especially for trees located in areas of high use and activity.

Trees 4 and 7 should be pruned to remove deadwood.

## 5.0 TREE PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Tree Protection Measures

It is recommended that a site specific Tree Protection Plan (TPP) is prepared to guide the construction process to ensure all trees designated for retention remain as a sustainable part of the landscape in the long term.

The plan shall be prepared by a consulting arborist (AQF Level 5) and should at a minimum include a detailed plan of the locations of, and specifications for, tree protection measures.

The TPP shall include a monitoring schedule relating to critical points during the works (hold points) where the Project Arborist is required to visit the site and confirm that works are being undertaken as conditioned by Council/as required.

The following tree protection measures shall be implemented prior to the commencement of any site works, and shall remain in place for the duration of the development.

#### 5.2 Tree Protection Zones

The Tree Protection Zones recommended for all trees within the site are to be retained and shall be equivalent to the Tree Protection Zone as specified in this report. This is a radial distance measured from the centre of the trunk of the subject trees.

The following activities are generally prohibited within the specified Tree Protection Zones. Site arborist will provide advice where encroachments are required:

- Excavations and trenching
- Construction of kerbs, ramps and pavements
- Ripping or cultivation of soil;
- Mechanical removal of vegetation;
- Soil disturbance or movement of natural rock;
- Soil level changes including the placement of fill material (excluding any suspended floor or slab);
- Movement and storage of plant, equipment & vehicles;
- Erection of site sheds;
- Affixing of signage or hoardings to trees;
- Storage of building materials, waste and waste receptacles;
- Disposal of waste materials and chemicals including paint, solvents, cement slurry, fuel, oil and other toxic liquids;
- Other physical damage to the trunk or root system; and
- Any other activity likely to cause damage to the tree.

Where possible place a 50-75mm layer of coarse organic mulch over the entire surface of the TPZ or within the nominated Tree protection area. Where the TPZ is adjacent to

construction activities first lay down geotextile fabric beneath the mulch to facilitate easy removal of the mulch at completion and any accidental spillage of construction materials.

Install drip irrigation around the root zone if required by the Project Arborist.

### 5.3 Tree Protection Fencing

All trees within the site to be retained shall be protected prior to and during construction from all activities that may result in detrimental impact by erecting a suitable protective fence beneath the canopy to the Tree Protection Zone where possible (excluding the footprint of the proposed works, vehicle access areas, roadways and areas within adjoining properties).

As a minimum the fence should consist of temporary chain wire panels 1.8 metres in height, supported by steel stakes as required and fastened together and supported to prevent sideways movement. The fence shall be erected prior to the commencement of any work on-site and shall be maintained in good condition for the duration of construction. Where tree protection zones merge together a single fence encompassing the area is deemed to be adequate.

Appropriate signage shall be installed on the fencing to prevent unauthorised movement of plant and equipment or entry to the Tree Protection Zone.

Refer to **Appendix 4** for examples of protective fencing and signage.

#### 5.4 Trunk, Branch & Ground Protection

Where provision of tree protection fencing is in impractical due to its proximity to the proposed construction works, trunk protection shall be erected around the tree to avoid accidental damage. As a minimum, the trunk protection shall consist of two metre (2m) lengths of hardwood timbers (100 x 50mm) spaced at 100-150mm centres secured together with 2mm galvanised wire. These shall be strapped around the trunk (not fixed in any way) to avoid mechanical injury or damage. Trunk protection should be installed prior to any site works and maintained in good condition for the duration of the construction period.

Placement of fill material within the Tree Protection Zone of trees to be retained should be avoided where possible. Where placement of fill cannot be avoided, the material should be a coarse, gap-graded material such as 20-50mm crushed basalt (Blue Metal) or equivalent to provide some aeration to the root zone. Note that Roadbase or crushed sandstone or other material containing a high percentage of fines is unacceptable for this purpose. The fill material should be consolidated with a non-vibrating roller to minimise compaction of the underlying soil. A permeable geotextile may be used beneath the sub-base to prevent migration of the stone into the sub-grade. No fill material should be placed in direct contact with the trunk.

Refer to **Appendix 4** for examples of trunk, branch and ground protection.

#### 5.5 Demolition Works within Tree Protection Zones

Where demolition of structures and pavements is required within the Tree Protection Zones of trees to be retained it is to be carried out to avoid disturbance to existing soils, damage to existing roots or potential root growth.

Machinery shall work within the footprint of existing pavements where possible to avoid compaction of the adjacent soil and Tree Protection Zones.

When removing hard surfaces it shall be stripped-off in thick layers using a small rubber tracked excavator or alternative approved method to avoid damage to underlying roots and minimise soil disturbance. The final layer of sub-base material shall be removed using hand tools where required to avoid compaction of the underlying soil profile and damage to woody roots.

If any concentrations of roots or roots with diameters equal to or greater than 50mm are encountered they must be retained in an undamaged condition for assessment by the Project Arborist. If the Project Arborist deems surrounding underground elements such as footing and pipes are providing support, these elements shall be left in-situ.

#### 5.6 Excavations within Tree Protection Zones

The excavator shall work within the footprint of existing pavements where possible to avoid compaction of the adjacent soil and Tree Protection Zones.

## 5.7 Underground Services

All proposed underground services should be located as far away as practicable from existing trees to be retained to avoid excavation within the Tree Protection Zone.

For underground services, where the incursion to the Root Zone is less than 10% of the total TPZ (i.e. beyond the Minimum Setback Distance), a chain trenching device may be used. A backhoe or skid steer loader (bobcat) is unacceptable due to the potential for excessive compaction and root damage. Where large woody roots (greater than 50mm in diameter) are encountered during excavation or trenching, these shall be retained intact wherever possible (eg by sub-surface boring beneath roots or rerouting the service etc).

Excavations required for underground services within the Structural Root Zone of any tree to be retained should only be undertaken by sub-surface boring. The Invert Level of the pipe, plus the pipe diameter, must be lower than the estimated root zone depth as specified at a minimum depth of 600mm. This will depend on the soil conditions at the site. Where this is not practical and root pruning is the only alternative, proposed root pruning should be assessed by the Project Arborist to determine continued health and stability of the subject tree.

#### 5.8 Canopy pruning

Care shall be taken when operating backhoes, excavators and similar equipment near trees to avoid damage to tree canopies (foliage and branches). Under no circumstances shall branches be torn-off by construction equipment. Where there is potential conflict between tree canopy and construction activities, the advice of the Project Arborist must be sought.

All pruning works shall be directed by the Project Arborist and shall be carried out by an AQF Level 3 Arborist. All pruning works shall be in accordance with the Australian Standard (AS) 4373:2007 Pruning of amenity trees. This standard outlines appropriate pruning practices and procedures that reduce the risk of damage and injury to trees. Correct pruning practices respect the natural form and branching habit of a tree and work with the trees natural defence mechanisms against disease to avoid damage and injury to trees.

Pruning should always be limited to the minimum amount necessary to achieve the desired aim. Significant loss of foliage created by excessive pruning may weaken the tree, leading to premature decline or predisposition to branch failure or disease, creating potential hazards.

Council consent will be required prior to commencement of the work. Pruning must be performed in accordance with *Australian Standard (AS) 4373:2007 Pruning of amenity trees* (Standards Australia 2007).

### 5.9 Root Investigation

Exploratory excavation may be required where the proposed excavation created by the development works exceeds 10% of the Tree Protection Zone of any Prescribed Tree; or service trenches are required within the TPZ; to determine the impact of the development on the tree. The purpose of the investigation is to verify the quantity, size, type, depth and orientation of tree roots along the perimeter of the proposed encroachment in order to make an informed judgement in relation to the potential impact on the tree.

Exploratory excavation shall only be carried out using non-destructive or non-injurious techniques, such as careful digging using hand held implements, using compressed air (Airspade®), water pressure, or suction (vacuum device) or a combination of these techniques, to carefully remove soil without damaging roots. The work shall be undertaken by an arborist with a minimum qualification of AQF Level 3. Once roots are exposed, a visual examination can be carried out with the Project Arborist to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed root loss on the health and stability of the tree.

#### 5.10 Root Pruning

Where root pruning is required, roots shall be severed with sterile, clean, sharp pruning implements resulting in a clean cut. Any excavated root zones shall be retained in a moist condition during the construction phase using Hessian material or mulch where practical. Trees that have roots removed shall have drip irrigation installed around the root zone to ensure they receive an adequate supply of water.

## 5.11 Tree Damage/ Decline

If trees show signs of stress or deterioration, remedial action shall be taken to improve the health and vigour of the subject tree(s) in accordance with best practice arboricultural principles. Advice must be sought from the Project Arborist.

In the event of any tree becoming damaged for any reason during the construction period the Project Arborist must be engaged to inspect and provide advice on any

remedial action to minimise any adverse impact. Such remedial action shall be implemented as soon as practicable and certified by the arborist.

## 6.0 CONCLUSION

Ten trees have been considered as part of this assessment and their locations are shown in **Appendix 1**, of which five trees are located within the road reserve and five are located within the rail corridor.

The supplied plans and assessment show that:

- Two trees will need to be removed to accommodate the proposed development. These trees are Nos. 2 & 3 and are in the rail corridor and consent from Rail must be sought for the removal of these trees.
- Trees 4, 5, 6 & 7 will be majorly impacted by trenching for underground services with a maximum encroachment of 33.7%. These trees are suitable for underboring and we recommend underboring at a minimum depth of 1.5m for the full extent of the TPZ is utilised to install underground services. In this way T4, T5, T6, T7 can be retained with only minor impacts.
- The TPZ of Tree 1 will be impacted by proposed the new kerb line. The encroachment is moderate at 15.1% and the tree can be retained if appropriate tree protection works are undertaken.
- These encroachments are in my opinion of lesser importance as the TPZ's are located in an impervious graded gravel road surface with poor conditions for feeder root establishment. In addition, Tree nos. 1,5 and 6 would have already been impacted by construction of the road kerb along the western side of Stevens Road. It is highly probable that any structural or large roots would have been severed at this stage of the works. The existing trees appear to have accommodated this disturbance.
- We do note a footpath kerbside of Trees 1,5 and 6 is now indicated on revised drawings. The engineers have specified permeable paving laid on a gap graded subbase ABOVE existing grades with no cut. Subject to this been carried out T1, T5, T6 can be retained with only minor impacts.
- Trees 1A and 2A are on Council's exempt list and should be removed.
- Two trees are to be retained as part of the proposed development. These trees are Nos. 1 and 4A.
- Trees 4 and 7 should be pruned to remove deadwood.
- We were unable to ascertain the TPZ of Tree 4A as it is located on railway land and surrounded by a significant vegetation barrier. However, based on a visual assessment of the size of the tree we believe it is clear of all works.
- Trees 8 11 are not part of this assessment. They remain on the plans for reference.

Trees to be retained as part of the approved development must be protected from potential damage caused by construction activities. Refer to Section 5.0 for tree protection recommendations and to the tree retention plan in **Appendix 2.** 

Where recommended work processes and tree protection measures cannot be adhered to further advice should be sought from the Project Arborist.

# 7.0 DISCLAIMER

The author and Sturt Noble Arboricultural Consulting take no responsibility for actions taken and their consequences, contrary to those expert and professional instructions given as recommendations.

This is not a hazard assessment report and it should be noted that trees are always inherently dangerous. This assessment was carried out from the ground, and covers what was reasonably able to be assessed and available to the assessor at the time of inspection. No aerial or subterranean inspections were carried out and structural weakness may exist within roots, trunk or branches.

Any protection or preservation methods recommended are not a guarantee of tree survival or safety but are designed to improve vigour and reduce risk. Timely inspections and reports are necessary to monitor the trees' condition. No responsibility is accepted for damage or injury caused by the trees and no responsibility is accepted if the recommendations in this report are not followed.

Limitations on the use of this report: Trees are dynamic living structures, growing and adapting to conditions around them. Tree condition will change and vary over time depending on weather, environmental factors and mechanical or human interaction.

This report is to be utilised in its entirety only. Any written or verbal submission, report or presentation that includes statements taken from the findings, discussions, conclusions or recommendations made in this report, may only be used where the whole of the original report (or a copy) is referenced in, and directly attached to that submission, report or presentation.

Assumptions: Care has been taken to obtain information from reliable resources. All data have been verified insofar as possible; however, Sturt Noble Arboricultural Consulting can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

Unless stated otherwise: Information contained in this report covers only the trees that were examined and reflects the condition of the trees at the time of inspection.

Assessment is limited to the conditions at the time of the inspection and only trees discussed in the report have been assessed.

Where access to the base of the tree is limited, such as difficult site access due to site conditions, only general comments can be made. Assessment of tree health and structure is limited to that visible from the site of proposed works and may not reflect the true condition of the tree. Assessment of tree health and structure is limited to that visible from the site of proposed works and may not reflect the true condition of the tree.

Plans used to assess likely impact are those appended/referenced.

Ongoing monitoring of all trees is advised and where significant changes are observed, further advice should be requested. Unusual developments or sudden changes in a tree's condition should be addressed immediately.

## 8.0 REFERENCES

EMM. Menangle Planning Proposal Ecological assessment Prepared for Elton Consulting 23 June 2014.

Flora and Fauna Assessment for a Pedestrian Bridge, Station Street Menangle, Project No. 34876 by Biosis. Prepared for Tom Foster 23 April 2021.

Draper, D.B and Richards, P.A (2009) Dictionary for managing Trees in Urban Environments, (IACA) Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists ©. Pub. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne.

Googlemaps ©. Viewed 7th May 2021

Soil landscapes from espade.environment.nsw.gov.au © State of NSW and Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 2021.

IACA, 2010, Sustainable Retention Index Value Matrix (SRIV) Version 4, A visual method of objectively rating the viability of urban trees for development sites and management, based on general tree and landscape assessment criteria, Institute of Australian Consulting Arborculturists, Australia, <a href="https://www.iaca.org.au">www.iaca.org.au</a>.

Proposed Pedestrian Bridge Stage 1 and Stages 2 – 4 Station Street, Menangle Report on Geotechnical Investigation by Geotechnique Pty Ltd, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Standards Australia (2007) Australian Standard AS4373-2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*, Pub. Standards Australia, Sydney.

Standards Australia (2009) Australian Standard AS4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*, Pub. Standards Australia, Sydney.

# **APPENDIX 1: METHODOLOGY**

## A1.1 Site Inspection

This report, its comments and recommendations have been prepared based on the information gathered during a detailed site inspection carried out on the on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021. This assessment is summarised in **Appendix 1**.

#### A1.2 Tree Locations

The location of the subject trees are based on the site survey prepared by ADW Johnson dated 27/04/2021 DWG. Ref. 300058-DET-004-A.

#### A1.3 Visual Tree Assessment

The trees were assessed from the ground by the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method as described in Mattheck & Breloer (1994), using non-invasive tools such as binoculars and acoustic mallet. No digging or exposing of the root zones occurred in this inspection and no aerial inspection by climbing was performed. No diagnostic testing was undertaken as part of this assessment.

The following data was collected for each tree:

- Botanical and common name.
- Tree dimensions (approximate only).
- Canopy density (approximate only).
- Overall health and vitality, including epicormic growth, deadwood and predation by pests and diseases.
- Structural condition including evident faults such as Bark Inclusions or poor branch attachments, decay, cavities and mechanical or biological damage.
- Stability of the tree including excessive trunk lean, stability of the soil, soil cracking, soil heaving, exposed roots and root damage.

#### A1.4 Retention Value

Each tree has been given a Sustainable Retention Index Value (SRIV) according to the rating system set out in the Sustainable Retention Index Value Matrix (refer to the table in section A1.8). The SRIV for each tree is based on its health, vigour, structure and age class as established in the Visual Tree Assessment. The SRIV does not take into account the impact of the proposed development.

## **A1.5** Landscape Significance Assessment

Landscape Significance is an essential criterion to establish the importance that a particular tree may have on a site. Each tree has been given a Tree Significance in landscape rating based on the 'IACA Significance of a Tree, Assessment Rating System'. A tree is to have a minimum of three criteria in a category to be applicable for that rating.

Tree Significance in the landscape ratings:

High	Medium	Low
<ul> <li>The tree is in good condition and good vigour;</li> <li>The tree has a form typical for the species;</li> <li>The tree is a remnant or is a planted locally indigenous specimen and/or is rare or uncommon in the local area or of botanical interest or of substantial age;</li> <li>The tree is listed as a Heritage Item, Threatened Species or part of an Endangered ecological community or listed on Councils significant Tree Register;</li> <li>The tree is visually prominent and visible from a considerable distance when viewed from most directions within the landscape due to its size and scale and makes a positive contribution to the local amenity;</li> <li>The tree supports social and cultural sentiments or spiritual associations, reflected by the broader population or community group or has commemorative values;</li> <li>The tree's growth is unrestricted by above and below ground influences, supporting its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ - tree is appropriate to the site conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The tree is in fair-good condition and good or low vigour;</li> <li>The tree has form typical or atypical of the species;</li> <li>The tree is a planted locally indigenous or a common species with its taxa commonly planted in the local area</li> <li>The tree is visible from surrounding properties, although not visually prominent as partially obstructed by other vegetation or buildings when viewed from the street,</li> <li>The tree provides a fair contribution to the visual character and amenity of the local area,</li> <li>The tree's growth is moderately restricted by above or below ground influences, reducing its ability to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The tree is in fair-poor condition and good or low vigour;</li> <li>The tree has form atypical of the species;</li> <li>The tree is not visible or is partly visible from surrounding properties as obstructed by other vegetation or buildings,</li> <li>The tree provides a minor contribution or has a negative impact on the visual character and amenity of the local area,</li> <li>The tree is a young specimen which may or may not have reached dimension to be protected by local Tree Preservation orders or similar protection mechanisms and can easily be replaced with a suitable specimen,</li> <li>The tree's growth is severely restricted by above or below ground influences, unlikely to reach dimensions typical for the taxa in situ - tree is inappropriate to the site conditions,</li> <li>The tree is listed as exempt under the provisions of the local Council Tree Preservation Order or similar protection mechanisms,</li> <li>The tree has a wound or defect that has potential to become structurally unsound.</li> <li>Environmental Pest / Noxious Weed Species</li> <li>The tree is an Environmental Pest Species due to its invasiveness or poisonous/ allergenic properties,</li> <li>The tree is a declared noxious weed by legislation.</li> <li>Hazardous/Irreversible Decline</li> <li>The tree is structurally unsound and/or unstable and is considered potentially dangerous, - The tree is dead, or is in irreversible decline, or has the potential to fail or collapse in full or part in the immediate to short term.</li> </ul>

### A1.6 Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) and Structural Root Zones (SRZ)

The intention of the TPZ is to ensure protection of the root system and canopy from the potential damage from construction works and ensure the long-term health and stability of each tree to be retained.

The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) is located within the TPZ around the base of a tree and provides the bulk of mechanical support and anchorage for a tree.

The Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) and Structural Root Zones (SRZ) have been arrived at using methods as detailed in Australian Standard AS 4970– 2009. Specific site factors are also considered that may influence the location of the TPZ and/or structural tree roots.

#### A1.7 Encroachment and Development Impacts

Encroachments and development impacts to tree TPZ's and SRZ's include;

- Excavation
- Filling
- Changes to existing soil levels
- Placing items and elements within the zones even if only temporarily
- Soil disturbance
- Any other physical damage to the trunk or root system or any other activity likely to cause damage to the tree.

Under AS 4970:2009 Protection of trees on development sites, a minor encroachment of up to 10% of the area of the TPZ is considered acceptable, provided that there is no encroachment to the SRZ. The area lost to this encroachment should be compensated for elsewhere in a contiguous area to the TPZ.

Major encroachments is greater than 10% of the area of the TPZ and the Project Arborist must determine and demonstrate that the tree would remain viable. More detailed investigations, such as exploratory excavations and root investigation to enable an informed evaluation of the potential impact of the proposed works may be required.

Encroachments into the SRZ are not likely to be supported unless the Project Arborist has undertaken exploratory investigation and can demonstrate that there will be minimal impact to the tree.

# A1.8 SRIV Table

						INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN CONSULTING ARBORICULTURISTS
		Vigou	r Class and Condition	on Class		MANAGING URBAN TREES IN
SS	Good Vigour &	Good Vigour &	Good Vigour &	Low Vigour &	Low Vigour &	Low Vigour &
Age Class	Good Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Good Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition
ge	(GVG)	(GVF)	(GVP)	(LVG)	(LVF)	(LVP)
4	Able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. No remedial work or improvement to growing environment required. May be subject to high vigour. Retention potential - Medium - Long Term.	Able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. Remedial work may be required or improvement to growing environment may assist. Retention potential - Medium Term. Potential for longer with remediation or favourable environmental conditions	Able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. Remedial work unlikely to assist condition, improvement to growing environment may assist. Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with remediation or favourable environmental conditions.	May be able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. No remedial work required, but improvement to growing environment may assist vigour. Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with remediation or favourable environmental conditions.	May be able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. Remedial work or improvement to growing environment may assist condition and vigour. Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with remediation or favourable environmental conditions.	Unlikely to be able to be retained if sufficient space available above and below ground for future growth. Remedial work or improvement to growing environment unlikely to assist condition or vigour. Retention potential - Likely to be removed immediately or retained for Short Term. Potential for longer with remediation or favourable environmental conditions
	YGVG - 9	YGVF - 8	YGVP - 5	YLVG - 4	YLVF - 3	YLVP - 1
(Y) gnuo Y	Index Value 9 Retention potential - Long Term. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height Retain, move or replace	Index Value 8 Retention potential - Short - Medium Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height Medium-high potential for future growth and adaptability. Retain, move or replace.	Index Value 5 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height Low-medium potential for future growth and adaptability. Retain, move or replace	Index Value 4 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height Medium potential for future growth and adaptability. Retain, move or replace	Index Value 3 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height <5m. Low-medium potential for future growth and adaptability. Retain, move or replace	Index Value 1 Retention potential - Likely to be removed immediately or retained for Short Term. Likely to provide minimal contribution to local amenity if height
ŝ	MGVG - 10	MGVF - 9	MGVP - 6	MLVG - 5	MLVF - 4	MLVP - 2
Mature (M)	Index Value 10 Retention potential - Medium - Long Term	Index Value 9 Retention potential - Medium Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions.	Index Value 6 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions	Index Value 5 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions	Index Value 4 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions	Index Value 2 Retention potential - Likely to be removed immediately or retained for Short Term.
6	OGVG - 6	OGVF - 5	OGVP - 4	OLVG - 3	OLVF - 2	OLVP - 0
Over-mature (O)	Index Value 6 Retention potential - Medium - Long Term.	Index Value 5 Retention potential - Medium Term.	Index Value 4 Retention potential - Short Term.	Index Value 3 Retention potential - Short Term. Potential for longer with improved growing conditions.	Index Value 2 Retention potential - Short Term.	Index Value 0 Retention potential - Likely to be removed immediately or retained for Short Term

# **APPENDIX 2: PLANS**

ALL UTILITIES ARE QL - 'D' UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR DESIGN.

comment

date

A 27.04.21 INITIAL ISSUE

project management

PENETRATING RADAR ETC. THIS METHOD OF UTILITY LOCATIONS SHOULD

ALWAYS BE TREATED AS AN INDICATION OF THE PRESENCE OF A SERVICE ONLY

(A3) EASEMENT FOR PIPELINE PURPOSES OVER EXISTING LINE OF PIPES (DP595674) (H) RIGHT OF CARRIAGEWAY 10.06 WIDE & VARIABLE (D.P. 107066 & H860443)

(J) EASEMENT FOR PIPELINE 6 WIDE (DP595674)

co-ordinate information surveyed drawn checked level information scale (A1 original size) page CG KR DK CO-ORDINATE SYSTEM: MGA94 Z56 DATUM: AHD CONTOUR INTERVAL 10F 1 ORIGIN OF CO-ORDINATES: P.M.30963 ORIGIN OF LEVELS: P.M.30963 (R.L. 89.148) 0.5 mDATE OF SURVEY 15.04.21 infrastructure civil engineering superintendency economic analysis social impact town planning surveying

**PTICAL FIBR** IN AREA DIAL1100 WARNING UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY LINE

visualisation

development feasibility



urban design



www.adwjohnson.com.au

**LEGEND** PM PERMANENT MARK TREE • LP LIGHT POLE ■ EP ELECTRICAL PILLAR • SL STREET LIGHT **E**PIT **ELECTRICAL PIT** → SV STOP VALVE TELSTRA/COMMS PIT

——— DRAINAGE LINE -/-/- FENCE LINE OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL LINE — E(B) — UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY (QL B) — E(C) — UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY (QL C) — €(0) — UNDERGROUND ELECTRICITY (QL D) ■ EMK ELECTRICAL MARKER

— ucc)— UNDERGROUND COMMS (QL C) — uco) — UNDERGROUND COMMS (QL D) — w(A) — UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN (QL A) — w(B) — UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN (QL B) —— w(c) —— UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN (QL C) — w(o) — UNDERGROUND WATER MAIN (QL D) STORMWATER PIPE (QL A) - MINOR CONTOUR LINE

BOUNDARY LINE — TOP OF BANKS ———— TOE OF BANKS

1 PHOTOGRAPH DIRECTION TPIL TELSTRA PILLAR

• WM WATER METER MISC MISC PIT

MK MISC CABLE MARKER

# NOTES:-

- 1. PLEASE REFER TO AS5488-2013-CLASSIFICATION OF SUBSURFACE UTILITY INFORMATION (SUI) FOR THE DEFINITION OF SERVICE LOCATION ACCURACIES SHOWN IN THIS PLAN.
- 2. SOME UNDERGROUND UTILITIES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED BASED UPON DBYD INFORMATION PLANS. ADDITIONAL SERVICES MAY EXIST THROUGH THE SITE. SERVICE LOCATION HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN PART OF THE CURRENT SCOPE OF WORKS ONLY.
- 3. SERVICES HAVE BEEN LOCATED WHERE VISIBLE ONLY. PRIOR TO EXCAVATION OR CONSTRUCTION, ALL SERVICES ARE TO BE LOCATED BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITY.
- 4. BOUNDARIES ARE BASED ON EXTENSIVE BOUNDARY DEFINITION WORK AND ARE CONSIDERED FINAL. HOWEVER, ANY FUTURE PLAN OF SURVEY OF ADJOINING LOTS REGISTERED MAY IMPACT THE SUBJECT BOUNDARIES. ALL BOUNDARIES AND EASEMENTS ARE. THEREFORE, SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION OF A PLAN WITH LRS NSW.
- 5. SPOT LEVELS AND CONTOURS SHOWN HEREON ARE FOR DESIGN PURPOSES ONLY AND ARE TO BE CONFIRMED ON SITE PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION OR CONSTRUCTION.
- 6. SPOT LEVELS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE FACE OF THIS PLAN. SPOT LEVELS CAN BE ACCESSED ON THE ELECTRONIC COPY OF THIS PLAN FOR MORE DETAILED DESIGN WORKS.
- 7. THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE PURPOSE OF DESIGN AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR ANYTHING OTHER THAN THAT PURPOSE.
- 8. SOME SURVEY INFORMATION HAS BEEN SOURCED FROM A CONTOUR & DETAIL PLAN PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED BY ADWJ, PLAN REF 300058-DET-003-A, DATED 09/2018. SITE CONDITIONS MAY HAVE CHANGED.
- 9. SOME SERVICES DATA HAS BEEN SOURCED FROM A PLAN PREPARED BY AUSTRALIAN LOCATING SERVICES (PLAN REF 204569-US, DATED MARCH 2021) AND HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY ADWJ. THIS DATA IS SHOWN FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY. PLEASE REFER TO ALS PLAN FOR QUALITY INFORMATION ON THIS DATA.

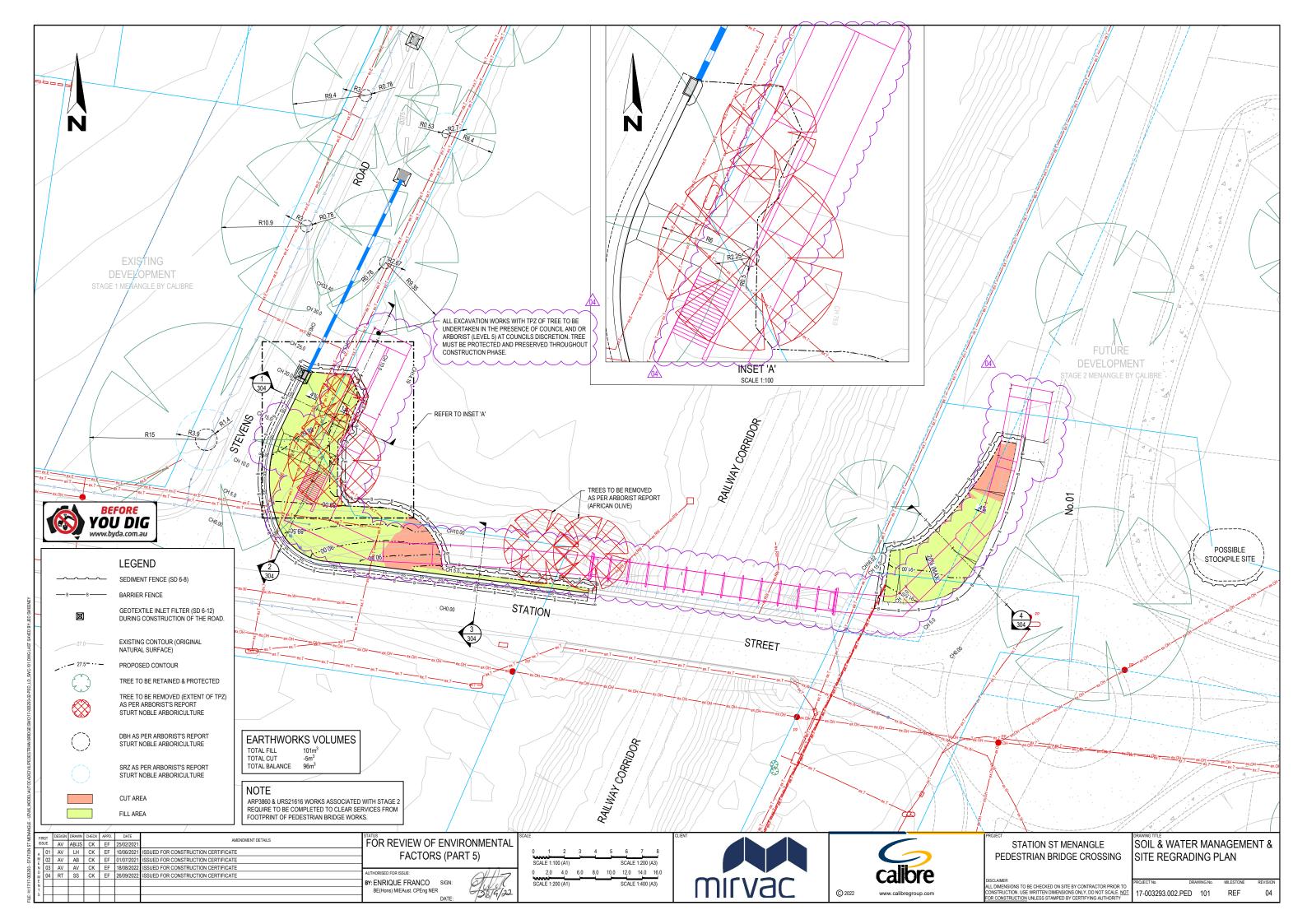
drawing title: DETAIL & CONTOUR SURVEY OVER PART LOT 202 D.P.590247 & PART LOT 11 D.P.1262205

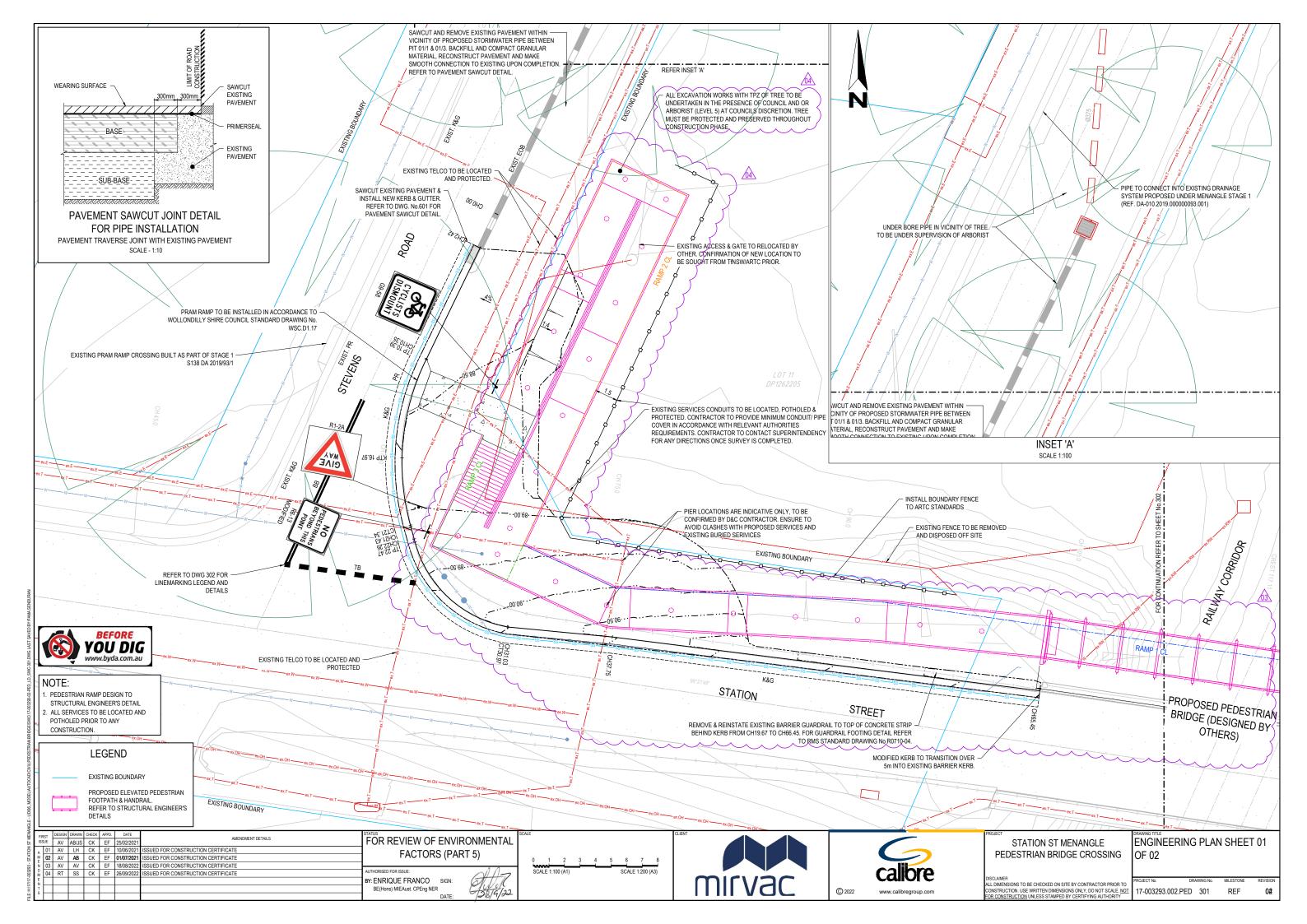
1370 MORETON PARK ROAD location: & GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAY, MENANGLE

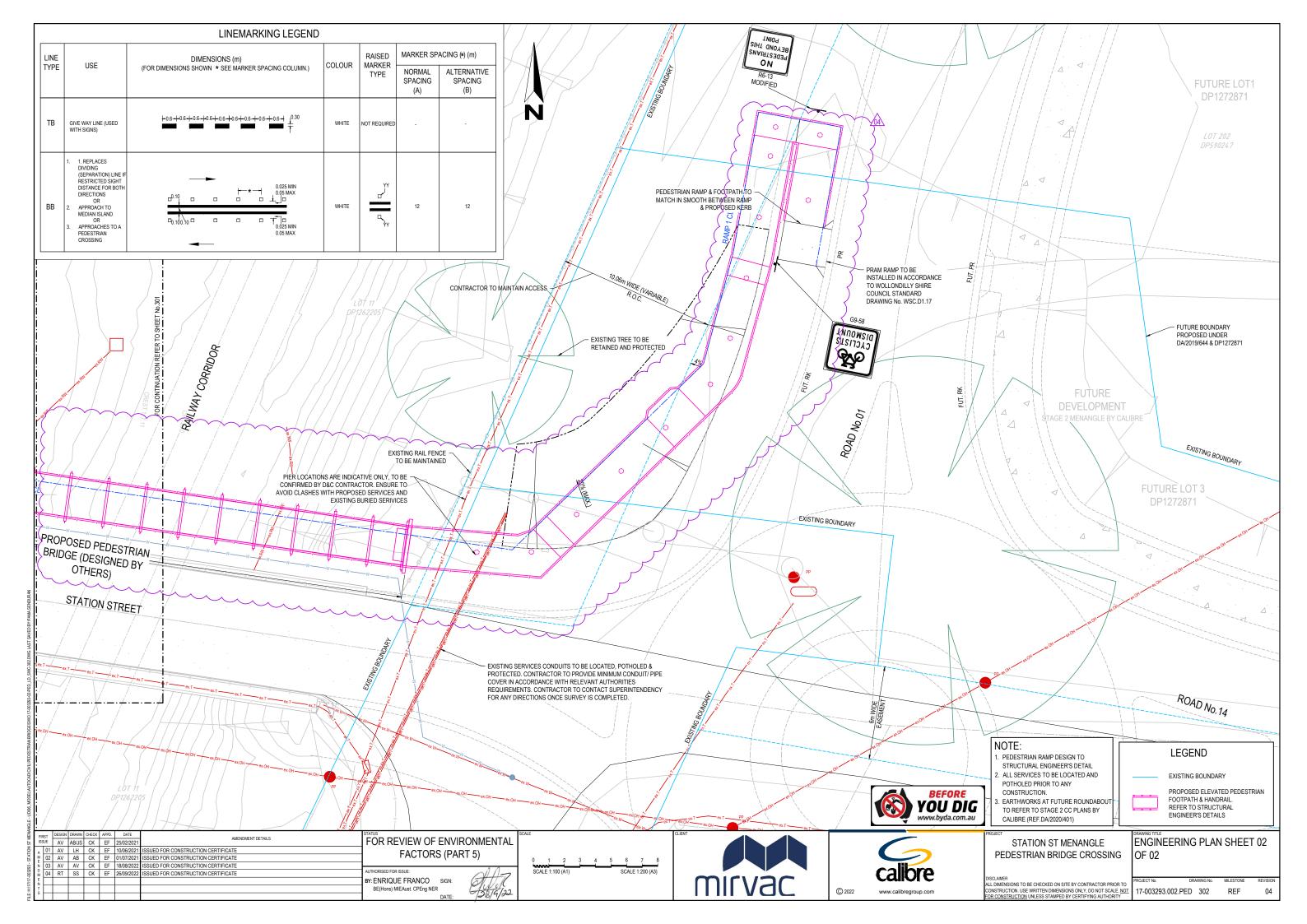
council: WOLLONDILLY SHIRE

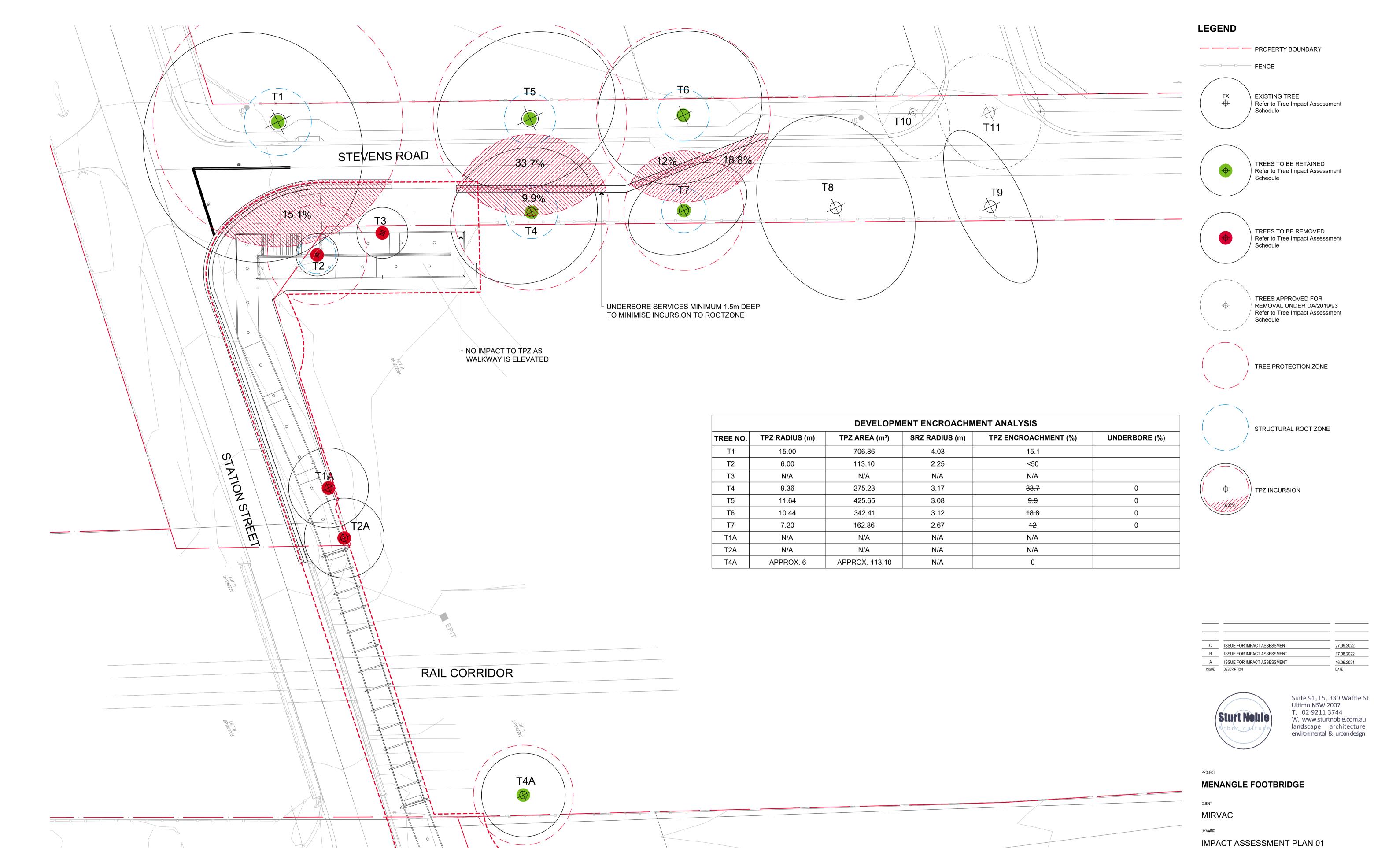
dwg ref: 300058-DET-004-A











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# APPENDIX 3: TREE ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

#### Tree Assessment Sheet

Location:	Menangle Footbridge
Client:	Mirvac
Date:	21 04 2021

Date:		21.0	21.04.2021																									
			Dimensions					Health				Vigo	our			Stı	ructu	re			Age	Clas	SS		-			
Tree No.	Botanical Name / Common Name	TPZ radius (m)	SRZ radius (m)	DBH (m)	DAB (m)	Height (m)	Spread EW (m)	Deadwood Spread NS (m)	Dieback	Pests	Diseases	Canopy density %	Foliage size	Foliage colour	Extension growth	Inclusions	Fractures	Wounds	Cavities	Decay	Senescent	Mature	Semi Mature	Young	New planting	Retention Value SRIV	Landscape Significance	Comments
1	Eucalyptus crebra Narrow-leaved Ironbark	15.00	4.03	1.38	1.6	22	15/12"	1,1/6 A	~	~		50	S	Ж	Υ		<b>Y</b>	Υ		~	~					OLVF-2	н	Sap present. Large wounds. Potential decay. Limited canopy.
2	Eucalyptus crebra Narrow-leaved Ironbark	6.00	2.25	0.5	0.4	14	8/3"	9				06	G	G	~									~		YGVG-9	М	
3	Eucalyptus crebra Narrow-leaved Ironbark	0.00	0.00																							OLVP-0	L	Dead
4	Eucalyptus melliodora Yellow Box	9.36	3.17	0.78	0.9	24	16	Υ 8/10"		~		80	G	G	~			~				~				MGVF-9	н	Minor infestation of mistletoe, all dead
5	Eucalyptus melliodora Yellow Box	11.64	3.08	0.97	0.84	19	8/11"	Y 22				80	G	G	Υ			Υ				Y				MGVF-9	н	Co-dominant at 1.7m. Minor prune wounds
6	Eucalyptus melliodora Yellow Box	10.44	3.12	0.87	0.87	19	8/10"	Υ 20		~		08	G	Э	~			~				~				MGVF-9	н	Minor infestation of mistletoe, dead and alive.
7	Eucalyptus melliodora Yellow Box	7.20	2.67	0.6	0.6	13	10	Y 8/7"				80	G	G	Υ			~				~				MGVF-9	н	Co-dominant at 2m
1,	Olea africana African Olive	0.00	0.00																								L	Exempt. Remove
2	Olea africana African Olive	0.00	0.00																								L	Exempt. Remove
4	Eucalyptus tereticornis Forest Red Gum	6.00	0.00	0.5								100														MGVG-10	Н	Mouldy trunk

#### Legend

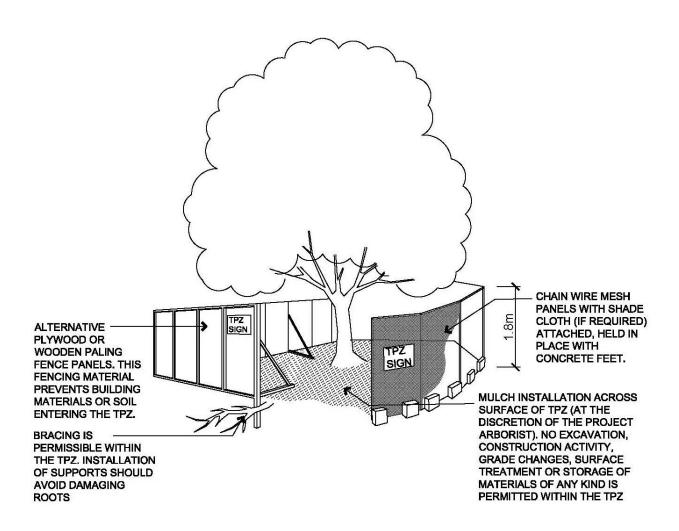
Tree to be retained and protected

Tree to be removed due to Construction

Tree to be removed due to other reason

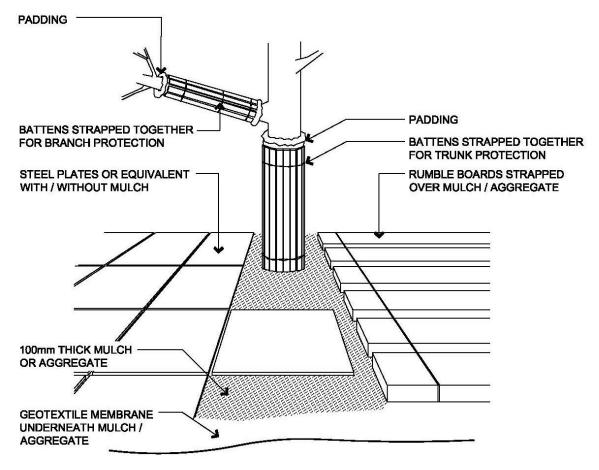
Dead tree or weed species (exempt and can be removed without consent)

# **APPENDIX 4: TYPICAL TREE PROTECTION DETAILS**



## **PROTECTIVE FENCING**

Based on AS4970-2009 NOT TO SCALE



#### NOTE:

- For trunk and branch protection use boards and padding that will prevent damage to bark.
   Boards are to be strapped to trees, not nailed or screwed.
- 2. Rumble boards should be of a suitable thickness to prevent soil compaction and root damage.

# **EXAMPLES OF TRUNK, BRANCH AND GROUND PROTECTION**

Based on AS4970-2009 NOT TO SCALE



#### TREE PROTECTION ZONE SIGN

Based on AS4970-2009 NOT TO SCALE