

17 June 2024

Attn: Andrew Chawshin
HT BUILDING PTY LTD
72 Glendower Street,
Gilead, NSW 2560

RE: CONSULTING ARBORICULTURE ADVICE & SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED REMOVAL OF TREES T38 & T39 - BENHOME AGED CARE BUILDING AT 30 REGENT STREET, MAITLAND

Dear Andrew,

This letter is in response to your request to provide comment and support for the proposed removal of two *Callistemon viminalis* cv. (Weeping Bottlebrush), as here in identified and numbered as T38 & T39. Their removal is required to facilitate the proposed minor extension proposed for the existing Benhome Aged Care Building at 30 Regent Street, Maitland.

Arterra inspected and recorded the trees on the 5 April 2023 as part of a pre-development tree assessment for the site. We confirm the following information regarding the two trees:

- Both are very small trees being less than 4m in height. One (T39) is on the frontage of Bonar St and one (T38) is set further east from the Bonar St frontage, immediately adjacent to the Benhome historic building (aka Pender House). These trees present more as large shrubs. They really only meet the definition of tree based on their recorded DBH size.
- T39 has been previously lopped and topped at approximately 1.8m height and the canopy is composed entirely of epicormic growth. T38 appears to have been coppiced in the past and has multiple stems from a stump-like base.
- Both trees were rated by Arterra with a Low Retention Value and were recommended for removal as part of any new development due to their relatively poor forms, displaying multiple trunks from the base and excessive and poorly attached epicormic growth due to previous pruning practices.
- The trees provide little historical, habitat, aesthetic, canopy coverage or environmental value, and are therefore considered to have only very minor significance.

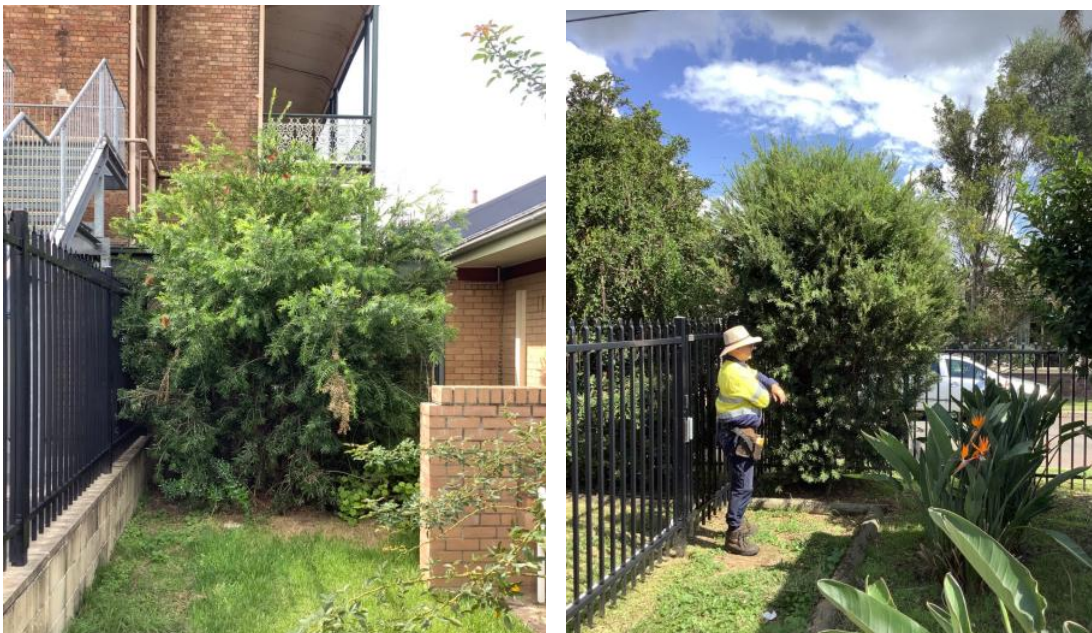


Figure 1 – T38(L) and T39(R). These are very small and heavily pruned *Callistemon viminalis* cv. (Photo: Arterra 5 April 2023).

We specifically reference the proposed building work in the vicinity of these trees as per the DA Drawing set prepared by Indesign Pty Ltd – Benhome Aged Care Extension and Rose Cottage Interior Renovation, dated 14 June 2024. Specifically, the drawings noted below:

- DA 0110, Rev 7 – Overall Site Plan
- DA 0111, Rev 7 – Overall Ground Floor Plan
- DA 0112, Rev 7 – Overall Level 1 Floor Plan
- DA 0210, Rev 7 – Residential Aged Care Extension – Demolition Plan Ground Floor & Level 1
- DA 0220, Rev 7 – Residential Aged Care Extension – Proposed Ground Floor & Level 1 Floor Plans

Based on the above information and the size and condition of the trees, Arterra therefore supports the removal of both T38 and T39. Their removal presents no significant detrimental impacts to the site or the surroundings. We also note that their removal may provide partially better views and appreciation of the historic building on the site from the Bonar St frontage.

This letter has been prepared by Robert Smart, (AQF Level 5) Consulting Arborist, who is appropriately qualified to provide arboricultural assessment and advice. Robert Smart is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), an accredited member of the Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists (IACA), a Registered Consulting Arborist with Arboriculture Australia (AA) and a licenced Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) practitioner. Robert Smart has over 25 years' experience in assessing and managing trees in complex development sites. Robert is also a Registered Landscape Architect with over 30 years' experience. Arterra provides specialist consulting arborist services only; and does not provide any physical tree services such as climbing, pruning, removal, root investigations or root pruning. Our advice is based on impartial professional assessment, as we do not derive any financial benefit from specifying pruning or other physical arborist services. We do not specify any such activities unless we determine them to be essential to ongoing tree health or stability.

If you have any questions regarding this advice, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Regards



Robert Smart AAILA, ISA, AA, IACA

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