

LET'S TALK ABOUT TREES
Managing the Urban Forest



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**Let's Talk
About Trees**
Managing the Urban Forest

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Arboricultural Assessment for:

**Norlane Community
Initiatives G1939
4 – 8 Spruhan Ave,
NORLANE, 3214**

**TREE ASSESSMENT
MANAGEMENT PLAN
For development of the site**

This report has been commissioned by:
Select Architects

Date: September 2022

Reviewed: August 2022

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1.0 Key Objectives

This report has been commissioned by Select Architects.

This report forms a tree assessment and presents a tree impact assessment and management plan for a development site referred to as Norlane Community Initiatives G1939 4 – 8 Spruhan Ave, NORLANE.

This report is for the purpose of managing vegetation and preparing a plan for protecting of trees on site and on adjoining allotments without impact or loss where possible.

2.0 Methodology

The inspection for this report was performed on site, on the 1st of September 2021, by Matthew Branagh level 5 Consulting Arborist from Let's Talk About Trees.

A ground-based Visual Tree Assessment was performed on the trees, in line with modern Arboricultural Practices and Principles, many years of education, practical experience, AS 4970 – 2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites and AS 4373 – 2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees.

All photographs were taken at the time of the inspection, and shall be used within this report for referencing or identification purposes.

3.0 Observations / Discussions

3.1 General Observations

The site is a typical residential allotment in the township of Norlane. The suburb is overseen by the planning scheme of the City of Greater Geelong.

The project removes the existing dwelling and replaces it with a new, dwelling which sits primarily on the footprint of the existing dwelling.

As such site vegetation is most greatly impacted in close proximity to the dwelling. The project is to avoid tree loss where possible.

Some trees to be retained are recognised as weed species in the region however their removal is not desired. As such these trees too require retention and protection.

5 trees were noted on adjoining residential allotments.

2 trees were noted on the municipal naturestrip.

1 tree was noted on the development site.

All trees are presented in the following Table. (Table 1.)

3.2 Discussion

No.	Identification	Est. Age Yrs	ULE	Health	Structure	Significance	Hazard	Esti. Height	DBH (cm) *multi stemmed	TPZ Radius (m) SRZ Radius (m)	Comment
1	<i>Olea europaea</i> - Olive	M	L	F	P	L	L	4	16*	2.0 SRZ 1.5	Olive sound but stunted – multi stemmed from ground level
2	<i>Quercus robur</i> – English Oak	M	L	G	G	H	L	7	45	5.4 SRZ 2.4	Sound tree, municipal naturestrip tree, cleared annually from powerlines.
3	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> - Jacaranda	M	L	F	G	H	L	6	23	2.8 SRZ 1.8	Almost defoliated and showing advanced canopy dieback and decline. Likely uncontrolled possum attack. Overhangs the existing building to be demolished from the neighbouring allotment, may require trimming / pruning works.
4	<i>Pittosporum Irene paterson</i> – <i>Pittosporum</i>	M	L	G	G	L	L	4	14*	2.0 SRZ 1.5	Screen hedge tree not maintained. Grows along the boundary of the allotment.
5	<i>Pittosporum Irene paterson</i> – <i>Pittosporum</i>	M	L	G	G	L	L	4	12*	2.0 SRZ 1.5	Screen hedge tree not maintained. Grows along the boundary of the allotment.
6	<i>Pittosporum Irene paterson</i> – <i>Pittosporum</i>	M	L	G	G	L	L	4	15*	2.0 SRZ 1.5	Screen hedge tree not maintained. Grows along the boundary of the allotment.
7	<i>Pittosporum Irene paterson</i> – <i>Pittosporum</i>	M	L	G	G	L	L	4	14*	2.0 SRZ 1.5	Screen hedge tree not maintained. Grows along the boundary of the allotment.

Table 1 – Site tree detail

Trees 1, an Olive tree, is the only tree on the allotment. Insignificant and without contribution to the landscape. The tree is proposed for removal pre development of the site.

Tree 2 is a specimen of English Oak. It grows on the municipal naturestrip and is not impacted by the development. The tree will require tree protection fencing during development. *Refer to tree management plan page 10.*

Tree 3 is a Jacaranda on the neighbouring allotment to the West. It grows approximately 1m from the boundary. The tree is in poor health, the canopy lost due to drought stress and possum attack. The tree will not be impacted by the

development, however the boundary will need fence maintained / rebuilt to offer protection. Tree protection fencing will protect this tree in development.

Tree 4, 5, 6 and 7 are all the same species. Specimens of Pittosporum, these trees are small growing, and do not have a large spreading root zone. They are separated from the development site by the boundary fence. Retention of the fence will provide suitable protection for these trees.

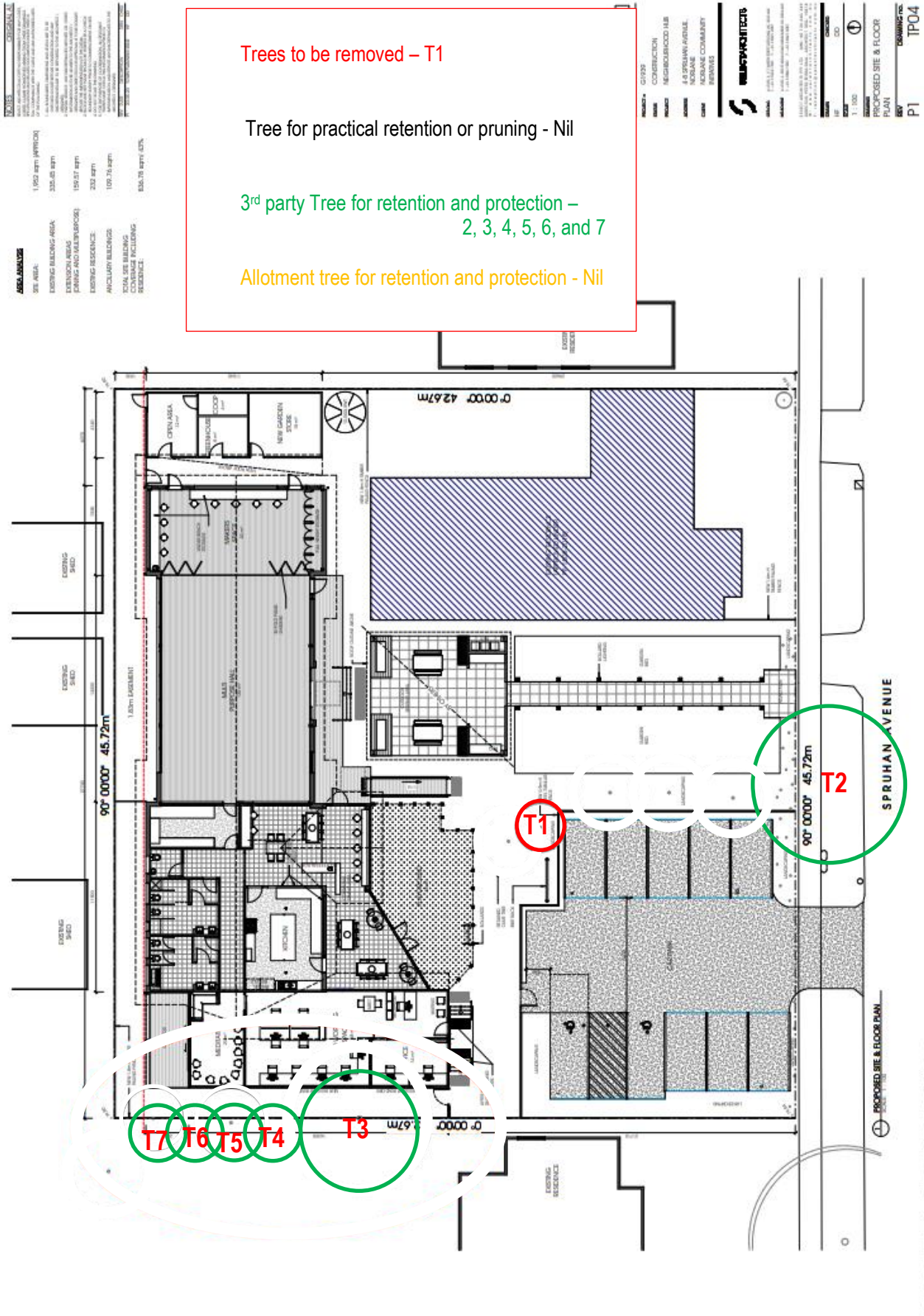


Figure 1 - Location of trees on site.

3.3 Tree protection measures

Two key management measures are required for this site.

1. Tree Protection fencing to be erected pre works on site. Works include demolition works. No works may commence before tree protection fencing is placed as per figure 3. Tree Management Plan
2. Placement of tree protection fencing must be as per section 3.2, and figure 4 below.



Figure 4 suitable tree protection fencing for this site.

3.4 Placement of protection fencing.

Placement of tree protection fencing must be as per figure 3 & 4.

Tree protection fencing needs to offer protection as the works progress to the whole of the area beneath the dripline of trees in the front of the allotment.

Protection is to continue until all site development has been concluded. As such the fence construction needs to be of durable nature and of sound yet temporary construction.

A single or double strip of delineating tape or parra web mesh, supported on droppers is not considered durable for this site.

The fence is to be signed and marked as per section 3.9 and appendix 8.0.

3.5 Trees on neighbouring allotments.

Trees on other 3rd party allotments, Trees - 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

Municipal naturestrip trees, - Tree 2

Trees for removal on this site, - Tree 1.

Permissions must be obtained from both the 3rd party (Tree Owner) and the responsible authority for the removal of any 3rd party trees.

3.6 Trees for practical retention.

No trees for practical retention on this site.

3.7 Trees for retention

All trees on neighbouring allotments.

These trees are required to be protected by tree protection fencing as per figure 3 of this report.

3.8 Trees for Removal

The tree numbered 1 is impacted by works and to be removed before commencement.

3.9 Encroachments

3.9.1 Minor

- Minor encroachments are allowable without impact to trees (10% incursion area). These are calculated into the calculated fence placements for this site.
- AS – 4970-2009 supports this as not impacting trees in a significant way.
- This report protects trees to avoid any impacts greater than minor.
- As such the workings of this report should form the basis on which development is undertaken.

3.8.2 Major

- Major encroachments are proposed for this development.
- Major encroachments should be allowed into the TPZ's of trees protected by this report, in the processes out lined by this report. Variation of this access must be in the guidance of the site arborist and the responsible authority.

3.9 Pre-construction

- The placement and signage of TPZ fencing as guided by this report must be undertaken, at the time of the placement of protective fencing.

- Should clearance pruning be determined as required must be carried out with permission of the responsible authority, and by a reasonably experienced contractor in line with Australian Standard AS4373-2007, Pruning of Amenity Trees, 2007. Clearance pruning should never exceed to more than 10% loss of a trees canopy without further guidance from the site arborist.

3.10 During construction

All construction must adhere to the following specifications;
Section 3.6 – 3.10

3.10.1 Activities excluded from the TPZ include;

- machine excavation
- trenching
- storage
- preparation of chemicals including preparation of cement products
- parking of vehicles and plant
- refueling
- dumping of waste
- wash down and cleaning of equipment
- placement of fill or soil level changes.

3.10.2 Limitations of activities carried out within the TPZ include;

- All excavation and construction of or within the encroached area of T.P.Z should be carried out via hand tools.
- Manual excavation should be carried out under the supervision of the project arborist to identify roots location and disturbance.
- Manual excavation may include the use of pneumatic and hydraulic tools used at non-destructive pressure.
- No wheeled or tracked equipment to be used within the encroached area of T.P.Z to avoid or reduce soil compaction.
- Severance of any roots greater than 20 mm in diameter is not permitted, without the prior approval of the project arborist.

3.10.3 Other works – Potential and unforeseen impacts.

- Severance of any roots greater than 20mm in diameter is not permitted, without the prior approval of the project arborist and the responsible authority.

- If installation of below ground services are required in side TPZ's they must be installed via boring methods. Boring must be at a depth greater than 600mm with entry and exit pits, not being within a T.P.Z. of any trees unless included and guided by this impact assessment. The project arborist should assess the likely impacts of boring, and bore pits on any trees where impacts determined or probable.
- Manual excavation may include the use of pneumatic and hydraulic tools. (An excavator or bobcat is not deemed a 'tool' for this purpose).

3.11 Post construction

Post construction, and before amelioration works, tree protection fencing may be decommissioned and removed.

3.12 Schedule of site visits

Stage Required	Reason Required
Pre-construction	<u>Nil</u>
Intermittent stages	NOTE RE TREES 3 – 7 Following the pouring of footings and the erecting of framing with the TPZ fence in place. The fence alignment may be temporarily altered to allow external cladding of the side wall. Immediately following the cladding process the tree protection fence must be erected back in location as open the tree management plan. AT NO TIME IS MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT ALLOWED WITHIN THE AREA PROTECTED AS TPZ.
Post construction	Site inspection before fence decommissioning around tree 2 for the final landscaping phase. The inspection shall be recorded by the site arborist in writing and submitted to the responsible authority, noting tree impacts and health following development.

Figure 5 – Programed site visits

3.13 Defendable Space

No trees require management to accommodate defendable space.

4.0 Conclusion

This tree management plan should be used to manage trees on site for the duration of this project.

AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites should be used to protect and manage the tree through this entire process of development.

Where further tree issues arise, the sites level 5 arborist should be notified for best practice management of trees.

All pruning works to retained trees should be carried out as per AS 4373 – Pruning of Amenity Trees.

The full and correct management of the trees on the site is achieved by further engaging the sites level 5 arborist where ever issues relating to trees arises.

5.0 Recommendations

1. The observations, tabulated field data, and discussions of this report should form the basis of the management of the tree assets of this site.
2. The two Australian Standards AS4970 –2009 Protection of Trees on Construction Sites, and AS 4373—2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees should be used in the ongoing management of this tree.
3. All works carried out the trees should be undertaken by qualified arborist as per the guideline of Australian Standard AS4970 – 2009 Protection of Trees on Construction Sites.
4. Where trees are removed as a result of this report, it should be noted this report DOES NOT give permissions for removal of vegetation.

These permissions must be sought from other authorities.

Heavy penalties for removal of vegetation without the correct permissions may apply in some areas.

6.0 Appendices

6.1 Trees of the site



Tree 1, *Olea europaea* – Olive



Tree 2, *Quercus robur*



Tree 3, *Jacaranda mimosifolia* - Jacaranda



Trees 4, 5, 6 and 7 *Pittosporum Irene Paterson* – *Pittosporum*

6.3 Location of the site



LOCATION OF THE SITE

6.4 Descriptor's

Definitions Descriptor's used for throughout this report.

AGE

Category	Description
Young	Juvenile or recently planted approximately 1-7 years.
Semi Mature	Tree actively growing.
Mature	Tree has reached expected size in situation.
Senescent	Tree is over mature and has started to decline.

HEALTH

Good	Foliage of tree is entire, with good colour, very little sign of pathogens and of good density. Growth indicators are good ie. Extension growth of twigs and wound wood development. Minimal or no canopy die back (deadwood).
Fair	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms; < 25% dead wood, minor canopy die back, foliage generally with good colour though some imperfections may be present. Minor pathogen damage present, with growth indicators such as leaf size, canopy density and twig extension growth typical for the species in this location.
Poor	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms of tree decline; > 25% deadwood, canopy die back is observable, discoloured or distorted leaves. Pathogens present, stress symptoms are observable as reduced leaf size, extension growth and canopy density.
Dead or dying	Tree is in severe decline; > 55% deadwood, very little foliage, possibly epicormic shoots, minimal extension growth.

STRUCTURE

Good	Trunk and scaffold branches show good taper and attachment with minor or no structural defects. Tree is a good example of the species with a well-developed form showing no obvious root problems or pests and diseases.
Fair	Tree shows some minor structural defects or minor damage to trunk eg. bark missing, there could be cavities present. Minimal damage to structural roots. Tree could be seen as typical for this species.
Poor	There are major structural defects, damage to trunk or bark missing. Co-dominant stems could be present or poor structure with likely points of failure. Girdling or damaged roots obvious. Tree is structurally problematic.
Hazardous	Tree is an immediate hazard with potential to fail, this should be rectified as soon as possible.

HAZARD

Hazard is rated into three levels; **LOW**, **MEDIUM**, and **HIGH**.

1. **LOW;** Tree appears to be structurally sound, is healthy with no signs of pests or disease, has good vigour and is clear of any hazards.
2. **MEDIUM;** Tree displays signs of structural problems, evidence of pests or disease, signs of low vigour, deadwood, decay, may be growing into an area that could create a hazard.
3. **HIGH;** Tree is an immediate hazard with the potential to fail, this should be rectified as soon as possible.

USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY – ULE

LONG ULE; Trees that appears to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for more than 40 years.

1. Structurally sound trees located in positions that can accommodate future growth.
2. Storm damaged or defective trees that could be made suitable for retention in the long term by remedial tree surgery.
3. Trees of special significance for historical, commemorative or rarity reasons that would warrant extraordinary efforts to secure their long-term retention.

MEDIUM ULE; Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 15 to 40 years.

1. Trees that may only live between 15 and 40 years.
2. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals.
3. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons.
4. Storm damage or defective trees that can be made suitable for retention in the medium term by remedial work.

SHORT ULE; Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 5 to 15 years.

1. Trees that may live for 5 to 15 years.
2. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals.
3. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons.
4. Storm damaged or defective trees that require substantial remedial work to make safe and are only suitable for retention in the short term.

REMOVE; Trees with a high level of risk that would need removal within the next 5 years.

1. Dead trees.
2. Dying or suppressed and declining trees through disease or inhospitable conditions.
3. Dangerous trees through instability or recent loss of adjacent trees.
4. Dangerous trees through structural defects including cavities, decay, included bark, wounds or poor form.
5. Damaged trees that are considered unsafe to retain.
6. Trees that will become dangerous after removal of other trees for the above reasons.

SIGNIFICANCE / RETENTION VALUE



Significance is rated into three levels; **LOW, MEDIUM, HIGH**.

- LOW;** Trees that offer little in terms of contributing to the future landscape for the reasons of poor health or structural condition, species suitability in relation to unacceptable growth habit, noxious, poisonous or weed species or ULE, or a combination of these characteristics. Should be considered for removal.
- MODERATE;** Trees with some beneficial attributes that may benefit the site in relation to botanical, horticultural, historical or local significance but may be limited to some degree by their future growth potential at the site by maintenance requirements now or in the future. These trees should be considered for retention if possible within the development design, they may be modified to allow for construction. (eg. pruning, etc;)
- HIGH;** Trees with the potential to positively contribute to the site due to their botanical, horticultural, historical or local significance in combination with good characteristics of structure, health and future development. Should be considered for inclusion within development plans.

6.5 Applying the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)

The diagram below indicates how the dimensions of the Structural Root Zone and the Tree Protection Zone are applied.

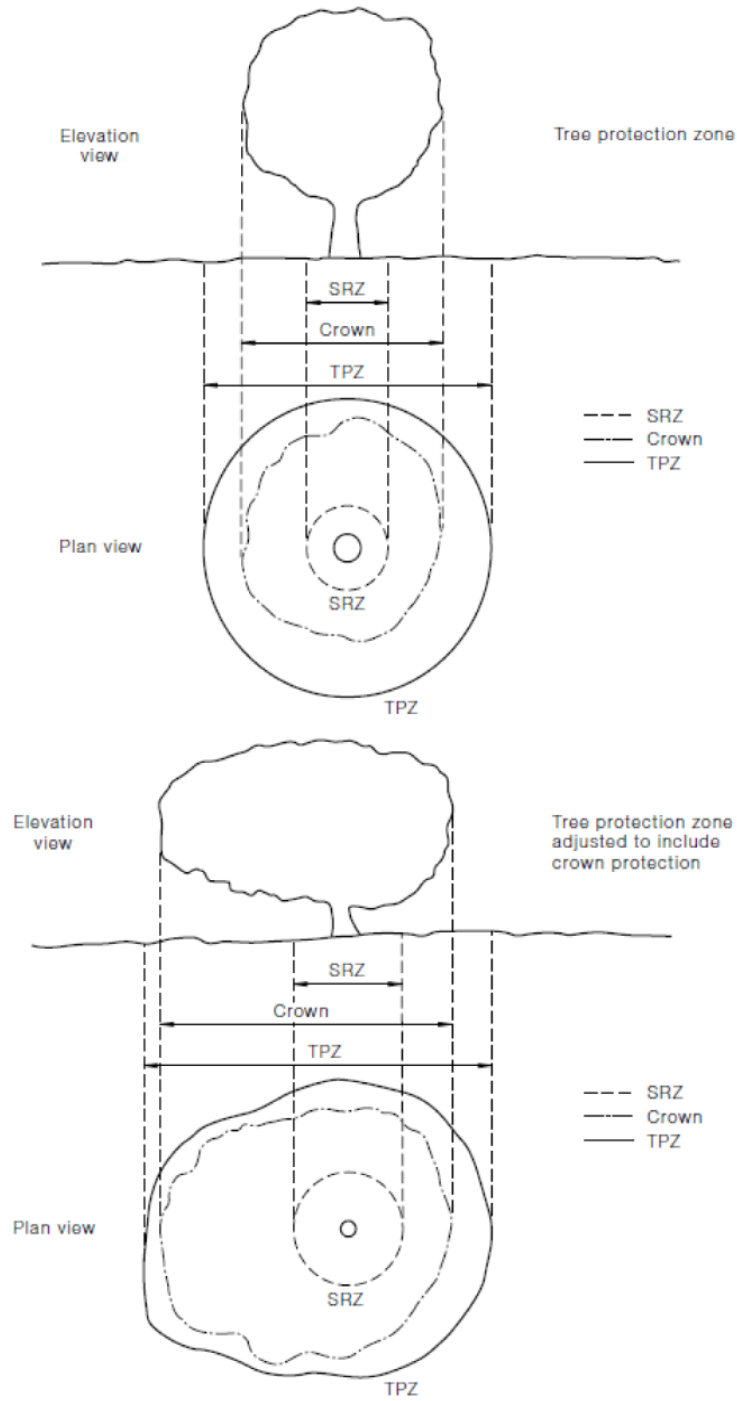


 = TREE PROTECTION ZONE	 = Structural Root Zone
--	--

A = SRZ m Radius
 B = TPZ m Radius

- The tree protection zone is always expressed as a metres radius and depicted as a metres diameter.
- NO works should be undertaken inside the Tree Protection Zone unless guided by an Arborist and AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.
- NO works should be undertaken in the Structural Root Zone under any circumstances.

6.6 Structural Root Zone & Tree Protection Zone.



NOTE: Refer to Clause 3.2 for calculation of TPZ.

FIGURE 2 INDICATIVE TREE PROTECTION ZONE

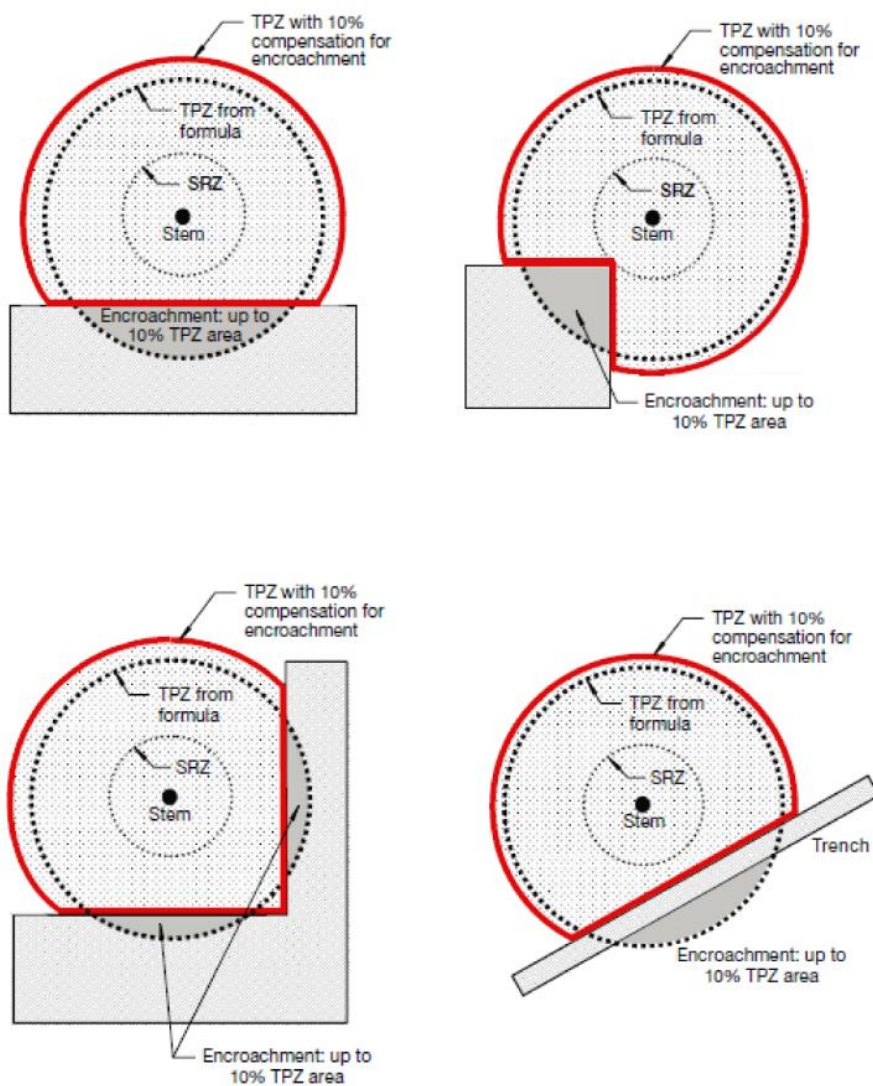
6.7 Tree Protection Zone Encroachment Examples

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AS 4970—2009

APPENDIX D ENCROACHMENT INTO TREE PROTECTION ZONE (Informative)

Encroachment into the tree protection zone (TPZ) is sometimes unavoidable. Figure D1 provides examples of TPZ encroachment by area, to assist in reducing the impact of such incursions.



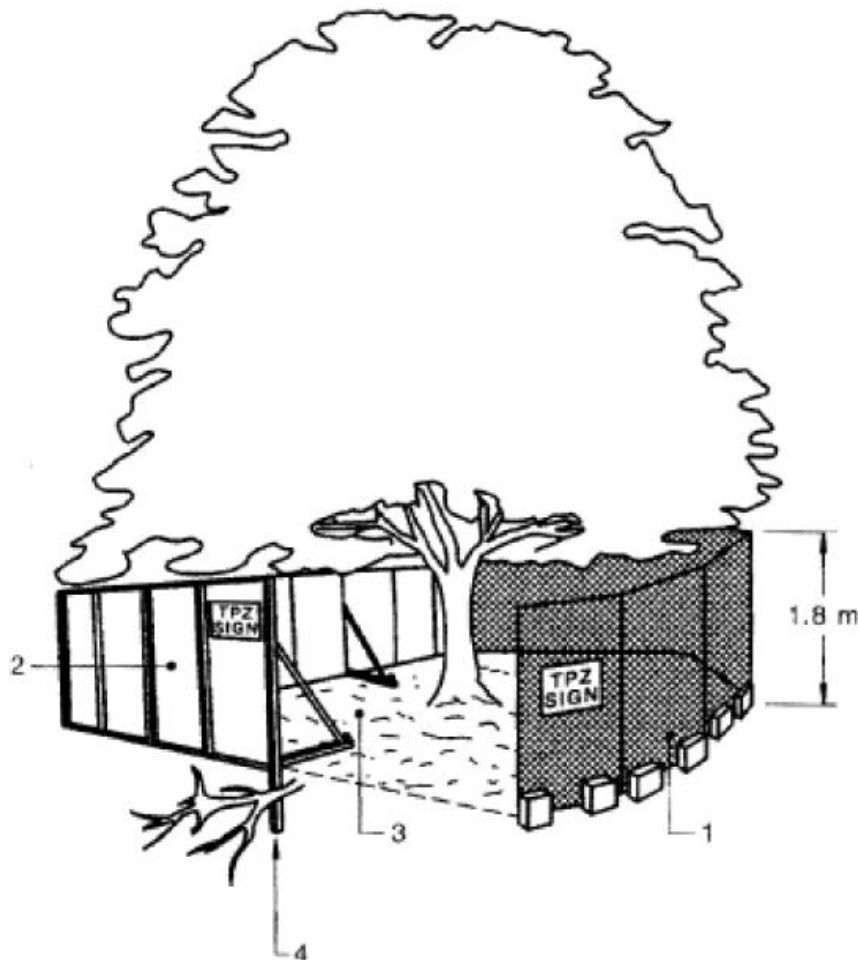
NOTE: Less than 10% TPZ area and outside SRZ. Any loss of TPZ compensated for elsewhere.

FIGURE D1 EXAMPLES OF MINOR ENCROACHMENT INTO TPZ

6.8 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Signs

4.4 SIGNS

Signs identifying the TPZ should be placed around the edge of the TPZ and be visible from within the development site (refer Figure 3). The lettering on the sign should comply with AS 1319. Appendix C provides an example of a suitable TPZ sign.



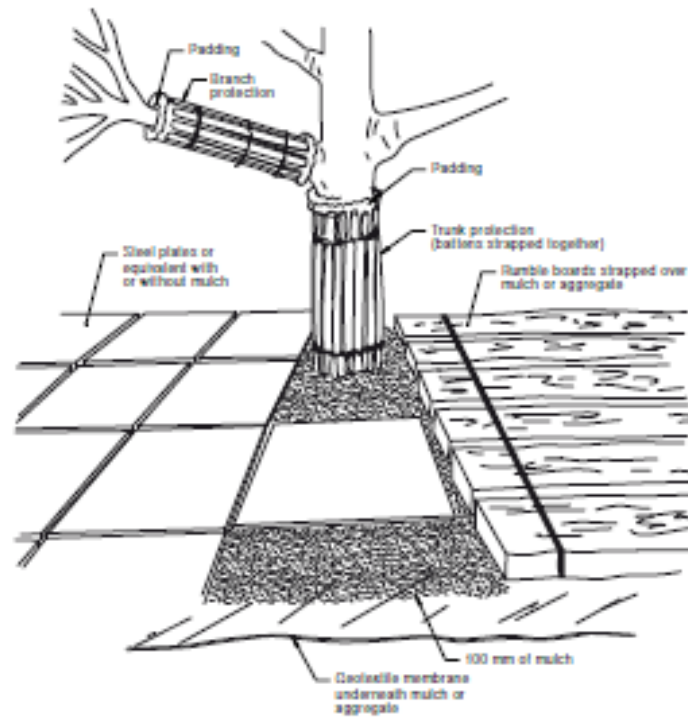
LEGEND:

- 1 Chain wire mesh panels with shade cloth (if required) attached, held in place with concrete feet.
- 2 Alternative plywood or wooden paling fence panels. This fencing material also prevents building materials or soil entering the TPZ.
- 3 Mulch installation across surface of TPZ (at the discretion of the project arborist). No excavation, construction activity, grade changes, surface treatment or storage of materials of any kind is permitted within the TPZ.
- 4 Bracing is permissible within the TPZ. Installation of supports should avoid damaging roots.

FIGURE 3 PROTECTIVE FENCING

(Extract from AS4970 – 2009 Protection of trees on Development sites)

6.9 Ground Protection



NOTES:

- 1 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.

6.10 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Example

AS 4970—2009

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APPENDIX C

TREE PROTECTION ZONE SIGN EXAMPLE

(Informative)

A TPZ sign provides clear and readily accessible information to indicate that a TPZ has been established. Figure C1 provides an example of a suitable sign.



FIGURE C1 TREE PROTECTION ZONE SIGN

(Extract from AS4970 – 2009 Protection of trees on Development sites)

6.11 Indicative Stages in Development

Stage in Development	Tree Management Process	
	Matters for Consideration	Actions and Certificates
Planning (Sections 2 and 3)		
Site acquisition	Legal constraints	
Detail surveys	Council plans and policies Planning instruments and controls Heritage Threatened species	Existing trees accurately plotted on survey plan.
Preliminary tree assessment	Hazard/risks Tree retention value	Evaluate trees suitable for retention and mark on plan Provide preliminary arboricultural report and indicative TPZs to guide development layout.
Preliminary development design	Condition of trees Proximity to buildings Location of services Roads Level changes Building operations space Long-term management	Planning selection of trees for retention Design review by proponent Design modifications to minimise impact to trees.
Development submission	Identify trees for retention through comprehensive arboricultural impact assessment of proposed construction. Determine tree protection measures. Landscape design.	Provide arboricultural impact assessment including tree protection plan (drawing) and specification.
Development approval	Development controls Conditions of consent	Review consent conditions relating to trees.
Pre-construction (Sections 4 and 5)		
Initial site preparation	State based OHS requirements for tree work Approved retention/removal Refer to AS 4373 for the requirements on the pruning of amenity trees Specifications for tree protection measures.	Compliance with conditions of consent. Tree removal/tree retention/transplanting Tree pruning Certification of tree removal and pruning. Establish/delineate TPZ Install protective measures Certification of tree protection measures.

Stage in Development	Tree Management Process	
	Matters for Consideration	Actions and Certificates
Construction (Sections 4 and 5)		
Site establishment	Temporary infrastructure Demolition, bulk earthworks, hydrology	Locate temporary infrastructure to minimise impact on related trees. Maintain protective measures Certification of tree protection measures.
Construction work	Liaison with site manager, compliance Deviation from approved plan	Maintain or amend protective measures Supervision and monitoring
Implement hard and soft landscape works	Installation of irrigation services Control of compaction work Installation of pavement and retaining walls	Remove selected protective measures as necessary Remedial tree works Supervision and monitoring
Practical completion	Tree vigour and structure	Remove all remaining tree protection measures Certification of tree protection
Post Construction (Section 5)		
Defects liability / maintenance period	Tree vigour and structure	Maintenance and monitoring Final remedial tree works Final certification of tree condition

NOTES:

1. Owing to variations in planning legislation, this Table is a general indication of the process only
2. Certification of tree protection and condition should be carried out by the project Arborist.

Extract from Australian Standard 4970 – 2009 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites.

The above Table shows clearly the process of tree protection on development sites as set out in the Australian Standard. It can also serve as a guide to the set up and management of new and replacement plantings.

This Table should be followed in the management of all trees on development sites.

Depending on the stage of the project you are undertaking, the type of project you are undertaking and specific other requirements of various planning departments, in some instances additional reports may be required.

The above Table serves as an indicative guide to the process of managing and protecting trees.

7.0 References

Australian Standard® **AS4970-2009, Protection of trees on development sites, 2009, Sydney**

Australian Standard® **AS4373-2007, Pruning of Amenity Trees, 2007, Sydney**

Further reading

Alex L. Shigo, **A New Tree Biology**. 1986. USA

Alex L. Shigo, **Modern Arboriculture**. 1991. USA



Writings within the report are of the author's personal knowledge and belief. The information and knowledge released in the report when referenced should be referenced to

Matt Branagh, Dip.App.Scl – Horticulture/Arboriculture – Let's Talk About Trees.

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