

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X038120 **DATE:** 12 November 2021

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Amit Chanan, Director City Projects and Property

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 7.3 - Project Scope - Michael Kelly Rest Area, Newtown

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

The purpose is to provide information about the proposed tree removal and replacements in draft Concept Plan for Michael Kelly Rest Area.

Background

At the meeting of the Environment Committee on 8 November 2021, further information was sought about the trees proposed to be removed and the replacement trees (number, species, and size).

Tree Management - The small 400m² park has a row of mature casuarinas and a fig on the northern side and a large grevillea tree at the western end dominates and shades the park and adjacent apartments. The existing canopy cover is over 95 per cent.

The Greening Sydney Strategy establishes targets to increase greening and tree canopy in the city. The target percentage cover for pocket parks is 70 per cent, which provides a high level of canopy cover whilst still allowing solar access and supporting other park usage.

Due to large tree size and existing canopy cover, overshadowing is an issue which reduces turf quality, use and enjoyment. Consultation submissions requested more trees be removed as part of the project - Attachment C to the subject report - Engagement Summary.

Investigations for selective pruning and ongoing management of trees to replace and establish some deciduous trees over time is proposed to increase the amount of solar access in the park, which is particularly important during the winter months.

Tree Removals - As outlined in the Project Scope report, two small trees in poor health have been identified for removal. The trees are likely self-sown and are growing under the canopy of the adjacent trees. The trees are:

1. Jacaranda - A small semi-mature tree with extensive ring barking damage at the base and a poor habit due to suppression and overshadowing.
2. Monterey Cypress - A small tree growing too close to the edge of the garden and has a poor habit due also due to suppression from the adjacent trees.



Figure 1 - existing Jacaranda and ring bark damage.



Figure 2 - existing Cypress Pine and tree position close to the garden edge.

These trees have been assessed by the independent arborist and identified with a Low Retention Value.

Replacement Plants - To replace the trees, five mature native palms are proposed. The park is in a protected south-facing gully which originally would have likely included Cabbage Tree palms.

The native palms species will be confirmed during the documentation stage in consultation with the City Arborist. Large mature palms with a 2-3m clear trunk will be installed.

Memo from Amit Chanan, Director City Projects and Properties

Prepared by: Stephen Merchant, Senior Design Manager

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer