

ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT

427 – 441 Springvale Road, Springvale Vic, 3171 – Greater
Dandenong

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Arbor Advocacy Reference # 1033

Version Further Information Required

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1 – Location

427 – 441 Springvale Road, Springvale, Victoria, 3171

2 – Application Reference Number

PA2101253

3 – Responses to Further Information Required

3.1 – Item 1c

- “Clause 52.17 of the Greater Dandenong Planning Scheme in relation to native vegetation removal, destruction or lopping. If the requirement’s apply, the application must either meet the requirements or be amended to include the relevant permit trigger. If seeking to reply on an exemption under Clause 52.17, evidence is required to demonstrate this (i.e. that trees 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 are planted, as suggested in the arboricultural assessment).”

All the trees that have been included for removal exist within defined garden beds that may have been part of earlier planning submissions. The school was asked to provide some photographic evidence of the construction or post construction of the existing gym and surrounding area, however were unable to locate any. The college did provide a written response when asked about the history of the college and gym site, their response was.

“The property was initially a nursery attached to the college that the Brigidines acquired in 1977 according to the titles I can find. So, if the trees in question are under 44 years old then that will be our evidence that the land was cleared for a car park and the planting around the perimeter (and in the central dividing garden bed) was done after 1977.”

This statement aligns with the age of the more mature trees that are located on the Western side of the gym, (Trees 21, 22 and 23). Whilst trees 21, 22, & 23 (*Casuarina pauper* / Black Oak) are Australian natives and given that the site was previously a nursery these trees would have been planted at the time of the gym’s construction, they are not remnant from an existing stand or endemic to this part of Victoria.

Tree 18 (*Pittosporum undulatum* / Sweet Pittosporum) is classified as a weed species within Greater Dandenong Shire and therefore is exempt from a permit for its removal.

Trees 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 24, 25 and 26 are all commonly planted in carparks, schools, shopping centres and community spaces for various reasons. Some are low maintenance and hearty trees that can cope with a vast change in weather conditions where they are planted (e.g. 6, 7, 17, 24, 25, 26) and they also present a low risk to both personnel and property in the event they shed a limb or fail completely. Others (e.g. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16) Are planted as they are a simple feature tree when regularly maintained.

Whilst there is no photographic evidence supporting the notion that the native trees marked for removal have been planted the statement from the school outlining the previous use of the site, the timeline and age of the trees in conjunction with the trees variety and species is enough evidence to know that the trees have all been planted by the college or previous custodians at some point in time.

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