

# Arborcultural Impact Assessment Report

**Broadwater Public School** 

Client

ADCO



Northern Tree Care ABN 73 674 526 681 6 Abalone Place, Ballina. NSW 2478 File No: 2324 Version: Final 13 Sept 2023

## Contents

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Scope	3
3.	Method	4
4.	Observations	5
5.	Tree Significance	9
6.	Tree Retention Values	9
7.	Discussion	10
8.	Recommendations	11
9.	Tree Protection	12
10.	References	14
11.	About The Author	15
12.	Attachment 1 Location	16
13.	Attachment 2 Aerial Photo	17
14.	Attachment 3 Survey	18
15.	Attachment 4 New Buildings	19
16.	Attachment 5. Significance of Trees	20
17.	Attachment 6. Photos	23



## 1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on request from ADCO. The Broadwater Public School was extensively damaged in the 2020 floods. ADCO is carrying out the construction of the new school buildings. There are a number of trees growing on the school grounds that may potentially be affected by the new building.

### 2. Scope

2.1 This report is an Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report. The report describes the trees. The retention value of the trees is assessed. Where it is considered appropriate recommendations for the management of the trees are made. Where trees are retained in the new development recommendations for their protection construction are made.

2.2 Northern Tree Care provided a Preliminary Tree Report in 2022. This report uses some of the information gathered for the previous report. The potential and likely effect of the construction of the new buildings and infrastructure on the trees is assessed in this report.



## 3. Method

3.1 The trees were assessed visually from the ground. The diameter at breast height (DBH) was measured at 1.4 m above the ground. The height of the trees was measured using a hypsometer or estimated where the view of the trees was partially obstructed. The conventions and methods recommended in the Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites was used to assess the tree.

3.2 The health and condition of the trees was assessed using the Visual Tree Assessment method (Mattheck & Breloer 2003). This is a method of assessing trees using the body language or shape and features of the tree to indicate their condition. These tree shapes or body language are a reliable indicator of the underlying condition of that part of the tree. The trees were identified using the signs and features present at the time of inspection.

3.3 The trees were inspected by Peter Gray of Northern Tree Care on  $2^{nd}$  June 2023. This report is compiled from information gathered during the inspection and from plans and documents supplied by ADCO. The plans and documents include:

- Detail Survey Plan. Beveridge Williams. 18/01/2023.
- Masterplan. Pedavoli Architects. 19/05/2023



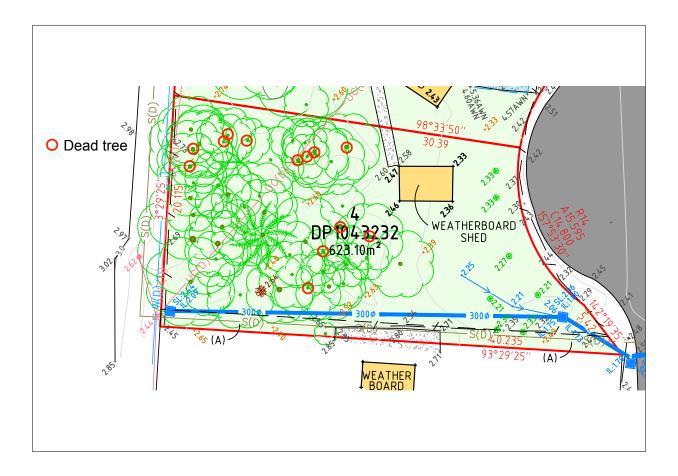
#### 4. **Observations**

4.1 The property subject of this report is described as 9 Byrnes Street, Broadwater, Lot 4 & 5 in DP 1043232 and Lot 501 in DP 755624. The land is zoned RU1 Primary Production. The land is bounded by the Pacific Highway to the west, private residences to the north and south and farmland to the east. The land is flat and the soil is sandy loam.

4.2 The trees growing on the school grounds have all been planted. Some of the trees are planted in groups or rows. Where the trees are in groups or rows that were planted at the same time tree trees have been described as a group (see Attachment 2. Site Plan).

4.3 It is planned to construct some of the buildings near the group of trees G 4. This group of trees has now been individually described. The trees are described in detail in Table 1. Tree Data.

4.4 The group of trees # 22 has thirteen dead trees in the group. The trees in the group that are dead are shown in Figure 1 below. There are also two trees that are planned to be removed to allow installation of a services trench.



Arborist Report. Broadwater Public School Prepared by Northern Tree Care 13 Sept 2023 File # 2324 Page 5 of 25



#### 4.4 **Table 1. Tree Data**

Tree #	Name	Age	Health	Height m	DBH mm	Crown m	TPZ m	Retain
1	Tallowwood Eucalyptus microcorys	Mature	Good	20-25	850	15	10.2	Yes
2a	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2b	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2c	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2d	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2e	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2f	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2g	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2h	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2i	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2j	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
2k	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	10-15	250	3	2.5	Yes
3a	Bottlebrush x 2 Callistemon viminalis	Nature	Good	5-10	500	6	6.0	No
3b	Bottlebrush x 2 Callistemon viminalis	Nature	Good	5-10	500	6	6.0	No
4a	Swamp Mahogany Eucalyptus robusta	Mature	Poor	10-15	710	6	8.5	No
4b	Swamp Mahogany Eucalyptus robusta	Mature	Fair	10-15	480	5	5.8	No
4c	Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis	Mature	Good	15-20	820	8	9.8	Yes
4d	Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis	Mature	Good	15-20	510	6	6.1	Yes
4e	Flooded Gum Eucalyptus grandis	Mature	Good	15-20	560	7	6.7	Yes

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#### 4.4 **Table 1. Tree Data**

Tree #	Name	Age	Health	Height m	DBH mm	Crown m	TPZ m	Retain
5	Weeping Fig Ficus microcarpa var. hillii	Mature	Good	20-25	1,170	20	14.0	Yes
6	Coastal Pine Callitris columellaris	Mature	Good	5-10	410	5	4.9	Yes
7	Flooded Gum Eucalyptus grandis	Mature	Good	10-15	880	9	10.6	Yes
8	Brushbox Lophostemon confertus	Mature	Good	5-10	320	5	3.8	Yes
9	Forest Red Gum <i>Eucalyptus</i> tereticornis	Mature	Good	10-15	540	8	6.5	Yes
10	Poplar <i>Populus</i> sp.	Mature	Good	5-10	550	9	6.6	Yes
11	Hoop Pine Araucaria cunninghamii	Mature	Good	10-15	430	8	5.2	Yes
12a	Cocos Palm Syagrus romanzofiana	Mature	Good	5-10	350	4	3.0	Yes
12b	Cocos Palm Syagrus romanzofiana	Mature	Good	5-10	350	4	3.0	Yes
13	Hoop Pine Araucaria cunninghamii	Mature	Good	10-15	1,000	14	12.0	Yes
14a	Bangalow Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	5-10	200	3	2.5	No
14b	Bangalow Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Mature	Good	5-10	200	3	2.5	No
15	Exotic species	Mature	Good	5-10	330	5	4.0	No
16	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Mature	Good	15-20	1,600	15	15.0	No
17	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Mature	Good	15-20	1,600	15	15.0	Yes
18	Group of rainforest trees x 62	Mature	Good	15-20	<700			Yes
18a	She Oak Casuarina glauca	Mature	Good	15-20	400	8	4.8	No
18b	Dead tree							No
19a	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Mature	Fair	15-20	1,500	12	15.0	Yes
19b	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Mature	Fair	15-20	1,500	12	15.0	Yes

Arborist Report. Broadwater Public School Prepared by Northern Tree Care 13 Sept 2023 File # 2324 Page 7 of 25



#### Table 1. Tree Data continued

Tree #	Name	Age	Health	Height m	DBH mm	Crown m	TPZ m	Retain
19c	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Mature	Fair	15-20	1,500	12	15.0	Yes
20	Weeping Paperbark <i>Melaleuca</i> <i>leucadendra</i>	Mature	Good	10-15	600	8	7.2	Yes
21	Weeping Paperbark <i>Melaleuca</i> <i>leucadendra</i>	Mature	Good	10-15	600	8	7.2	Yes
22	Group of Rainforest trees	Mature	Poor	5-10	<250	4		Yes
23	Brown Kurrajong Commersonia bartramia	Dead	Dead	5-10	620	6		No
24	Firewheel Stenocarpus sinuatus	Mature	Good	5-10	290	5	3.5	No
25	Paperbark Melaleuca quinquenervia	Mature	Good	5-10	240	4	2.9	Yes



#### 5. Tree Significance

5.1 When considering the retention value of trees, two major issues were considered. They are the significance of the tree and its estimated life expectancy.

5.2 When assigning a value to the significance of the tree, a number of factors should be considered (Moreton 2003). The significant outcomes have been determined in Attachment 4. Significance of Trees in the Landscape.

#### Landscape Significant Rating Significant Very High | High Moderate Low Very Low Insignificant Very Low Low Moderate Retention Retention Retention High Retention Value Value Value Value # 2a, 2b, # 3a, 3b, 2c, 2d, 4a, 4b, 4c, 2e, 2f, 4d, 4e, 5, 6, 2g, 2h, Est. Life # 1 # 18 7, 10, 11, > 40 2i, 2j, 2k, Expectancy 8, 12, 15, 13, 14a, years 14b, 16, 17, 19a, 19b, 20, 21, 24 19c, 22 15-40 5-15 <5 Dead # 23

## 6. Tree Retention Values

Ref: Modified from Couston, Howden (2001) Tree Retention Values Table. Footprint Green Pty Ltd, Sydney Australia.

6.1 Where trees have a high retention value they should be retained if possible. Where the development is considered to be more important than the trees they may be removed (Barrell 2006).

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### 7. Discussion

7.1 The existing school buildings will be demolished and new building will be constructed. The new buildings will be constructed in an area that is currently used as a sports field. A total of 10 trees will be removed to allow construction of the new buildings and also a new sports field. Of the 10 trees to be removed seven are assessed as being of moderate retention value. They include tree # 3 and 14 which are actually two trees growing close together as shown on the plans. One of the trees to be removed is dead and one of the trees is of low retention value.

7.2 Three of the trees planned to be retained have encroachment into their Tree Protection Zones. The Australian Standard *AS 4970 -2009 Protection of trees on development sites* describes the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) as an area around the tree that should be protected during construction. The Standard allows for encroachment into a TPZ in certain circumstances. Where the encroachment is less than 10% it is considered to be a minor encroachment and is allowed. Where it is greater than 10% it is considered to be a major encroachment and is allowed where the Project Arborists can show that the tree will remain viable. The Standard lists a number of consideration that must be taken into account when determining whether a major encouragement is allowable.

7.3 There are two trees that have an encroachment into their TPZ. These are trees # 5 and 13. The encroachment into tree # 5 is calculated to be 3%. The encroachment in to tree # 13 is calculated to be 1%. The encroachment into trees # 5 and 13 are minor encroachments and are allowed according to the Standard.

7.4 An underground power line is proposed to be installed from the power pole in the road through the group of trees # 18. This will require two trees, # 18a and 18b to be removed. Tree # 8b is dead.

7.5 The group of trees # 22 have 13 trees that are dead. There are a further 2 trees that will be required to be removed to allow construction of a services trench.



#### 8. **Recommendations**

8.1 It is recommended that the new school buildings and related infrastructure should be constructed as planned. The trees required to be removed to allow construction of the new building trees # 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 14a, 14b, , 15, 16, 18a, 18b, 23 and 24. There are 15 trees in Group 22 that also should be removed. Thirteen of these trees are dead and another two trees should be removed to allow construction of a services trench. The other trees growing on the school grounds should be retained and protected during construction.

8.2 The specifications for the protection of retained trees during construction are given in 9. Tree Protection.



## 9. Tree Protection

9.1 The trees retained on the site should be protected during construction in accordance with the recommendations of the Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites. The Standard sets out a Tree Protection Zone that is calculated to be an area around the tree with a radius of 12 x diameter at breast height (DBH). The TPZ has a minimum of 2 m and maximum of 15 m. The TPZ should be protected during construction as effectively as is practicable.

- 9.2 The Standard lists activities that are prohibited in the TPZ. They are:
  - a. Machine excavation
  - b. excavation for silt trenching
  - c. cultivation
  - d. storage
  - e. preparation of chemicals, including preparation of cement products
  - f. parking of vehicles and plant
  - g. refuelling
  - h. dumping of waste
  - i. wash down and cleaning of equipment
  - j. placement of fill
  - k. lighting of fires
  - l. soil level changes
  - m. temporary or permanent installation of utilities and signs and
  - n. physical damage to the tree.

9.3 The proposed construction of the development is planned to be undertaken within the TPZ of some trees. In order to ensure that the trees remain viable it is important to protect them during construction as much as is practicable. Any of the activities detailed above should not be undertaken in the TPZ of the tree unless absolutely necessary. A 1.8 m wire panel fence should be erected around the trees. An example of a suitable fence is shown in Figure 2. The location of the fence is shown in Figure 3.

9.4 The protective fencing must be installed before commencement of works and not removed before the building works are completed.





Figure 2. Example of a suitable protective fence

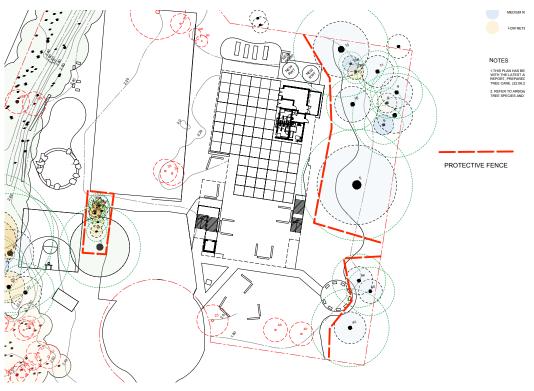


Figure 3. Location of protective fence

Arborist Report. Broadwater Public School Prepared by Northern Tree Care 13 Sept 2023 File # 2324 Page 13 of 25



## 10. References

Barrell J. 2006. Workshop Manual Trees on Construction Sites. Barrell Tree Consultancy. Brisbane.

Brooker M. Kleinig D. 1999. Field Guide to Eucalypts. Bloomings Books. Hawthorn.

Harden G. MacDonald W. Williams J. 2009. *Rainforest Trees and Shrubs*. Gwen Harden Publishing. Nambucca Heads.

Mattheck C. Breloer H. 2003. The Body Language of Trees. TSO. London.

Moreton A. 2003. *Criteria for Assessment of Landscape Significance*. 7th National Street Tree Symposium 2006.

Standards Australia. 2009. *AS 4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites*. Australian Standards. Sydney.



#### 11. About The Author

11.1 This report was compiled by Peter Gray of Northern Tree Care. The author is an arborist who has been providing Arboricultural Reports for Local Government, State Government and private clients for over 20 years. His qualifications include:

Graduate Certificate of Arboriculture (AQF 8)
Diploma of Arboriculture (AQF 5)
Diploma of Horticulture (Arboriculture)
Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)
Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (ISA)
VALID Tree Risk-Benefit Validator.

11.2 Peter Gray is an AQF level 8 Consulting Arborist general member No. 2344 with Arboriculture Australia. He is a trained and registered practitioner of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) Registered User number 980. In 2020 he was appointed as a director to the board of Arboriculture Australia.

11.3 I declare that I have compiled this report impartially using best professional judgement. I have no financial interest in the outcome of the report.

Signed Peter Gray, Northern Tree Care

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13 September 2023

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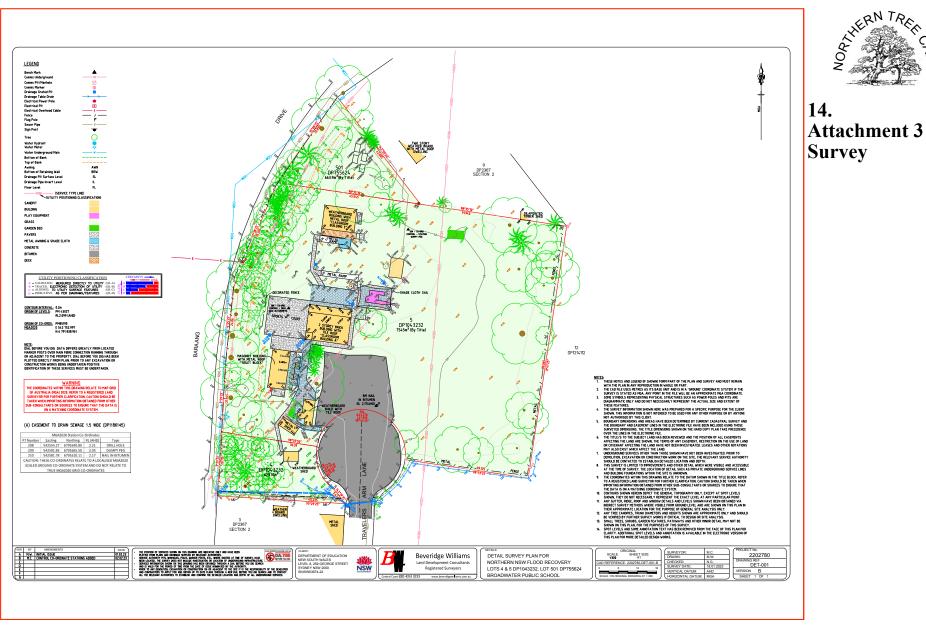
Arborist Report. Broadwater public School. Prepared by: Northern Tree Care.

File #: 23024. 13 Sept 2023 Page 16 of 25



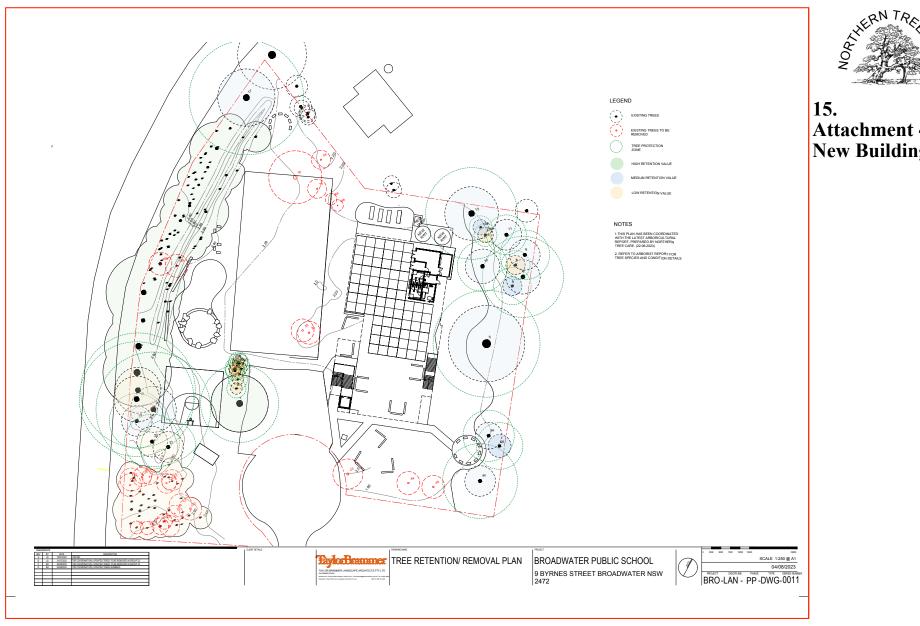
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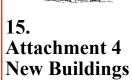
File #: 23024. 13 Sept 2023 Page 17 of 25



Arborist Report. Broadwater public School. Prepared by: Northern Tree Care.

File #: 23024. 13 Sept 2023 Page 18 of 25





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Arborist Report. Broadwater public School. Prepared by: Northern Tree Care.

File #: 23024. 13 Sept 2023 Page 19 of 25



## 16. Attachment 5. Significance of Trees

Tree #	Name	Condition	Vigour	Protected	Environmental value	Amenity value	Significance
1	Tallowwood Eucalyptus microcorys	Good	Good	No	High	High	Very High
2a	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2b	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2c	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2d	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2e	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2f	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2g	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2h	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2i	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2j	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low
2k	Alexander Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Low

Arborist Report. Broadwater public School. Prepared by: Northern Tree Care.

File #: 2324. 13 Sept 2023 Page 20 of 25



# Significance of Trees Continued

Tree #	Name	Condition	Vigour	Protected	Environmental value	Amenity value	Significance
3a	Bottlebrush Callistemon viminalis	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
3b	Bottlebrush Callistemon viminalis	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
4a	Swamp Mahogany Eucalyptus robusta	Poor	Fair	No	High	Low	Moderate
4b	Swamp Mahogany Eucalyptus robusta	Fair	Fair	No	High	Low	Moderate
4c	Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis	Good	Good	No	High	Medium	Moderate
4d	Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis	Good	Good	No	High	Medium	Moderate
4e	Flooded Gum Eucalyptus grandis	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
5	Weeping Fig Ficus microcarpa var. hillii	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
6	Coastal Pine Callitris columellaris	Good	Good	No	High	Low	Moderate
7	Flooded Gum Eucalyptus grandis	Good	Good	No	Medium	Low	Moderate
8	Brushbox Lophostemon confertus	Poor	Good	No	Medium	Low	Low
9	Forest Red Gum Eucalyptus tereticornis	Good	Good	No	High	Medium	Moderate
10	Poplar <i>Populus</i> sp.	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Moderate
11	Hoop Pine Araucaria cunninghamii	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
12a	Cocos Palm x 2 Syagrus romanzofiana	Good	Good	No	Low	Low	Low
12b	Cocos Palm x 2 Syagrus romanzofiana	Good	Good	No	Low	Low	Low
13	Hoop Pine Araucaria cunninghamii	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate

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File #: 2324. 13 Sept 2023 Page 21 of 25



## Significance of Trees Continued

Tree #	Name	Condition	Vigour	Protected	Environmental value	Amenity value	Significance
14a	Bangalow Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Medium	Low	Moderate
14b	Bangalow Palm Archontoephoenix alexandrae	Good	Good	No	Medium	Low	Moderate
15	Exotic species	Good	Good	No	Low	Low	Low
16	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Good	Good	No	Low	Medium	Moderate
17	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Good	Good	No	Low	High	Moderate
18	Group of rainforest trees x 62	Good	Good	No	Medium	High	High
18a	She Oak Casuarina glauca	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
18b	Dead tree						Very Low
19a	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Fair	Good	No	Low	High	Low
19b	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Fair	Good	No	Low	High	Low
19c	Camphor Laurel Cinnamomum camphora	Fair	Good	No	Low	High	Low
20	Weeping Paperbark Melaleuca leucadendra	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
21	Weeping Paperbark Melaleuca leucadendra	Good	Good	No	Medium	Medium	Moderate
22	Group of Rainforest trees	Poor	Poor	No	Medium	Medium	Low
23	Brown Kurrajong Commersonia bartramia	Dead		No	Low	Low	Very Low
24	Firewheel Stenocarpus sinuatus	Good	Good	No	Medium	Low	Moderate
25	Paperbark Melaleuca quinquenervia	Good	Fair	No	Medium	Low	Moderate

Arborist Report. Broadwater public School. Prepared by: Northern Tree Care.

File #: 2324. 13 Sept 2023 Page 22 of 25



## 17. Attachment 6. Photos



Photo 1. Tree # 1 Tallowood



Photo 3. Tree # 4 Gum trees

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Photo 2. Tree # 3 Bottlebrush



Photo 4. Tree # 5 Weeping Fig



## **Photos Continued**



Photo 5. Trees # 6 - 13



Photo 7. Tree # 15 Exotic species

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Photo 6. Tree # 14 Bangalow Palms



Photo 8. Tree # 16 Camphor Laurel



## **Photos Continued**



Photo # 9. Tree # 24 Firewheel



Photo 11. Tree # 18 Group of 62 trees



Photo 10. Tree # 16 Camphor Laurel



Photo 12. Tree # 22 Group of trees. Many have died.

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