

Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society Inc. (OFF)

Submission to LPP 20/08/2020

LPP040-20 35 River Road Oatley – DA2020/0152

Local Planning Panel Members

OFF welcomes Council's progressing of this project. Our community has been calling for this work to be undertaken for quite some time. We are concerned to ensure that it is undertaken in the most environmentally responsible way and will finally allow public access back onto this part of the Myles Dunphy Reserve. In considering your decision today we draw your attention to the following points:

- Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society is concerned that Council did not notify the broader community at the time that this DA was put on public exhibition for comment, and now still has not given a broader community notice of this Panel hearing. A large number of local residents including many members of OFF participated in the early community consultation process expressing interest in, and enthusiasm for the project and wished to be kept informed of progress. That has not happened and OFF did not make a submission to the DA exhibition as we were not aware it was happening and only found out that this LPP hearing was on within the last 48 hours. For this reason we would like to raise the following few points.
- Tree removal – Trees numbered 4 and 5 (Brush Cherry - native) are proposed for removal. Please consider retaining these two trees. They are large enough to provide a substantial amount of shade until other replacement trees reach maturity. It is noted that nearby tree No.1 has been able to be retained.
- Tree replacement – with the 29 trees to be removed there are 58 trees to be planted. Will the capping over the asbestos containing material be sufficiently thick to not limit locations in the future Master Plan for planting deep soil rooted large trees?
- Gabion retaining walls – The walls need to be designed to blend in with the natural surroundings as much as possible. Gabions can look quite out of place if this is not done. We suggest that the wire baskets be made with a dark coloured (green or black) coating. The rock filling should be a sandstone closely resembling the local surrounding outcrops of the Reserve. Will there be vegetation planted in the area in front of each tier of the retaining wall? This would also soften the effect of the wall structure when viewed from the track below.
- With the large amount of earthworks to be carried out on the site and being immediately adjacent to important and sensitive natural areas including the creek and wetlands and the camps and roosting areas of the grey headed flying fox and powerful owl we expect the development conditions to be comprehensively applied and strictly policed.
- Subject to satisfactorily answering the above questions and conditioning the development appropriately we can support the project.

Kim Wagstaff, President – Oatley Flora and Fauna Conservation Society