

Camden Residents' Action Group

Incorporated

Camden – Still a Country Town

Website: <http://www.crag.org.au/>

Face Book:

<https://www.facebook.com/CRAGcamdenresidentsactiongroup/>

PO Box 188

Camden NSW 2570

Email: admin@crag.org.au

Ph: 0415 617 368

General Manager
Camden Council
70 Central Avenue
Oran Park 2570
Email: mail@camden.nsw.gov.au

16 March 2022

Dear General Manager,

RE: DA 2022/126/1

28 Edward Street Camden (Taplin's)

*Alterations and additions to a vehicle repair station including tree removal,
earthworks, extension of onsite car parking, demolition of structures
and extension of existing building*

The site is a well-known landmark and signature site in Edward Street and the Heritage Conservation Area (HCA), especially as it is fully visible looking east along Mitchell Street and is adjacent to and in close proximity to a number of heritage items.

What is proposed supports the business and will not be particularly visible from the public domain.

However, we are concerned that the site will be denuded of most, if not all, its vegetation. We do understand that the current tree canopy and softening plants are of low retention value, especially the cocos palms, which unlike the celtis and privet, detract from rather than accentuate the mature leafiness of the 1840 town.

As stated in Camden's Tree Management Policy¹

Trees are important elements that transform the amenity and aesthetics of the area, while providing environmental, cultural and economic benefits to the community. In the long term, trees create a sense of place and enhance the streetscape.

Observance of this philosophy is particularly salient in the HCA which is a cultural hub that provides economic benefits through visitors and tourism. People come because of its rural heritage and unique sense of place. Mature vegetation is integral to its point of difference, to what is enjoyed and expected.

Also, unlike hard surfaces, trees and vegetation reflect heat and cool and clean the air. In the era of climate change this is an important consideration. We are also concerned that the heat island effect will be exacerbated by this development.

There is no landscape plan and increased hardstand. Without softening the carpark area will be a stark visual intrusion in the streetscape.

Camden's heritage area is renowned for its leafy streets. Although much of the vegetation to be removed is classified as noxious weeds, given the location in the HCA we believe that consideration should be given to DCP 2.4 Trees and Vegetation controls. These emphasise that approval cannot usually be issued for removal of vegetation within a heritage conservation area and that in any case usually up to four replacement trees are to be planted for every tree removed.

We request that the matter of vegetation on the site be carefully considered to ensure that this highly visible landmark be integrated appropriately into the HCA. To that end we also request that a landscape plan be required and exhibited for public comment.

Yours sincerely,



Glenda Davis

President

¹ <https://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdfs/Environment/Trees/Tree-Management-Policy.pdf>