



**Arb Innovations Limited**  
326 Hebden Crescent  
Kelson  
Lower Hutt  
[www.arbinnovations.co.nz](http://www.arbinnovations.co.nz)

## **Arboricultural Assessment**

*Relating to the site:*

**Southern Cross Hospital, Newtown**

Attention:

Local Landscape Architecture Collective

Report Prepared  
03 September 2018

Site Visit  
03 September 2018

Prepared By  
**Josh Micallef**  
*Consultant Arborist*  
Arb Innovations Limited  
[Josh@arbinnovations.co.nz](mailto:Josh@arbinnovations.co.nz)  
04 212 6366

Reviewed By  
**Craig de Denus**  
*Consultant Arborist*  
Arb Innovations Limited  
[Craig@arbinnovations.co.nz](mailto:Craig@arbinnovations.co.nz)  
04 212 6366

**Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1 BRIEF</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1.1 LIMITATIONS</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2 METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4 OBSERVATIONS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5 DISCUSSION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>6 TREE PROTECTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>INDUCTIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>SIGNAGE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>STORAGE</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>MACHINERY/COMPACTION</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>EXCAVATION OF ROOTS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>MULCHING</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>TREE REMOVAL</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>10 APPENDIX A – SITE PLAN</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## 1 Brief

This report has been commissioned by Local Landscape Architecture Collective. Arb Innovations Limited have been engaged to assess the plans for a proposed development at Southern Cross Hospital.

The purpose of this report is to assess the existing *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) trees along the North and Eastern boundary situated in garden planters between the car parking and site perimeter.

The proposal detailed in the drawings covers the installation of new pedestrian walkways and vehicle entry and exit driveways to the front of the carpark off Hanson St. Also detailed is the installation of a substation within the garden bed on the Eastern boundary.

The proposal will require the removal of 3 existing *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) trees to allow for installation of a vehicle exit driveway onto Hanson St and Pedestrian entry.

### This report aims to -

- Assess the plans submitted for Southern Cross Hospital
- Perform a site visit and identify the trees and record basic information about their health and vigour
- Identify any potential impact the development will have on the existing trees
- Make recommendations for a Tree Protection Plan

### 1.1 Limitations

- All observations relied upon in this report are limited to the condition of the trees at the time of inspection. This report does not make assumptions on any works prior to those observed on the site visit.
- This report is intended for the use of the property owner and all parties involved in the consent process and shall not be used for any other purpose. This report is to be used as documentation providing the client with appropriate information on the trees and must be updated when/if any further works are carried out.

## 2 Methodology

- During the site visit a VTA (Visual Tree Inspection) was performed.
- All observations were made on the condition of the trees at the time of inspection.
- This inspection was done from ground level.
- All assessments are based on what could be observed from ground level.
- No invasive diagnostic tools were used.

## 4 Observations

All the *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) on site appear to be of similar age class and health.

The *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) trees appeared to be in good health. Thick foliage and good seasonal growth was observed and the trees appeared to be free of any serious disease.

The trees are situated along the northern and eastern boundary in garden planters.

## 5 Discussion

The location of a substation in the eastern garden bed is likely to impact on the adjacent two *Podocarpus totara* (Totara). For installation to take place it is likely trenches will need to be dug and underground services laid.

The plans supplied don't provide measurements and exact locations for the substation so an exact root zone incursion cannot be calculated.

In the first instance, re-location of the substation away from the critical root zones of the trees being retained is preferable.

If the substation must be installed in this area, further consultation with an arborist is recommended to establish a low impact works methodology.

New planting is being proposed in the beds where the *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) are situated. Planting adjacent to the trees root zones are unlikely to cause damage if it is performed with hand tools. If roots >20mm in diameter are found when digging holes for new plants, the hole is to be re-filled with the existing soil and new plants re-located.

The plan outlines the removal of 3 of the existing *Podocarpus totara* (Totara). The removal of these trees and stump removal may impact on the adjacent trees being retained. Particularly the removal of the stumps. Care must be taken that no roots are damaged during this process and it is recommended to have these works performed by suitably qualified arborists.

The remaining proposed works surrounding the *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) appear to be outside their tree protection zones.

## 6 Tree Protection

It is recommended to appoint a site arborist for the project to oversee any works within or near the garden beds in which the *Podocarpus totara* (Totara) trees are situated.

If the substation is to be installed in the location on the site plan stringent tree protection must be implemented and a Arboricultural Impact Assessment report compiled alongside detailed service plans and substation measurements. This will then need to be signed off by the governing authority.

### Inductions

Contractors or visitors will need to be inducted by the site arborist before carrying out work, acknowledging their responsibilities and the procedures for working around the subject trees.

Inductions are to be performed at a tailgate or pre start meeting before work commences and can be performed as needed if new contractors are to enter the site.

### Signage

Signage shall be installed at the garden beds with the appropriate Qualified Arborists (site arborist) contact details and shall not be removed without permission from the Site Arborist. The signage shall be supplied by the site arborist that is overseeing the works.

The signage will outline a summary of restricted activities within the TPZ.

### Storage

Storage or dumping of materials/debris are prohibited within the exposed soil areas beneath the trees. This includes; soil, building materials, vehicles, chemicals etc.

Any run off from the development must not be drained directly toward the Tree Protection Zone.

### Machinery/Compaction

Use of machinery must stay outside the garden beds as the weight can compact soil and inhibit root moisture uptake.

### Excavation of roots

If at any time roots are found >25mm in diameter, the site arborist must be called immediately. Roots are to be kept moist in the interim and a decision must be made by the site arborist to either undertake root pruning or backfill the hole.

## **Mulching**

Mulching can encourage root growth and can offset any potential stress from development processes. If permissible, spread woodchip mulch within the garden beds prior to works commencing.

## **Tree removal**

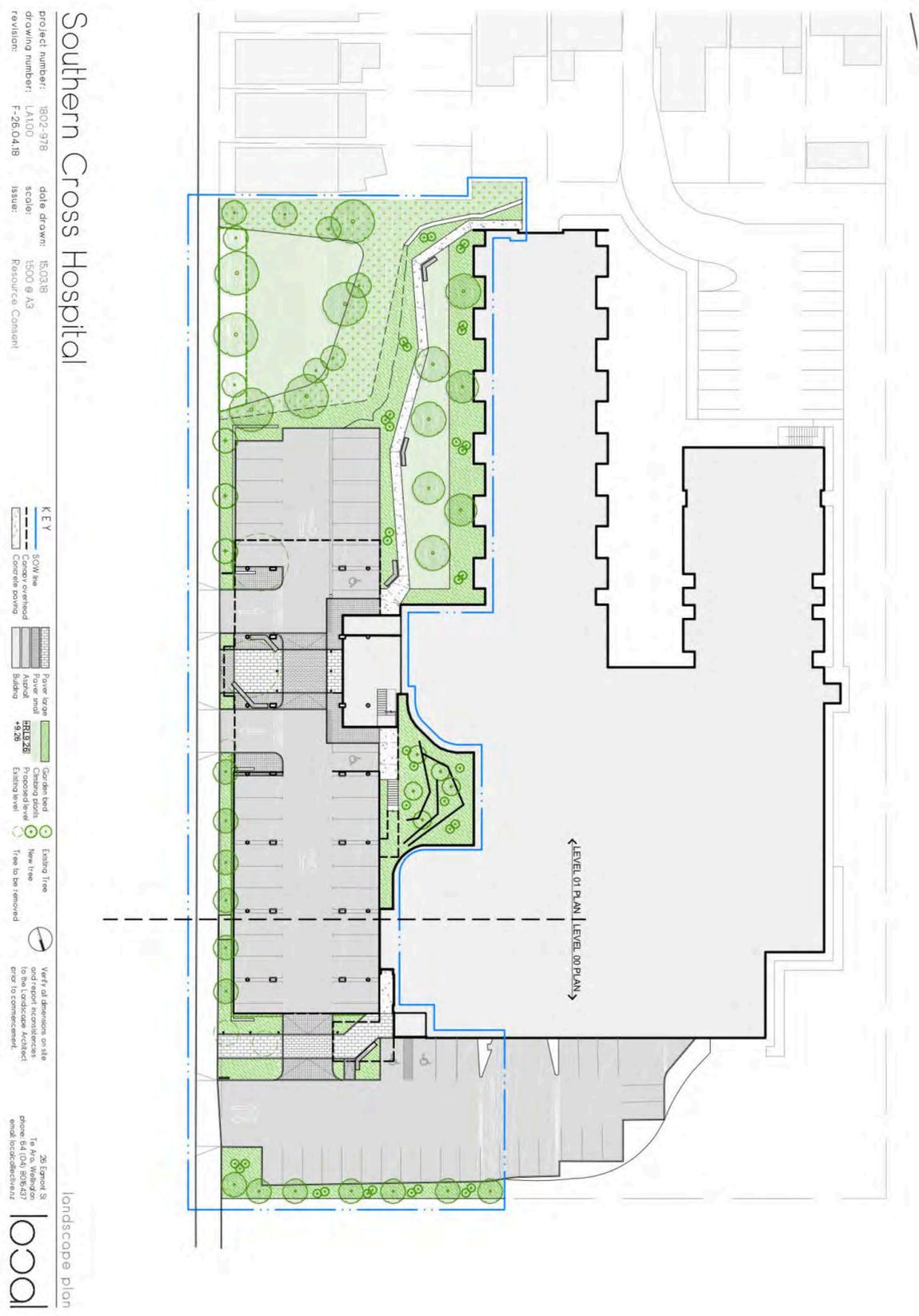
Removal of trees to be performed by suitably qualified arborists (NZ ARB Approved contractor such as Arb Innovations Ltd or see <https://www.nzarb.org.nz/> for alternative suppliers). Particular care must be taken when removing the stumps so as not to damage the root systems of adjacent trees being retained.

## **Recommendations**

- Appoint a site arborist to oversee the works within the garden beds
- Re-locate the substation or provide detailed plans of its location and measurements in consultation with an arborist
- Implement tree protection plan

If these recommendations are followed as specified, the development should not have an adverse effect on the health of the trees being retained.

# 10 Appendix A – Site Plan



**Southern Cross Hospital**

project number: 1802-978  
 drawing number: LA101  
 revision: F-25.04.18

scale: 1:500 @ A3  
 resource: Consent

**KEY**

- Power to go
- Power and
- Building
- Existing Tree
- New Tree
- Tree to be removed
- Verify all dimensions on site and report discrepancies to the contractor. Accepted prior to commencement.

26 Ernest St  
 PO Box 100  
 Newtown NSW 2061  
 www.local-landscape.com.au

