

11 April 2025

Ms Karen Sweeney  
Urban Forest Manager  
City of Sydney  
Email: [sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ms Sweeney,

**Significant tree register update 2025 – updates 11 April 2025**

Thank you very much for granting the Society an extension of time in which to make submissions to the City about its 2025 update of its Significant Tree Register.

The Glebe Society recommends that the following additional trees be added to the City's Significant Tree Register, further to our earlier submission of 6 April 2025.

**3. Thirteen trees on Lot 1 DP1094772, a 675sqm triangle of land between the rear of the Strata Building at 77-85 Hereford Street and Alfred Road, Forest Lodge.**

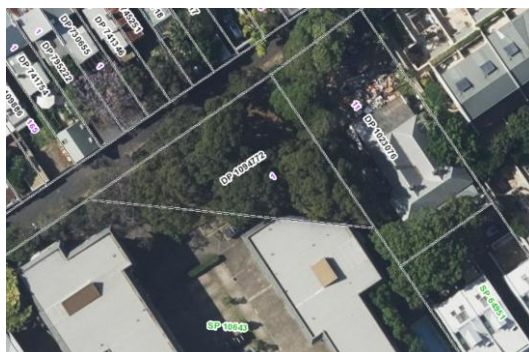
These trees have been recommended for listing by two members of the Society - Nancy Foster and Mary Pollard.

Are you nominating an individual tree or a group?

We are nominating the group of native trees located on Lot 1 DP1094772 Forest Lodge ("Lot 1").

Where is the tree located?

The group of trees are located on Lot 1 DP1094772, a 675sqm triangle of land between the rear of the Strata Building at 77-85 Hereford Street, Forest Lodge (Darrah Court) and Alfred Road. The land is Crown Land that has been continuously leased to the adjacent Darrah Court for the purpose of landscape garden since the building was constructed in 1974/75.



Aerial photograph of Lot 1 DP1094772 at the rear of 77-85 Hereford Street, Forest Lodge

### How do you access the tree?

The group of trees are located on the highest hilltop in Forest Lodge. Consequently, they are visible across Forest Lodge and from high points in Glebe. The trees are accessible to the 100 or so residents at Darrah Court for passive recreation.

### What is the significance of the tree?

Visual - the canopy formed by this group of trees is approximately 15 metres high, covers the whole 675sqm of Lot 1, and extends over adjacent properties. The Tallowwoods, Spotted Gum and Gray Box are approximately 40-50 years old. We understand these features are sufficient to classify this group as a 'Forest'.

### Historic/Social

The nominated group of trees have historical/social significance as an example of how sustained community activism over decades resulted in the re-forestation of a previously degraded industrial site. The attached photograph from SixMaps 1943 imagery shows the land the trees now occupy was completely built over for commercial/industrial use at that time.



Aerial photograph taken in 1943 of site of Lot 1 DP1094772 at the rear of 77-85 Hereford St, Forest Lodge

Fast forward to the 1970s when a Strata Building was approved to be built on the adjacent land – Darrah Court. The adjacent triangle of land on which the trees stand was reserved for the then proposed new Western Distributor. One resident of Hereford Street was sufficiently horrified at the thought of the oversized block of flats in his neighbourhood, he decided to do something about it. On his own initiative, he planted a lot of trees on the site (early “guerilla gardener”). Given the age of the trees, it is believed he planted the now very large trees on Lot 1. In 1974, community activism resulted in the proposed freeway not going ahead and the land on which the trees stand was leased to Darrah Court for ‘landscape garden’. Fast forward again to 2006 when the Department of Lands had plans to sell Lot 1 for building development, which would have resulted in loss of the trees on the site. Community activism saved the land from sale and the trees survived.

See attached SMH article dated 15 May 2006 and online blog: "forestlodgetrees.blogspot.com" for the history of that campaign.

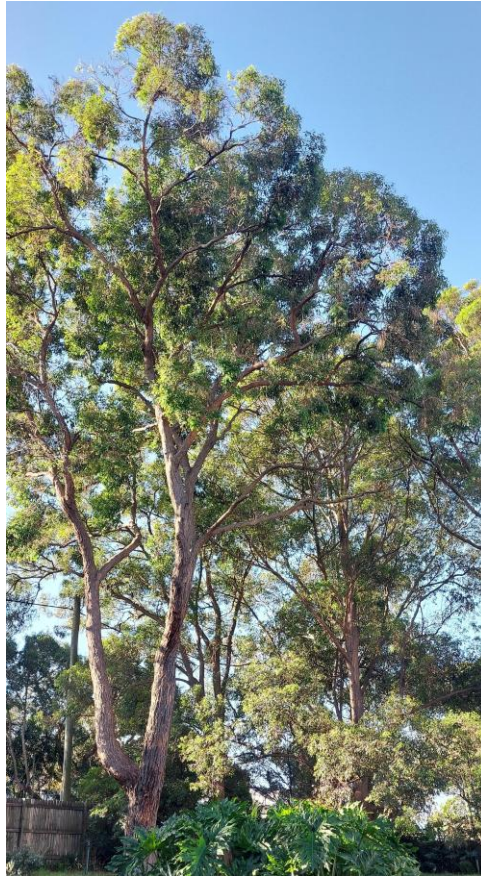


Article in May 2006 issue of Sydney Morning Herald about local Forest Lodge residents defending their local urban forest at the rear of 77-85 Hereford Street, Forest Lodge

Ultimately a deadlock between the Minister for Lands and City of Sydney Council was resolved by the lease to Darrah Court being allowed to continue. The original trees lived on and self-seeded to add new trees to the group. Native fauna increasingly made use of the forest. Fast forward to 2023/4 when a new round of Crown Land rent reviews was conducted across NSW. Again, the owners and residents at Darrah Court worked to show the ecological importance of the land, which enabled the lease to continue, albeit at a substantial increase in rent.

#### Botanic or common name

The nominated group of trees include: eight *Eucalyptus microcorys* (Tallowwood species); one *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted gum), one *Eucalyptus moluccana* (Gray Box), *Cupaniopsis anacardioides* (Tuckaroo), *Lophostemon confertus* (Brush Box), *Melia azedarach* (White Cedar). The canopy formed by the group of trees is approximately 15 metres high and covers the whole of Lot 1 and extends over adjacent properties. See photographs attached.



Some of the eight *Eucalyptus microcorys* (Tallowwood species) in Lot 1 DP1094772 at the rear of 77-85 Hereford St, Forest Lodge

#### Ecological Significance

The nominated group of trees create a 15-metre-high forest canopy over an area of 675sqm on the highest hilltop in Forest Lodge. They form part of a vital habitat corridor between the 'Glebe Hill' and 'Orphan School Creek Gully' bush regeneration area. The trees provide habitat, perch points and habitat corridors for fauna including Magpies, Brush Turkeys, Crimson Rosellas, Galahs, Kookaburras, Pied Currawongs, Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Noisy Miners, Rainbow Lorikeets, Tawny Frogmouths, Eastern Koels, Channel-Billed Cuckoos, Brush tail Possums, Grey headed flying fox, microbats and likely foraging habitat for the Powerful Owl. The hilltop site also likely attracts flying pollinator insects. The low scrub and grass below the tree canopy provides habitat for ground dwelling fauna including skinks and Perons Tree Frogs (See iNaturalist observations for the area, including the 'Glebe Hill Project').

Note: the three mature 15 metre Brush Box trees are located on the adjacent Heritage property at the rear of 75 Hereford Street add to the tree canopy and habitat created by this group of trees.

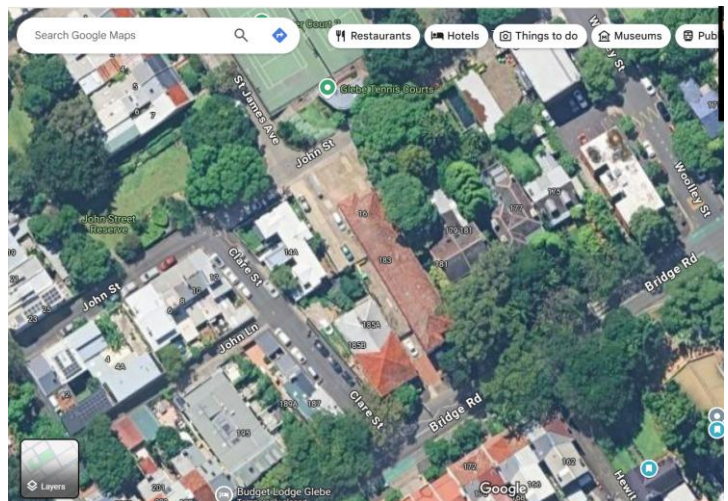
The following additional trees have been recommended by a member of the Society, Virginia Simpson-Young:

#### 4. Bridge Road - No 175-181

The trees are on private land. There are a lot of tall trees in the front and rear of these properties. The area is close to John Street Reserve so may facilitate a local wild-life corridor permitting movement of birds etc.



Trees at 175-181 Bridge Road



Trees at 175-181 Bridge Road – Google maps

#### 5. Corner of Catherine and Mt Vernon Streets

There's a park with some biggish fig trees next to some infill social housing. I wonder if the trees predate the housing which might be of interest. Also, there's a plaque in that park – I think it's about Tom Uren.



Cnr Catherine and Mt Vernon Streets - Google map



Trees at corner of Catherine and Mt Vernon Streets

## 6. Minogue Crescent - Lew Hoad Reserve

I'm not exactly sure of the exact boundaries of the Lew Hoad Reserve, but I'm thinking about the trees in the area below Cliff Terrace. Cliff Terrace is heritage-listed and the area below it is related to it. The area where the trees are now was once a quarry, I believe, and it's interesting to see how the area was re-vegetated to be quite lush today. There's a stand of what looks like banana trees to me which isn't pretty but it's 'different'. I don't have great photos of individual trees, but I've seen them. It's of historic interest that when the land was restored (I don't know the year), it seems they went for that daggy, Rotary look, with the rockeries etc. Somewhere along that area is some WWI era carved graffiti. At one end of the Reserve is the PCYC which has some interesting trees in its own right.



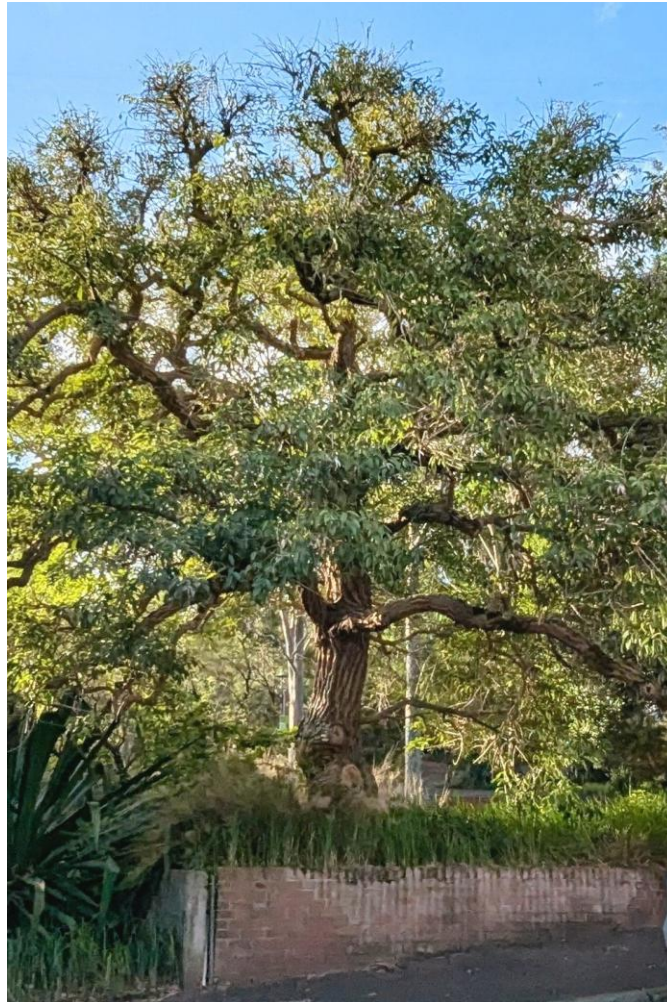
Construction of Lew Hoad Reserve



Lew Hoad Reserve in Minogue Crescent

## 7. Hereford Street - Paddy Gray Reserve

I think there are worthwhile trees at the lower part of the park, fronting Hereford Street, and the upper part, fronting Wigram Lane. I'll only address the lower part in this list. I think the tree in the photo is just a beautiful tree. I know nothing about it. The park has an interesting history as you no doubt know. From a heritage perspective, on the other side of the park you can see where a house was built – where joists were put into carved out holes etc. I don't know the right words. I showed it to Rodney and he thinks it was part of Glenwood. I'm not convinced the location is right for that, but it was obviously a house. And, going back further, the area included 'The ponds' which were – ponds, part of a creek that ran from near the University of Sydney's footbridge over Parramatta Road down to – more or less – the corner of Wigram Road and Ross Street.



Paddy Gray Reserve in Hereford Street

**8. Western end of St Johns Road and Junction Street**

I guess there are paperbark trees in lots of places around 2037, but there seemed to be quite a few along the lower part of St John's Road and round the corner from there in Junction Street. I think they're quite beautiful. Some of them seem quite old. This area has several heritage-listed buildings. There 242 St Johns and the ex-Methodist Church. I don't know how much of this area was within the curtilage of 242 St Johns. And of course, the area is situated close the Orphan School Creek. If the proposed development of the Junction Street site goes ahead it might be useful for those trees to be protected.



Paperbark trees at Western end of St Johns Road



### 9. The Ross Street/Hereford Street/Minogue Crescent triangle

I'm guessing this area was created as a result of the tram line being built. There's nothing too special about it, but it does have some decent trees. I need to check again, but I think there are four figs and two other trees – I'd have to look. It's a nice bit of nature, at least.



Minogue Crescent triangle – Google map

Trees in Minogue Crescent triangle



**10. Ross Street - Nos 55-59**

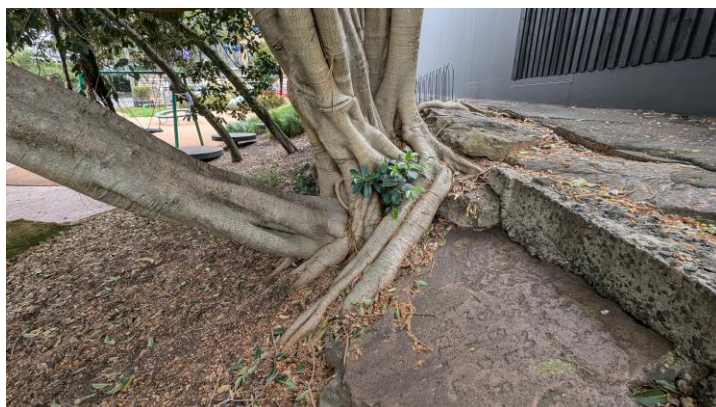
I get to see these trees a lot because they're near my home. I just think three terraces, tall tree and the smaller tree with red foliage (?) are beautiful. There's also an amazing Jacaranda in the area.



Trees at 55-59 Ross Street

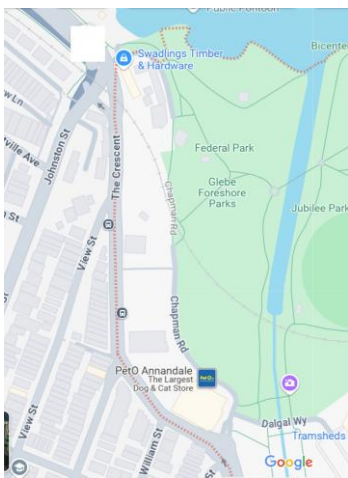
## 11. Ross Street playground

The Ross Street playground was historically a quarry, then it was set for subdivision, then put aside for the tramway. I don't know exactly where the trams went. The reason I've included it is that its got some neat Figs that are growing on the remains of whatever was there before. Possibly in historical layers. The photos show it better than I can explain it. I don't know when the figs were planted, but they may have overseen how the playground changed over time from the dangerous but fun roundabout, swings, slippery dip to the more sophisticated and less fun play equipment today.



**12. Minogue Crescent - east side**

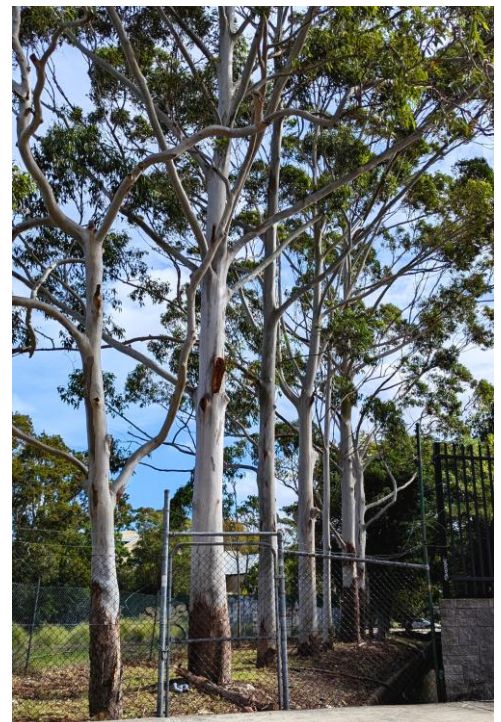
I think this area is eligible. Some of its in Annandale but its within CoS boundaries (map with photos). There are so many great trees down there. I'm thinking of them as being in three groups. (i). Paperbarks on the Crescent on both sides of the footpath. They look great. (ii). Tall gum trees running alongside a drain. This is beside the childcare centre. I've circled the area in red on the Google map. The drain and trees are fenced off. I know nothing about it, but the trees are nice. (iii). There are lots of beautiful trees further along the crescent when heading towards Forest Lodge.



Minogue Crescent – location and trees



Location of watercourse and trees near Minogue Crescent



**Please let the Society know if there is any further information we can provide about our proposed 2025 additions to the Significant Tree Register.**

**ADDITIONAL NOTE**

There appears to be some confusion regarding the listing of trees in our suburb. Some are listed under the Significant Tree Register and others under LEP 2012 as Heritage Items. Should the listings be combined and both heritage and significant trees granted equal protection?

- a. Sarah Fogg (a member of the Society) reports:

“Until recently I lived in Toxteth Rd and was surprised to learn at some point that the street trees in Toxteth Rd are listed in the LEP 2012 as heritage items. However, given this, I was also surprised that the Toxteth Rd trees do not appear on the CoS Significant Trees Register.

None of the trees in Toxteth Rd were noteworthy in my eyes. During the nearly 40 years that I lived there several died and were replaced, with a mixture of species. Neither the old nor new ones appeared to have any heritage value.

I do not understand the relationship between what’s on the Council’s Significant Trees Register and the trees that are listed as Heritage items in the LEP. I think this is something that should be sorted out.”

- b. Virginia Simpson-Young (a member of the Society) reports:

‘Two groups of Forest Lodge trees are listed in the State Heritage Inventory as being listed in the Sydney LEP:

(i). Avenue of Fig Trees, adjacent to Tram Sheds’ (LEP #1669). I haven’t looked into whether these are listed in the significance register – it doesn’t feel like Forest Lodge to me.

(ii). Arundel Street, Street trees (LEP #1631). This listing refers to trees on the north side of Arundel Street: “A rare use of *Eucalyptus citriodora* for street trees in the local government area, which have townscape value. ... were planted c 1960s. The trees are a continuation of unique selection of street species in Arundel Street. Further south includes a plantation of Macadamia (1970s) and replacement plants and old [sic] along plantings of Peppercorns (*Scirius aeriea*) as well as intermittent plantings of brush box.” I saw these and think they’re significant, and probably should be nominated, given they’re listed in the LEP. I’ve seen other trees on Arundel that might be significant that may not be covered by the LEP listing which I might mention.”

Yours sincerely,



Duncan Leys  
President