



Australian Institute
of Landscape Architects

FAO: Minister for the Environment and Minister for Heritage
The Hon. Mark Raymond Speakman, SC MP

19 September 2016

Dear Minister,

The Australian Institute of Landscape Architects is the peak body representing over 800 landscape architects in NSW and over 2500 nationally.

In reference to the SMH article dated September 18 '[The 1000 trees being assessed for potential removal by energy companies](#)' and significant tree lopping of 100s of native trees in Sydney streets (see photograph below), AILA NSW writes to request a proper process for the cumulative impact assessment for the removal, or significant pruning, of mature woodland and street trees in our cities.

Mature trees are a key part our urban green infrastructure asset. They provide significant cooling and shade for our urban environments, they improve air quality and are also a valuable visual presence and natural beauty.

AILA NSW appreciates that our ongoing energy, water and information utilities are also vital to cities and the removal of vegetation that can affect that supply is an important function of a utility company. However, we believe large scale removal has a significant impact on our communities, their sense of place and the reputation of our state organisations.

Like the processes adopted by other infrastructure organisations, large scale removal should be assessed, impacts managed and mitigation proposed. In some cases, it may be economically beneficial in the long run to relocate services for example power lines could be placed underground rather than the ongoing severing of mature trees.

AILA recommends that a proper process of assessment of significant tree removal impact should be undertaken by the utility companies and hopes that you can help pursue this request within Government.

We will be more than happy to meet to discuss the above or support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth Collins
NSW Chapter President
Australian Institute of Landscape Architects

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