Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards

TREE HERITAGE STUDY

DRAFT 17 April 2005

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

TAYLOR BRAMMER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS PTY LTD
Sydney Office
218 OXFORD STREET
WOOLLAHRA NSW 2025

TELEPHONE: (02) 9387 8855 FACSIMILE (02) 9387 8155
EMAIL: sydney@taylorbrammer.com.au

CONTENTS

1. TREE HERITAGE STUDY ROYAL NORTH SHORE HOSPITAL

1.1 SUMMARY

The extent of the study area is as noted on the key plan below. This document forms a supplementary part of the Royal North Shore Hospital, St Leonards Heritage Assessment as prepared by City Plan Heritage. The trees noted below on the key plan highlight the significant vegetative elements of the site.

Key plan (Numbers refer to points below)

1. Partial avenue of Phoenix canariensis.
2. The trees and palms that make up the landscape curtilage to Building 31.
3. The large and established Ficus macrocarpa var. 'hilli' and to a lesser extent the Cinnamomum camphor, as these later trees are now coming to the end of their useful life and are exhibiting some characteristics of senescence.
4. The remaining vegetative elements of the former avenue planting to Reserve Road.
5. The lines of Lophostomen confertus to Reserve Road and Westbourne Street.
6. The groups of Syncarpia glomulifera trees.

1.2 INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared as supplementary information to Heritage Assessment Report prepared by City Plan Heritage. The object of this report is to provide an assessment of the existing trees on the site and provide guidelines in the relative significance of these trees in relation to their type, condition and association in relation to the grounds of the eastern portion of the Royal North Shore Hospital grounds.

The subject site is, as noted above, the eastern portion of the overall hospital complex and represents the older and more established part of the site. The history and development of the site has been outlined in the heritage assessment report prepared by City Plan Heritage, dated February 2005. This report outlines the development of the hospital from a small cottage hospital in 1887 on a site at Crows Nest, then established on the present site in 1902 and since that time has become one of Australia's major teaching hospitals.

1.3 LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

The landscape development of the site has generally followed the building development stages of the hospital. The central portion of the original layout of the hospital opened in 1903 exists with its driveway and immediate curtilage of surviving trees consisting of Cotton Palms, *Washingtonia robusta* Hoop Pine *Araucaria cunninghamiana* and Radiata Pine *Pinus radiata.* The hospital gradually expanded with the resumption of land in 1912 and further land in 1919 and 1920. The latter resumption included a number of existing cottages that had been used by the North Sydney Brick and Tile Company being bought and used for hospital purposes. Photographs of the time show scattered trees of an indeterminate nature between and around the existing cottages with stands of native trees on the portions of the site where the Main Block buildings now stand. It would appear that there is little time or consideration for planting as the hospital was expanding rapidly with the focus on land acquisition and the pressing need for the use of existing buildings into hospital use.

The interwar period saw a second phase of growth with a more methodical approach to the design and approach of the medical facilities. New facilities were built such as nursing accommodation (Vindin House) in 1931 and other medical specialist facilities. With this building activity it would appear that there was planting associated

with the buildings and the creation of paths, drives and associated works. This planting has left a legacy of established landscape form with some substantial trees such as the Hills Weeping Figs, *Ficus hilli* var macrocarpa and a large Bull Bay Magnolia, *Magnolia grandiflora* retained from this era. Another early legacy of the interwar period is the substantial planting of Canary Island Date Palms, *Phoenix canariensis*, located to the southern portion of the site, planted as an avenue and linking Herbert Street to the original hospital complex. These palms were popular in the 1920s and commonly planted. Many of the interstitial spaces between the buildings appear to have been developed with lawn areas and gardens, much of the areas remaining open in character to encourage sunlight and air into the wards and hospital areas. Of note is the retention of the Turpentine trees *Syncarpia glomulifera* to the central part of the study area with some scattered remnant trees to the periphery of the site. Other trees of a former period are the substantial Camphor laurel, *Cinnamomum camphor,* probably plantings of the 1920s. These gardens and landscape areas have become an important part of the landscape imagery of the hospital and form part of the patient care in providing pleasant landscape spaces to view and walk through, contrasting to the more formal built elements of the complex.

The post World War 2 phase saw the removal of a number of many of the older structures on the site to make way for further development works. Further works included a number of new buildings that reflected the greater sophistication and complexity of medical care. In assessing the age of a number of the trees on site, it appears that in the 1950s and 60s a more conscious effort was made to create a comprehensive landscape approach to the campus. The dominant tree on the site are Brushbox, *Lophostemum confertus. M*any of these trees probably date from this period and are planted in deliberate rows, avenues or groups with a number also located as individual specimens. Planting of these species occurred particularly on Westbourne Street and Reserve Road, the planting of these species being more successful on the lower portions of the site, and not on the crown of the hill with its shallow and stony shale based soil. Other trees from this period include a Bird of Paradise *Strelizia nicholi,* Jacaranda *Jacaranda mimosaefolia*, Corkscrew tree *Erythina crista-galli* and detail planting of Camellias and other supplementary planting.

The hospital saw substantial development with the Main Block development of 1964 and 1977, both these buildings located outside the study area. These buildings

increased the capacity of the hospital with substantial facilities being provided. In this time the landscape developed within the established portion of the hospital with planting following a characteristic Australian native theme the sentiment of the time, being planted across the entire hospital complex. Characteristic trees and shrubs of the time include a number of Eucalypts, Bottlebrushes and Paperbarks with supplementary planting of smaller shrubs. The form and mass of the buildings, many of them three and four storeys in height combined with the generally south facing slopes has encouraged a moist and protected micro climate where a number of palms have been planted, notably Bangalow Palms, *Archeonphoenix cunninghamina* and Kentia Palms *Howea fosteriana*. New buildings of the 1980s within the precinct featured plantings common to the time with a number of *Acer negundo* variegatum and Jacarandas being planted. It is planting during this latter time to present that the dense landscape character evident today has become synonymous with the hospital environs and imagery.

1.4 CONCLUSION

The landscape to the hospital has developed over time with a number of layers of planting as described above being evident. The plantings are a reflection of species popular at the time and are evidence of contemporary domestic landscape attitudes, particularly of the north shore area. While there are characteristic areas of mature landscape, the legacy of multiple layers of planting and various gardeners' interests dominate the landscape form and character of the place. Evidence of planting of a more substantial vision is limited to the *Phoenix canariensis* to the southern part of the site and the planting around Building 31. No trees on site are listed as part of the Willoughby City Council LEP.

Characteristic planting of the site is important in the context of the built environment and the legacy of the hospital as a major part of the social fabric of the lower north shore. As outlined in the summary, there are number of trees that are to be retained where possible.

A selection of contemporary site photographs follow.

Figure 1. Original driveway layout to Building 31 remains. However, materials and edging have been modified. The trees to the middle pre-date 1945. (Photograph Author March 2005)

Figure 2.Remnant planting of *Pinus radiata* and *Araucaria cunninghamiana* to Reserve Road associated with original hospital building. (Photograph author March 2005)

Figure 3. Group of Turpentine trees to the east of Building 11 (Vindin House) form an important component of the site's landscape character. (Photograph author March 2005)

Figure 4. Looking west up Westbourne Street. Note line of Brushbox trees to the south, probably planted after 1960. (Photograph author March 2005)

1.5 SIGNIFICANT TREES

The following trees and palms have been identified being significant to the site, their significance being determined on their aesthetic and historical contribution to the hospital's environment.

Key No.	Tree
37, 38	Group of *Howea belmoreana* associated with Building 11
49-55	*Lophostemum confertus* row of trees along Westbourne Street
58	Stand of *Howea forsteriana* associated with garden with building 10
59-70	*Lophostemum confertus* row of trees along Westbourne Street
114,115	*Cinnamomum camphor*
118	*Ficus microcarpa var hillii* substantial specimen
123	*Cinnamomum camphor*
124,125	*Syncarpia glomulifera,* part of stand of trees endemic to area
126	*Strelizia nicholai*, large established specimen,
127	*Magnolia grandiflora*, large established specimen, only one in study area
139-144	*Lophostemon confertus*, group of trees associated with Building 9
146	Group of Archontophoenix cunninghamiana planting of last 20 years.
156-157, 159-161	*Lophostemon confertus,* part of Reserve Road avenue planting
168-170	*Lophostemon confertus,* part of Reserve Road avenue planting
176	*Erythina cristi galli*
187, 188	*Syncarpia glomulifera,* part of stand of trees endemic to area
191, 193	*Syncarpia glomulifera,* part of stand of trees endemic to area
195-203	*Syncarpia glomulifera,* part of stand of trees endemic to area
204,206	Archontophoenix cunninghamiana, Howea sp., Howea early planting
213-214	*Lophostemon confertus,* part of Reserve Road avenue planting
217,218	*Magnolia* sp grafted, planted pre 1945
219	*Araucaria cunninghamiana*, probable early avenue planting
220	*Pinus radiata,* remnant early planting, pre WW1
229-233	*Ficus macrocarpa* var. hilli, large established group, some suppressed
240-242	*Syncarpia glomulifera*, part of endemic species to site
246,247,249	*Syncarpia glomulifera,* part of endemic species to site
253-260	*Phoenix canariensis*, part of avenue to entry, probably 1920s
273	*Phoenix canariensis*, part of avenue to entry, probably 1920s

274	*Washingtonia robusta*, part of curtilage to building 31
275,276 279-282	*Washingtonia robusta*, part of curtilage to building 31
284-292	*Phoenix canariensis*, part of avenue to entry, probably 1920s
308	Paulownia tomentosa, unusual specimen planting, 1980s
319	*Syncarpia glomulifera*, species endemic to site
320	*Washingtonia robusta,* associated with group around building 31
324-326	*Syncarpia glomulifera*, species endemic to site

2. TREE INVENTORY MAPS

2.1 KEYPLAN

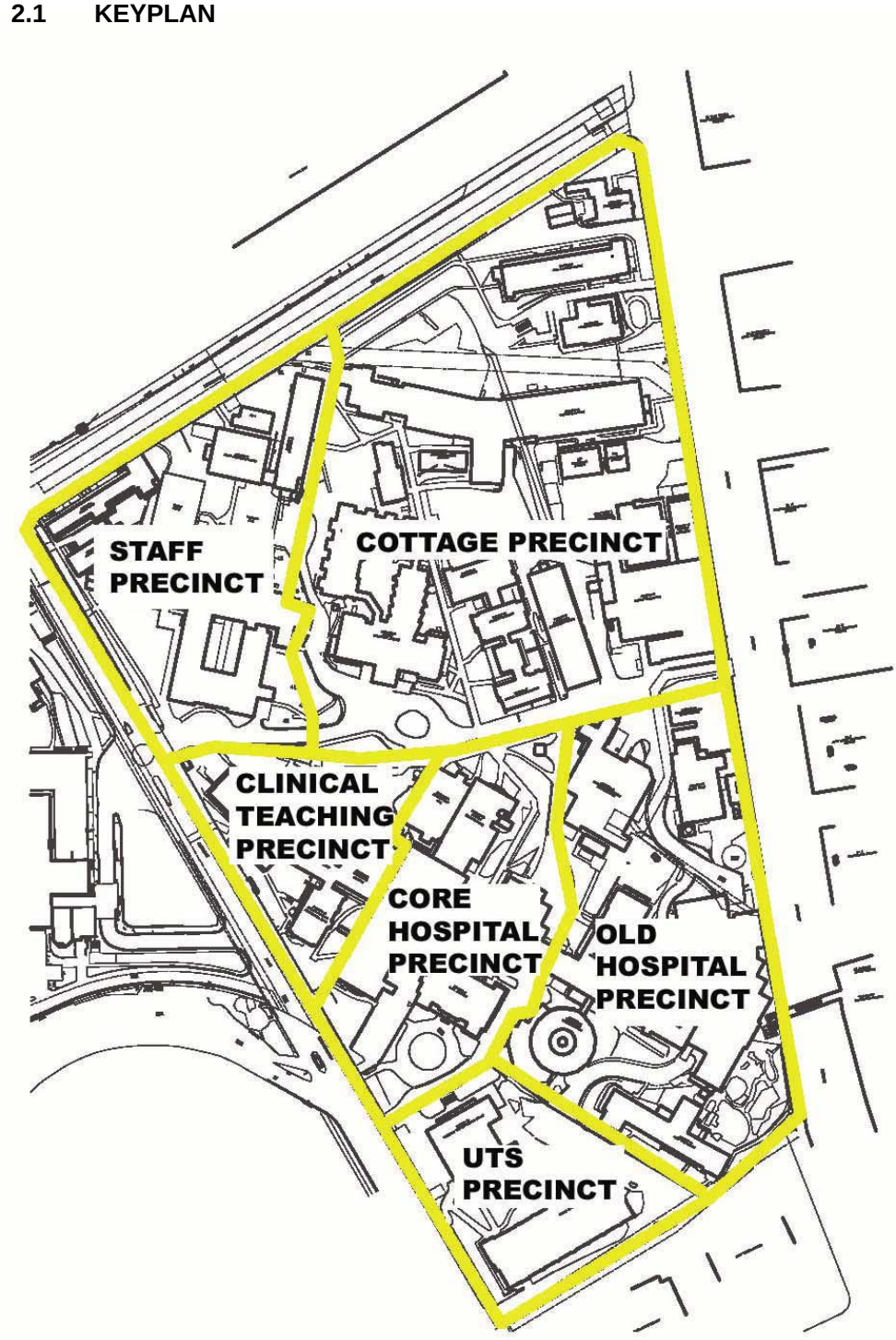

Figure 5. Site key plan

2.2 STAFF PRECINCT (Tree numbers 1-48)

STAFF PRECINCT		
No.	Species	Condition
1	Casuarina sp.	G
2	Callistemon salignus	P
3	Lophostemon confertus	G
4	Pittosporum	F
5	Coniferus	G
6	Coniferus	G
7	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
8	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
9	Eucalyptus sp.	F
10	Eucalyptus sp.	G
11	Callistemon salignus	G
12	Eucalyptus sp.	F
13	Lophostemon confertus	F
14	Lophostemon confertus	F
15	Lophostemon confertus	F
16	Lophostemon confertus	G
17	Lophostemon confertus	G
18	Stand of Eucalyptus sp.	F
19	Eucalyptus sp.	G
20	Eucalyptus sp.	F
21	Eucalyptus sp.	G
22	Eucalyptus sp.	F
23	Lophostemon confertus	G
24	Melaleuca quenquenervia	P
25	Eucalyptus sp. (Blue Gum)	P
26	Lophostemon confertus	G
27	Lophostemon confertus	G
28	Lophostemon confertus	G
29	Cupressus sp.	G
30	Cupressus sp.	F
31	Lophostemon confertus	G
32	Araucaria heterophylla	G
33	Lophostemon confertus	G
34	Eucalyptus sp. (Yellowgum) ?	G
35	Eucalyptus sp.	G
36	Cupressus sp.	G
37	Howea belmoreana	G
38	Howea belmoreana	G
39	Lophostemon confertus	G
40	Unidentified	

Legend:

G – Good
F – Fair
P – Poor

41	Callistemon viminalis	P
42	Callistemon viminalis	P
43	Stand of Howea fosteriana	G
44	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
45	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
46	Bauhinia variegata	G
47	Cedrus deodar	P
48	Jacaranda mimosifolia	F

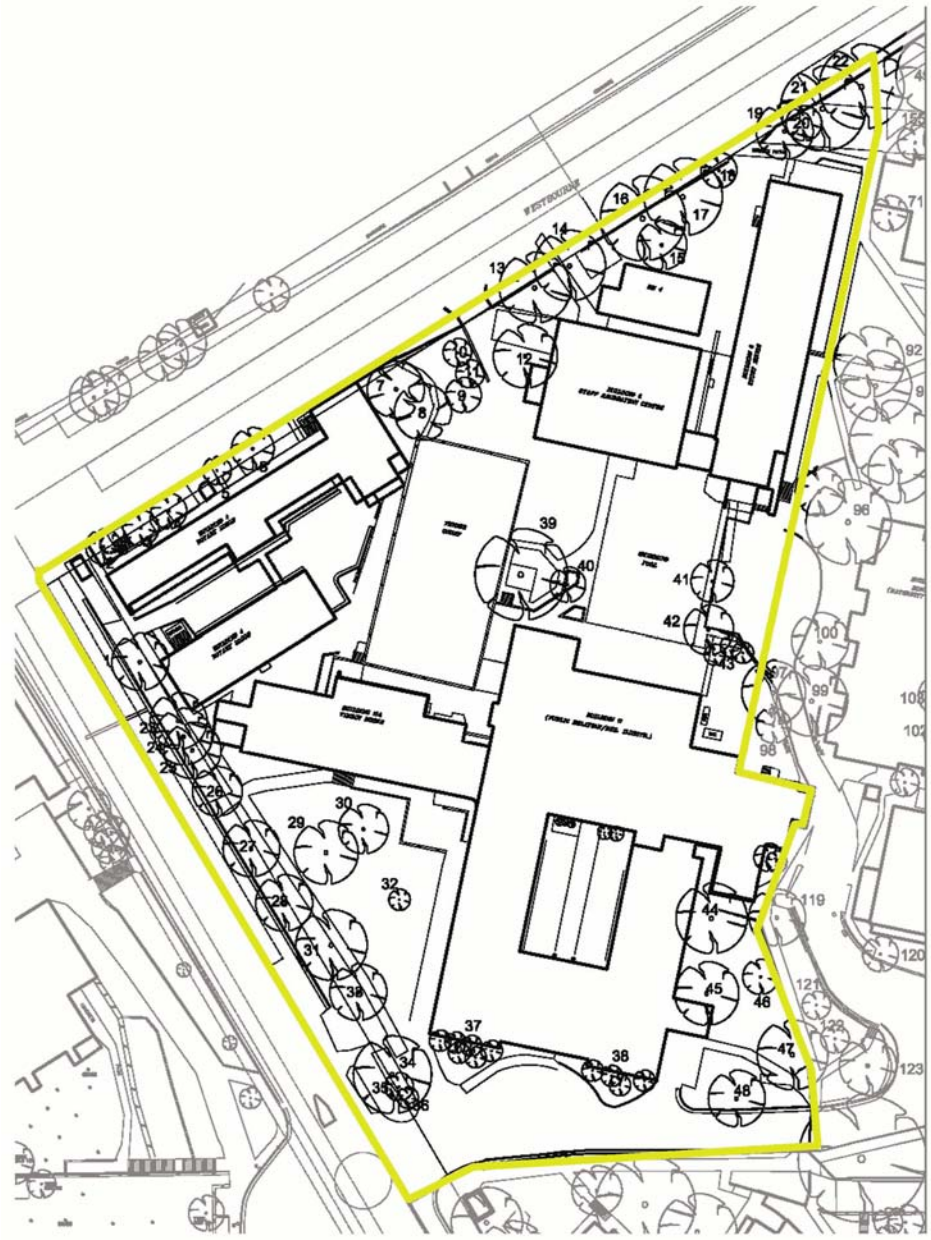

Figure 6. Staff Precinct

2.3 COTTAGE PRECINCT (Tree number 49-155)

COTTAGE PRECINCT		
49	Lophostemon confertus	G
50	Lophostemon confertus	G
51	Lophostemon confertus	G
52	Lophostemon confertus	G
53	Lophostemon confertus	G
54	Lophostemon confertus	G
55	Lophostemon confertus	G
56	Eucalyptus sp.	G
57	Lophostemon confertus	G
58	Stand of Howea fosteriana	G
59	Lophostemon confertus	F
60	Lophostemon confertus	G
61	Lophostemon confertus	G
62	Lophostemon confertus	G
63	Lophostemon confertus	G
64	Lophostemon confertus	G
65	Lophostemon confertus	G
66	Lophostemon confertus	G
67	Lophostemon confertus	G
68	Lophostemon confertus	G
69	Lophostemon confertus	G
70	Lophostemon confertus	G
71	Corotopelum shrub	F
72	Arecastrum romanzoffianum	F
73	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
74	Populus sp.	G/F
75	Cupressus sp.	G
76	Cupressus sp.	G
77	Cupressus sp.	G
78	Jacaranda mimosifolia	P
79	Populus sp.	G/F
80	Lagerstroemia indica	G/F
81	Elaeocarpus reticulatus	G
82	Cassia sp. ?	G
83	Stand of Pittosporum sp.	G
84	Eucalyptus sp.	G
85	Cotoneaster sp.	F
86	Bangalo Palm	G
87	Bangalo Palm	G
88	Celtis occidentalis	G
89	2 Camellia sp.	G
90	Ceratopelum gummiferum	G

91	Ceratopelum gummiferum	G
92	Lophostemon confertus	G
93	Lophostemon confertus	G
94	Lophostemon confertus	G
95	Lophostemon confertus	G
96	Erythrina x sykesii	F
97	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
98	Jacaranda mimosifolia	P
99	Eucalyptus sp.	G
100	Eucalyptus sp.	G
101	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
102	Unidentified	
103	Unidentified	
104	Unidentified	
105	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
106	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
107	Ficus benjamina	F
108	Unidentified	
109	Cotoneaster sp.	G
110	Olea africana	G
111	Mixed shrubs	P
112	Lophostemon confertus	G
113	Lophostemon confertus	G
114	Cinnamomum camphora	G
115	Cinnamomum camphora	G
116	Pittosporum undulatum	G
117	Cypressus Naylor	G
118	Ficus microcarpa var. hillii	G
119	Pittosporum sp.	F
120	Bauhinia variegata	G
121	Cupressus torolosa	G
122	Cupressus torolosa	G
123	Cinnamomum camphora	G
124	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
125	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
126	Strelitzia nicolai	G
127	Magnolia grandiflora	G
128	Lophostemon confertus	G
129	Lophostemon confertus	G
130	Lophostemon confertus	G
131	Lophostemon confertus	G
132	Acer negundo	G
133	Hymenosporum flavum	F
134	Acer negundo	G
135	Row of 3 Camellia japonica	G

136	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
137	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
138	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
139	Lophostemon confertus	G
140	Lophostemon confertus	G
141	Lophostemon confertus	G
142	Lophostemon confertus	G
143	Lophostemon confertus	G
144	Lophostemon confertus	G
145	Mixed Shrubs	G
146	Group of Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	G
147	Washingtonia robusta	G
148	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
149	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
150	Lophostemon confertus	G
151	Lophostemon confertus	G
152	Lophostemon confertus	G
153	Lophostemon confertus	G
154	Lophostemon confertus	G
155	Lophostemon confertus	G

Figure 7. Cottage Precinct

2.4 CLINICAL TEACHING PRECINCT (Tree number 156-190)

CLINICAL TEACHING PRECINCT		
156	Lophostemon confertus	G
157	Lophostemon confertus	G
158	Cupressus sp.	G
159	Lophostemon confertus	P
160	Lophostemon confertus	F
161	Lophostemon confertus	G
162	Howea fosteriana	G
163	Howea fosteriana	G
164	Lophostemon confertus	P
165	Tristaniopsis cunninghamiana	F
166	Lophostemon confertus	P
167	Lophostemon confertus	P
168	Lophostemon confertus	P
169	Lophostemon confertus	P
170	Lophostemon confertus	P
171	2 Howea fosteriana	F
172	Cyathea cooperii	F
173	Phoenix canariensis	F
174	Cypressus sp.	
175	Lophostemon confertus	G
176	Erythrina crystigalli	G
177	Cedrus sp.	G
178	Plumeria rubra	G
179	Plumeria rubra	G
180	Jacaranda mimosifolia	P
181	Lophostemon confertus	P
182	Melia azederach var. australasica	P
183	Melia azederach var. australasica	P
184	Eucalyptus citriodora	P
185	Bangalow Palm	
186	Bangalow Palm	
187	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
188	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
189	Photinia sp.	P
190	Bauhinia sp.	P

Figure 8. Clinical Teaching Precinct

2.5 CORE HOSPITAL PRECINCT (Tree number 191-225)

CORE HOSPITAL PRECINCT		
191	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
192	Lophostemon confertus	G
193	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
194	Lophostemon confertus	G
195	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
196	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
197	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
198	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
199	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
200	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
201	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
202	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
203	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
204	Archontophoenix cunninghamiana	F
205	Cypressus sp.	F
206	Howea belmoreana	G
207	Bauhinia sp.	P
208	Ceratopelum gummiferum	G
209	Jacaranda mimosifolia	F
210	Leptospermum sp.	F
211	Howea belmoreana	G
212	Jacaranda mimosifolia	P
213	Lophostemon confertus	G
214	Lophostemon confertus	G
215	Acer palmatum	G
216	Camellia japonica	G
217	Magnolia sp. (grafted)	P
218	Magnolia sp. (grafted)	P
219	Araucaria cunninghamiana	F
220	Pinus radiata	G
221	Camellia sasanqua	G
222	Arecastrum romanzoffianum	G
223	Camellia japonica	G
224	Camellia japonica	G
225	Camellia japonica	G

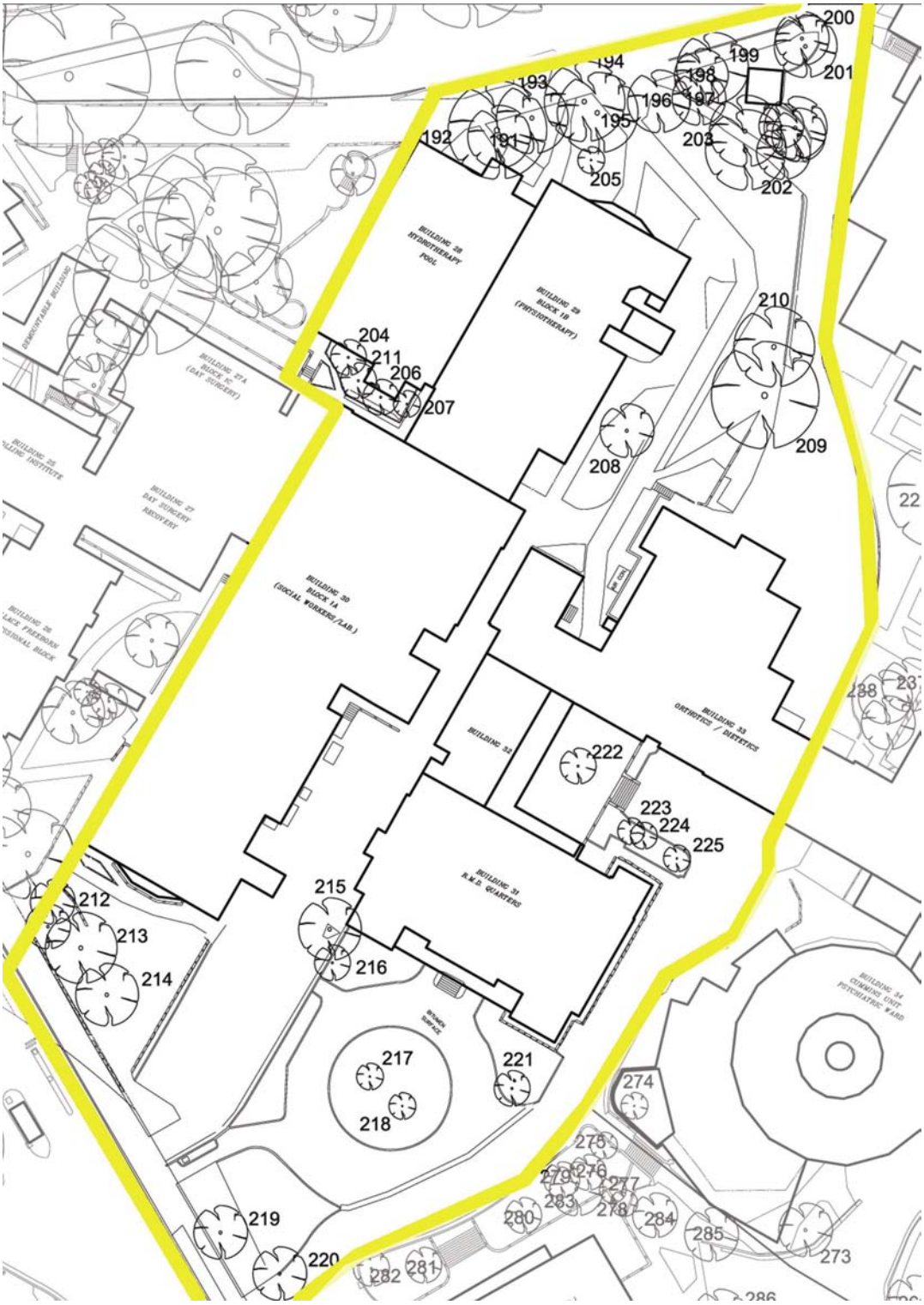

Figure 9. Core Hospital Precinct

2.6 OLD HOSPITAL PRECINCT (Tree number 226-274)

OLD HOSPITAL PRECINCT		
226	Plumeria rubra	G
227	Cupressus sp.	G
228	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
229	Ficus macrocarpa var hilli	G
230	Ficus macrocarpa var hilli	G
231	Ficus macrocarpa var hilli	G
232	Ficus macrocarpa var hilli	G
233	Ficus macrocarpa var hilli	G
234	Tree sp.	
235	Lophostemon confertus	G
236	Tree sp.	
237	Acacia sp.	P
238	Banksia integrifolia	P
239	Acacia sp.	P
240	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
241	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
242	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
243	Lophostemon confertus	G
244	Liquidamber styraciflua	G
245	Liquidamber styraciflua	G
246	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
247	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
248	Liquidamber styraciflua	G
249	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
250	Schinus molle	F
251	Tree sp,	
252	Tree sp.	
253	Phoenix canariensis	G
254	Phoenix canariensis	G
255	Phoenix canariensis	G
256	Phoenix canariensis	G
257	Phoenix canariensis	G
258	Phoenix canariensis	G
259	Phoenix canariensis	G
260	Phoenix canariensis	G
261	Gordonia axillaris	G
262	Callistemon sp.	G
263	Gordonia axillaris	G
264	Lophostemon confertus	G
265	Howea belmoreana	G
266	Arecastrum romanzoffianum	G
267	Palm sp.	G
268	Palm sp.	G
269	Palm	G

270	Cupressus torulosa	G
271	Unidentified	G
272	Pittosporum undulatum	G
273	Phoenix canariensis	G
274	Washingtonia robusta	G

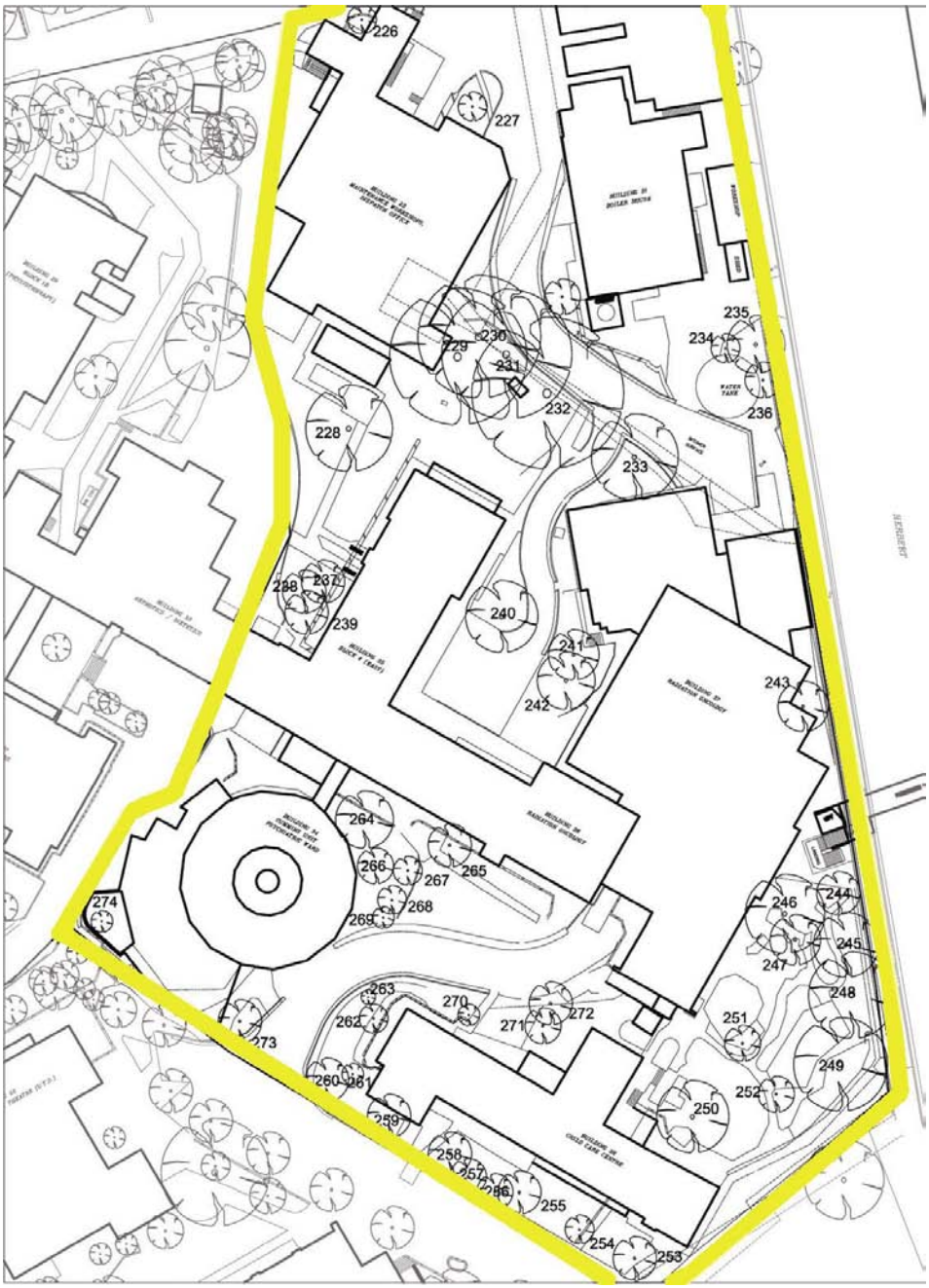

Figure 10. Old Hospital Precinct

2.7 UTS PRECINCT (Tree number 275-326)

UTS PRECINCT		
275	Washingtonia robusta	G
276	Washingtonia robusta	G
277	Unidentified	G
278	Unidentified	G
279	Washingtonia robusta	G
280	Washingtonia robusta	G
281	Washingtonia robusta	G
282	Washingtonia robusta	G
283	Ficus sp.	G
284	Phoenix canariensis	G
285	Phoenix canariensis	G
286	Phoenix canariensis	G
287	Phoenix canariensis	G
288	Phoenix canariensis	G
289	Phoenix canariensis	G
290	Phoenix canariensis	G
291	Phoenix canariensis	G
292	Phoenix canariensis	G
293	Pittosporum undulatum	G
294	Row of Melaleuca quinquenervia	G
295	Ulnus parvifolia	G
296	Eucalyptus sp.	F
297	Eucalyptus sp.	F
298	Eucalyptus sp.	F
299	Eucalyptus sp.	G
300	Melaleuca quinquenervia	G
301	Eucalyptus sp.	G
302	Melaleuca quinquenervia	G
303	Syncarpia glomulifera	F
304	Eucalyptus sp. (possibly eximia)	G
305	Eucalyptus sp.	G
306	Casuarina glauca	P
307	Casuarina glauca	F
308	Paulownia tomentosa	G
309	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
310	Melia azederach var. australasica	P
311	Araucaria heterophylla	G
312	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
313	Cupressus torulosa	G
314	Cupressus torulosa	G
315	Cupressus torulosa	G
316	Cupressus torulosa	G
317	Cupressus torulosa	G
318	Eucalyptus sp.	P

319	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
320	Washingtonia robusta	G
321	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
322	Eucalyptus saligna	G
323	Jacaranda mimosifolia	G
324	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
325	Syncarpia glomulifera	G
326	Syncarpia glomulifera	G

Figure 11. UTS Precinct