



BEAUMARIS SECONDARY COLLEGE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT: TREE AND VEGETATION

The new Beaumaris Secondary College will provide a much needed state-of-the-art school for 650 Year 7 - 12 students and world-class sporting facilities built in partnership with the Melbourne Cricket Club. The project is part of the Victorian Government's broader school building program to ensure all Victorians have access to a great school.

To deliver the new school, a tree and vegetation removal and replacement program must be undertaken, with every effort being made to retain existing vegetation. However, trees and flora which sit within the new school footprint and where root structures are impacted must be removed.

As part of this process the Authority has engaged with local council and conservation groups to provide information about the project. Detailed site maps have been developed showing both the current state of trees and vegetation, the future state post-development of the new school, and following feedback from the community a number of design changes have been made to enable the retention of additional trees.

Independent Arborist and Vegetation Assessment reports have been prepared that provide a detailed explanation as to why and which trees or vegetation will need to be removed. Reasons for removal are:

- Trees are of poor health or structure creating a safety risk for students, teachers, users of the sports facilities and the general public, now and into the future
- Trees are either within the foot print of the facilities or close enough that their roots will be impacted making them unviable.

How has the VSBA considered the community's concerns regarding the removal of trees from the site?

Following consultation with community groups, including the Beaumaris Conservation Society, during the period September to November 2016, the VSBA has identified a further 18 trees to be retained, subject to root assessments (currently underway).

Additional trees proposed to be retained following community consultation:

Item	Tree No.	Species	Common Name	Proposed actions to enable tree retention
1.	Tree 9	Corymbia maculate	Spotted Gum	Subject to root assessment
2.	Tree 13	Corymbia maculate	Spotted Gum	Subject to root assessment
3.	Tree 15	Corymbia maculate	Spotted Gum	Landscape design amended to provide permeable paving
4.	Tree 21	Eucalyptus leucoxyton	Yellow Gum	Subject to root assessment
5.	Tree 23	Eucalyptus saligna	Sydney Blue Gum	Design levels for the Senior Oval currently being reviewed
6.	Tree 33	Eucalyptus leucoxyton	Yellow Gum	Balcombe Road carpark reconfigured
7.	Tree 79	Eucalyptus bicostata	Eurabbie	Subject to root assessment
8.	Tree 82	Banksia Integrifolia	Coast Banksia	Subject to root assessment
9.	Tree 91	Eucalyptus nicholii	Narrow-leaved Black Peppermint	Reserve Road carpark reconfigured and forecourt reduced

10.	Tree 154	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Removal of half hard court
11.	Tree 155	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Removal of half hard court
12.	Tree 156	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Removal of half hard court
13.	Tree 157	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Removal of half hard court
14.	Tree 158	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Removal of half hard court
15.	Tree 243	Eucalyptus botryoides	Southern Mahogany	Landscape design amended to reduce hard stand
16.	Tree 250	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Subject to root assessment
17.	Tree 251	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Subject to root assessment
18.	Tree 252	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Subject to root assessment
19.	Tree 253	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	Path width to the Senior Oval reduced from 1.85m to 1.2m. Design levels for the Senior Oval are currently being reviewed

Why can't the design of the site include the retention of more trees?

The school is designed to deliver the best education facilities for our community. The three storey design has reduced the building footprint while still providing modern learning environments such as flexible learning spaces, specialist facilities, outdoor learning and sports facilities.

The positioning of the main school buildings close to the corner of Reserve and Balcombe Roads was carefully thought out during master planning. Locating buildings in this position ensures that the school is able to increase its capacity from 650 to 1100 students to accommodate future population growth. It also ensures that the school has a strong street presence to encourage a strong connection to the local community and allow easy access to community facing facilities such as the sports facility and library.

In a Victorian-first, the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) will fund two competition grade ovals, a sports pavilion and a multi-purpose pitch as part of the redevelopment of the school. The sporting facilities will be used by the school during school hours and by the MCC and local sporting groups outside of school hours.

Proposed Landscape Design and Replanting Plan

The landscape design for the site includes a variety of outdoor learning settings, situated in landscaped grounds. Following feedback from local environmental groups on the proposed planting schedule, the Authority has committed to review the species chosen to identify opportunities to maximise the replanting of indigenous species. Selections in the final planting schedule will account for the need for plants and trees to thrive in the local sandy soils, to be drought tolerant and have the ability to withstand the tough environment that is a secondary school.

The development will also feature a Wetland. Wetlands are a significant component of Australia's storm management regime. They can provide benefits including storm water treatment, promoting biodiversity and habitat, and provide opportunities for teaching, learning and environmental education. Additional water planting is also proposed for the wetland.