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The General Manager
Hornsby Shire Council

Dear Sir,

DA/537/2025, 66 Boronia Ave Cheltenham NSW 2119

The Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust has been approached by concerned residents regarding DA537/2025 at 66 Boronia Ave Cheltenham DA. The Trust objects to the loss of certain canopy trees.

DA537/2025 proposes to remove four trees, in particular 2 Bangalow Palms and one healthy and significant Turpentine. These three trees are healthy and adjacent to the existing improvements. The Bangalow palms are between the boundary and the pool and by careful design do not need to be disturbed by any new construction. The arborist report reflects this view. An elevated deck on piers could be conditioned or the deck reduced. The Palms are resilient and they add to the greenery and contribute to privacy. Falling branches are unlikely to create any additional amenity issue. Therefore the Trust believes a concerted effort should be made to retain them.

The Turpentine is a significant specimen and efforts should be made for its retention. There is an opportunity for the dwelling to be redesigned so the tree can be retained. In fact the design of the dwelling could be interpreted as being deliberately designed to impact on the tree. Turpentine trees are perfect urban trees that have minimal impact on urbanisation and at the same time support biodiversity and shade.

The heritage impact statement refers only to the dwelling. There is no assessment of the loss of tree canopy. There has been a huge loss of Turpentine trees in the immediate area over the past 10 years and the loss of another Turpentine is distressing. Ten years ago there was a continuous corridor of Turpentine trees throughout the suburb of Cheltenham that was clearly made a significant contribution to the heritage of the suburb and it has been ignored over the years. Hopefully the new Heritage DCP will assist in reversing this canopy tree loss. At the same time the suburb is slowly losing the cherished wildlife corridors.

Council is requested to refer the DA to its environmental division comment and have the heritage report upgraded.

Yours faithfully

Ross Walker OAM
President
Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust
2 June 2025

