

Enquiry:

Hi media team

Thanks for the extra information on the 43 trees being removed from the Dandenong Oasis site.

There seems to be further disquiet on some of those trees being already removed. Would you like to comment on the timing of these removals - especially so soon after residents have petitioned for the trees' retention?

(deadline Friday 4pm)

kind regards

Cam

Response, attributable to Executive Director, City Futures, Sanjay Manivasagasivam:

The vegetation plan, including some tree removals, have been part of the design of the Dandenong Wellbeing Centre project for several years now. Council approved the overall project design, and for the construction of this design to go to procurement in early 2024, and also approved the award of the construction contract in 2025.

This included planting 143 new trees, retention of 166 existing trees and removal of 43 trees. It also included planting 25,000 shrubs and ground cover plants around Mills Reserve.

ADCO Construction started work on the project in May. As they move around the site, these 43 trees will be removed when required to progress works. Around 21 trees have already been removed, as they were in the way of establishing site offices, digging foundations for the facility and digging the new 50m and warm water pools.

Other trees from the 43 will progressively be removed as required. There's no rush to remove trees. For example, the trees in the current Oasis carpark are expected to remain where they are until towards the end of this year, when that car park will be closed and the new car park will open.

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Contact: Carolyn Altan, 0478 281 454