

18. GUM TREE REMOVAL – 355 CENTAURUS ROAD

Officer responsible Parks & Waterways Manager	Author Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5112
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The purpose of this report is to seek the support of the Board for the removal of a gum tree outside 355 Centaurus Road (see attached).

INTRODUCTION

In May 2002 a letter was received from a resident directly opposite 355 Centaurus Road, requesting the Council to remove the gum tree sitting on Council land outside the above address (copy attached).

In June 2002 the Parks & Waterways Area Advocate received a letter from the owner of the property at 355 Centaurus Road also requesting the removal of the gum tree (copy attached).

The reasons cited for the removal of the tree were:

- Concern for the stability of the tree during a storm
- The danger the tree poses to the house and garage at 355 Centaurus Road
- Danger to cars parked on the street
- Danger to pedestrians
- Because of the height of the tree, it blocks the sun and view for several residents

Following these requests the tree was inspected by a Parks and Waterways Arborist, who comments as follows:

“The root system has already caused damage to the path and will also in the future cause damage to the garage at 355 Centaurus Road. There are signs of decay at the pruning points. With the imminent road widening in a couple of years the root system will be significantly affected. Although the tree is healthy with good vigour, and no signs of any structural defects, the long-term prognosis for this tree in this location is very limited. The reasons for this are:

- There would need to be alterations to the environment around it to allow for its continued development and growth
- The tree will suffer significant adverse effects to its root system from road reconstruction
- The damage the roots will cause to adjacent buildings and structures

This tree will continue to grow, with its mature height being up to 30m with a trunk diameter of up to 2.5m, and a root system extending out beyond a 15m radius.”

CONSULTATION

On 7 August 2002 a questionnaire was distributed to 15 households (a copy of this was also sent to Board members) within the immediate vicinity of 355 Centaurus Road, detailing the concerns regarding the tree and asking for their feedback. Ten households responded to the questionnaire with the results being as follows:

Gum tree to be removed and replaced with a more appropriate species	4
Gum tree to be removed and not replaced	5
Retain the gum tree	0

One respondent requested for the gum tree to remain and for it to be pruned.

CITY STREETS UPGRADE

In approximately two years’ time City Streets are proposing to upgrade Centaurus Road between Aynsley Terrace and a location to the east of Glenelg Spur Road. The works will include improvements to the alignment of Centaurus Road and will provide a new kerb, channel and footpath to the north side of the road, and replacement of the existing kerb and dish channel on the south side of the road. This will also take in the area where the gum tree is located. Having spoken to the City Streets Unit, they have no concerns regarding the removal of the tree.

CONCLUSION

Due to the concerns raised, the height to which the tree will grow, and the support from the local residents, it is felt that it would be best to remove the tree. There is a cabbage tree growing right next to it which will then have more space to grow and, in the future, as part of the Centaurus Road upgrade, enhancement planting will be undertaken in this area.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	0	
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	0	
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	✓✓0*	
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓	Improve peoples sense of safety
P2	Full potential developed	0	
P3	Social capital enhanced	0	
P4	Culture and identity protected	0	
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓	Enhance participation by people in local and community decision making
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓	By removing the tree now it will alleviate further damage in the future
E2	Job rich local economy	0	
E3	Financial sustainability	0	

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve the removal of the gum tree outside 355 Centaurus Road and support enhancement planting being undertaken as part of the Centaurus Road upgrade.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be supported.