

11. LANDSDOWNE TERRACE STREET TREES

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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with the results of the consultation carried out in November 2002 concerning the future of the street trees in Landsdowne Terrace.

CONSULTATION

At the Board's Combined Committee meeting of 9 September 2002 it was recommended that *"full personal consultation be undertaken with all residents informing them of the result of the first tree survey, cost of tree removal, replanting options, replacement tree characteristics and operational timeframes"*.

On 18 November 2002 a letter and information (copy attached) was sent to all the residents of Landsdowne Terrace. Previously feedback had only been received from residents with manna ash trees outside their properties.

RESULTS OF THE CONSULTATION

Approximately 100 letters were delivered to the residents and 47 returns were received, with the following results:

Option A

Retain existing trees

Option B

Remove all thirty nine (39) manna ash trees, also one (1) American ash, replanting with Liquidambar styraciflua (sweetgum) trees (adding to existing Liquidambar). Replanting with these trees will within 30-35 years create a tall (20m), closed canopy, even avenue effect

16

Estimated felling cost

\$5,300

Replanting cost

\$4,680

Total

\$9,980

Option C

Remove all fifty two (52) existing street trees (salvaging the young Liquidambar), replanting with one of the following small to medium Sized tree species (pictures attached)

26

a) *Pyrus calleryana* – callerey pear (grows 10-12m)

1

b) *Styrax japonica* – snowbell tree (grows 4-5m)

3

c) *Magnolia kobus* (grows 6-7m)

12

Estimated felling cost

\$6,600

Replanting cost

\$6,240

Total

\$12,840

Option D

Fill the existing gaps in the street plantings will involve planting an additional six (6) trees

1

Estimated cost

\$720

CONCLUSION

The results of the consultation indicate a majority of the residents support option C with the replanting of *Magnolia kobus*.

ENVIRONMENT COURT PROCEEDINGS

By an application dated 5 December 2002, Mrs Bennett has applied to the Environment Court for an order requiring the Council to remove the two large manna ash trees located adjacent to her property at 9 Landsdowne Terrace, and an order that the Council pay to her damages so as to compensate her for alleged losses caused by the trees.

The Council is required to file a notice of opposition and any supporting affidavits by Friday 21 February 2003. The application will then be set down for a pre-hearing conference before an Environment Court judge after 1 March 2003.

The commencement of these proceedings has not influenced the various options recommended by the officers for discussion by the Board.

Staff

Recommendation: For discussion.