

#### 4. PINE TREE REMOVAL – VIEW TERRACE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks & Waterways Manager	<b>Authors</b> Ann Liggett, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-5112 Chris Young, Parks & Waterways Arborist, DDI 941-8030
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for the removal of four pine trees opposite 25 View Terrace.

##### INTRODUCTION

In June 2002 and again in April 2003, a letter was received from the residents at 25 View Terrace, requesting the Council to remove four pine trees on Council land opposite their property (copies attached).

The reasons cited for the removal of the trees were:

- Blocking sun into their property during the middle of winter
- Need to have sunlight in their home due to one of the residents having an eye disease

Following this request the trees were inspected by a Parks & Waterways Arborist, who comments as follows:

The group of four trees have been pruned in the past to try to restore light into the property at 25 View Terrace. The trees were reduced in height as well as thinned. On inspection the trees appear to be in a healthy condition. However, the trees need to be removed for the following reasons:

- Two of the four trees have structural defects
- High risk of falling onto the properties below
- Little remedial pruning can be carried out to increase light or safety

GEOTECH (Geological and Engineering Consultants) were then commissioned to write a report on the slope stability on the land opposite 25 View Terrace. In the report they mentioned that the pine trees have reached a height where they probably pose a danger from wind during storm events. The leveraging of the trees from high winds could cause the uprooting of the trees and gross disturbance to the slope area, possibly resulting in slope failure. They recommend the removal of the four pines to eliminate all risk of tree failure. They also go on to say that the area could be enhanced by planting suitable species of plants to help with bank stabilisation after the trees have been removed (copy of report attached).

##### CONSULTATION

On 9 May 2003 a letter was distributed to 17 households (a copy of this was also sent to Board members) within the immediate vicinity of the pine trees, outlining the concerns regarding the trees. Also attached was a questionnaire asking for their feedback and their support in the removal of the trees. Eleven households responded to the questionnaire, with the results being as follows:

I/we support the removal of the four pine trees in View Terrace	11
I/we do not support the removal of the four pine trees in View Terrace	0

A majority of the residents have also requested for the area to be replanted with low-growing species.

##### CONCLUSION

Due to several issues surrounding these trees (as detailed above), in line with the engineer's report written by GEOTECH, and with the support of the local residents, it is felt that it would be best to remove the trees. Once the trees are removed the area will be replanted with low growing plant species.

##### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Board approve removal of the four pine trees located opposite 25 View Terrace and replanting of the area with low growing plant species.

##### Chairman's

**Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be supported.