

## 7. STREET TREE REMOVALS – 340 LOWER STYX ROAD

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<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Michael Aitken Manager Transport and Greenspace DDI – 941 6287
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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for the removal of a large blue gum tree situated on the grass berm outside 340 Lower Styx Road, to enable the completion of the Lower Styx Road sewer renewal project.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. On 16 September 2006 Council Design Leader, Howard Simpson, Water Environment, City Solutions Unit, approached the Transport and Greenspace Unit with a request to remove one blue gum tree, on the berm of 340 Lower Styx Road to allow construction of a the Lower Styx Road sewer renewal project.
3. The blue gum has good vigour and vitality, is of large size (approx 10m in height with a canopy spread of 10m) and moderate form. The tree structure currently leans across the Lower Styx Road.
4. Construction of the Lower Styx Road sewer renewal project is close to being tendered and it is understood that it would be very difficult to redesign the route of the new pipes to ensure the street tree remains.
5. The present condition of the existing sewer has been described as "corroding and could collapse any day" by Gordon Taylor of Christchurch City Council.
6. In order to install the new sewerage system a 3m wide trench is to be excavated and this will result in considerable damage to the existing trees root system. Centre of the trench would be located 3 metres from the trunk of the tree. If the tree is to be retained excavations around the root system must be carried out by hand at considerable extra expense to the project, (additional costs of at least \$2,250 are estimated by Council staff involved in the project).
7. The tree roots are currently causing damage to the existing footpath outside 340 Lower Styx Road and roots are also encroaching into the adjacent private property lifting the lawn area (see attached).
8. The Council does not intend to immediately replace the loss of amenity that would result from the removal of the tree, but will place the entire street on the replacement tree planting programme. This will ensure that the character and identity of the street is enhanced through a publicly consulted process in accordance with the LTCCP.
9. The current resident and the owners of 340 Lower Styx Road have been consulted over the removal and are happy for the tree to be removed. They have expressed little opinion in regard to having a replacement tree.

### FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

10. Any healthy street tree can be removed only with approval from the appropriate Community Board and any protected street tree can be removed only by a successful application under the Resource Management Act. These trees are not listed as protected under the provisions of the Christchurch City Plan.
11. The actual cost to remove the trees will be covered as a cost to the Lower Styx Road sewer renewal project. Estimated cost for removal \$1,200.
12. All tree work will be carried out by the Council's Street Tree Maintenance Contractor.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Shirley/Papanui Community Board adopts Option (A) and approves:

- (a) The removal of the blue gum tree to facilitate construction of the Lower Styx Road sewer renewal project.
- (b) That no immediate replacement planting be undertaken to replace the lost amenity value of the tree removed.
- (c) Lower Styx Road be included on the Council replacement tree planting programme for 2006/07 in accordance with the LTCCP.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the staff recommendations be adopted.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option (A)**

- 13. Remove the blue gum and do not replace the tree in the immediate future. The whole street will be assessed for replacement planting in 2006. Initial assessment to be commenced in December 2006.

### **Option (B) Status quo**

- 14. Do not remove the blue gum tree. Tree is to be maintained to accepted international arboricultural standards. The Lower Styx Road Sewer Renewal Project to be constructed in such a fashion that the tree is protected from damage to its structure both above and below ground.