

9. 6 BENGAL DRIVE – TREE REMOVAL REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI: 941-8656
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Manager
Author:	Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, Ann Liggett and Arborist, Tony Armstrong

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is seek approval to remove a cypress tree from the berm outside 6 Bengal Drive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council has received a request from the resident of 6 Bengal Drive to remove a cypress tree from the berm outside their property, due to concerns about the health and safety of the tree as well as a desire by the resident to landscape the berm.
3. The tree in question is a maturing cypress (photo **attached**). An assessment of the tree concludes that the tree is healthy but its location is not appropriate.
4. A history of requests date back to October 2004 when an adjacent eucalypt tree was removed due to its structural decline. Its situation was also inappropriate due to its proximity to the road and property. Subsequently the resident has, where possible, landscaped the berm.
5. The cypress was pruned at the time to lift the canopy over the road, and in September 2005 was attended to in order to prune broken branches following a snow storm.
6. The situation of the tree is such that as a maturing cypress it will without doubt outgrow its site and continue to suffer branch breakage. On a local roadside embankment there are some safety concerns with this, specifically regarding its potential instability and propensity for branch breakage.
7. Assessing the amenity aspects of the tree, the potential improvement to the site by removal and replanting supports the removal of the tree.
8. Should approval be granted, Council staff will notify immediately affected neighbours as per standard operating procedure.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

9. Funding for the removal of the tree will be from the Transport and Greenspace Unit's operational budget for street tree maintenance.
10. The tree is not protected under the City Plan.
11. All work will be carried out by a Council approved contractor.

OPTIONS

12. **Option 1 – do nothing**

Doing nothing is not an option as the tree will continue to outgrow the location and will continue to suffer branch breakage posing a potential health and safety risk, and ongoing maintenance.

13. **Option 2 – maintenance**

Maintenance will only be an interim solution and as per the reasons above, the tree will eventually require removal, perhaps under more difficult and costly circumstances in future.

PREFERRED OPTION

14. Option 3 – Removal and replanting

Due to the location of the tree and the ongoing concern with branch breakage, and with the support and willingness of the resident for removal and to relandscaping the site, the preferred option is for removal and replanting.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Board approve the removal of the cypress tree situated on the berm outside 6 Bengal Drive.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.