

Officer responsible Leisure Unit Manager	Author Lyll Matchett
Corporate Plan Output: Camping Grounds – Leased - South Brighton Motor Camp	

The purpose of this report is to inform and consult the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board on a situation regarding the unsafe nature of the plantation trees adjacent to the South Brighton Motor Camp.

The following background advice has been received from Walter Fielding-Cotterell (Parks Arboriculturist) to the Leisure Unit regarding a large tree falling in to the camping ground area.

“On Sunday, 11 July 1999 following a period of heavy rain, a large cupressus macrocarpa tree growing in the conifer plantation adjacent to the motor camp fell into the camping area narrowly missing a parked (but unoccupied) caravan.

There have been several such incidents over the past few years where apparently healthy trees in the plantations surrounding the camping ground and sports field areas have uprooted and fallen over.

The ground on which the trees are growing consists mainly of pure sand which in addition to the high water table, due to the land being low lying and adjacent to the estuary, provides poor root anchorage for large trees growing on such soils. The saturated soils which exist just 300-400mm below the soil surface prevent sinker roots from penetrating the lower soil levels for support. Lateral root development is also restricted due to the competition from other plantation trees nearby.

The majority of trees in the area in question are now aged about 60 years (about twice the normal life of a commercial plantation tree) and have reached an age and size which makes them increasingly prone to windthrow or rootlift in the ground conditions described.

The camping ground is a high public use area with camp sites and facilities situated close to the plantation trees and is considered a high hazard target area, particularly in the summer or public holiday periods.

In view of the above factors, it is recommended that consideration be given to removing all plantation trees growing within 30 metres of the camping ground and replanting the felled area with suitable shelter and amenity trees.”

It is now necessary to minimise the possibility of this situation occurring in the future. An onsite meeting has been arranged for the Community Board and the South Brighton Residents' Association on Tuesday 24 August to inspect the area with Council staff and the Camp lessee to consider options regarding these trees. It is important that the appropriate action is undertaken quickly and prior to the next busy camping period (Labour Weekend) to remove this risk and allow for normal operation of the camping ground.

Recommendation: That following inspection of the site on 24 August 1999 the Community Board recommend to the Parks and Recreation Committee the appropriate action to be taken by Council to isolate and minimise the potential safety hazard the plantation trees may be to the public, and patrons of the South Brighton Motor Camp.

**Chairperson's
Recommendation:** That the aforementioned recommendation be adopted.