

**8. BROAD PARK EXTENSION -
APPLICATION TO REMOVE MACROCARPA**

RR 9027

Officer responsible Parks Manager	Author Gary Harrow, Area Parks Officer
Corporate Plan Output: City Wide Parks Maintenance, page 9.4.15	

The purpose of this report is to present a resident's request to remove a macrocarpa tree from the unformed portion of the Broad Park extension. The area is classified as Open Space 1 in the proposed City Plan. This report was presented to the February meeting of the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

A house is soon to be built on the site with the garage 3 metres from the boundary. The house itself will be approximately 7 metres from the base of the tree. Some of the branches overhang the property.

The applicant's reasons for removal are:

1. The tree overhangs the section by 7 metres.
2. Parts of the tree occupy space of the proposed house.
3. Although the tree is evergreen, foliage is dropped all year round and will gather on the roof, block gutters and aid in discolouration of the plaster finish.
4. All morning sun will be blocked on the eastern side by the tree.
5. Risk of tree collapsing on the new home will cause unnecessary worry.

The results of the survey of nearby residents are attached.

The Parks Unit believes that this tree is safe, is of significant value to the landscape of the area and is a landmark in the Ballance/Broadpark Street area. It complements the older trees in Broad Park and the younger ones nearby in the lee of the sand dunes. It is the only large tree between Broad Park and Bottle Lake Forest Park.

It is considered that most of the resident's concerns can be met by trimming the tree away from the boundary. However the lack of morning sun is something the Committee should also take into account in considering the request. The Council receives similar requests daily from residents but only a few result in requests to remove the tree altogether.

As the Committee will be aware neighbours are legally entitled to prune branches away from their boundaries. However, the Council, being a good neighbour, usually undertakes this at no cost to the applicant.

The area immediately to the west of the tree (approximately 20 metres of the applicant's property) used to be unformed legal road until requests from local residents resulted in the road being stopped and sold to the neighbours in 1995/96.

Photographs of the area taken from the north, south and west are attached.

There are plans to extend the cultivated area of Broad Park to the Crown Land just north of this tree and when completed, the tree will provide valuable shade for the many people now using the area. The car park is a main terminus for recreational walkers, joggers and mountain bike riders using the coastal tracks.

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board heard a deputation from the property owner Mr Tony van Ecklyn, who argued that the tree intruded on to his property. His house plans meant the tree would need to be trimmed right back to avoid this problem. The Board believed that as the tree was still in a healthy state it should not be removed.

Recommendation: That the tree not be removed but trimmed back from the boundary by the Council.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.