

## 19. KIBBLEWHITE STREET RESERVE

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Corporate Plan Output: Local Park Tree Maintenance and Felling	

The purpose of this report is to advise the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board of the condition of the mature conifer trees and replacement planting in Kibblewhite Reserve.

### CONDITIONS OF TREES

The rate of death, and deterioration in condition, of the mature pines and macrocarpas on the estuary side of the stopbank has increased since the relocation of the stopbank in 1997. These trees have been situated mainly in the lower lying areas where the effects of salinity and saturated soil conditions would obviously have the greatest impact on their health.

Tests on the foliage of trees situated on the estuary side of the stopbank, and in the wetter areas on the other side, show a great increase in the chloride levels contained in the leaves. As indicated by the visual condition of the trees, the chloride concentration has reached highly toxic levels. As trees succumb to the effect of the chloride, they will need to be removed and the area replanted with salt tolerant plants.

It should be mentioned that tree deaths and poor growth associated with toxic saline levels or saturated soiled conditions is a situation which has prevailed in the reserve for over 25 years, and was occurring well before the first stopbank was constructed in 1985. The high ground water level alone and the affect on tree health, and root stability will always mean that growing large conifers in such conditions will be marginal.

### PLANTING OPERATIONS

Low lying areas on the estuary side of the stopbank have been intensively planted with salt tolerant native plants as have the wetter areas on the other side of the stopbank,

The safety strip cleared of pines and macrocarpas adjacent to the boundary with the private properties have been replanted mainly with native trees and shrubs. Any trees that have failed in these plantings will be replaced this winter planting season.

Where there are gaps in the conifers growing on higher land, these areas will be replanted with shelter trees such as pines, macrocarpas and leyland cypress this season also.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

### Chairperson's

**Recommendation:** That the Board support the urgent interplanting and replanting of conifers on higher land within the reserve.