



7th March, 2006

WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK, ON TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 2006 AT 6:00 P.M.

Committee Members: His Worship the Mayor, Cr T. Seng, Crs Andrews (Deputy Chairperson), Belleli, Hughes, Matson, (Chairperson) Notley-Smith, Tracey & White.

Quorum: Five (5) members.

NOTE: AT THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2004, THE COUNCIL RESOLVED THAT THE WORKS COMMITTEE BE CONSTITUTED AS A COMMITTEE WITH FULL DELEGATION TO DETERMINE MATTERS ON THE AGENDA.

1 Apologies

2 Minutes

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

3 Declaration of Pecuniary & Non-Pecuniary Interests

4 Addresses to Committee by the Public

5 Works

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| 5.1 | DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES' REPORT 14/2006 - COUNCIL OWNED FICUS 'HILLII' (HILLS WEEPING FIG) GROWING OUTSIDE 16 ATHOL STREET, COOGEE. | 2 |
| 5.2 | DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES' REPORT 15/2006 - ONGOING REVIEW OF STREET TREE MASTERPLAN. | 5 |

6 Motion Pursuant to Notice

- 6.1 Notice of Rescission Motion by Councillors Daley, Tracey, Andrews, Bastic & White – Works Committee Meeting – 5.2 – Director, City Services’ Report 2/2006 - Clovelly Beach Resident Parking Scheme. 7

7 General Business

8 Notice of Rescission Motions

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GENERAL MANAGER

Director, City Services' Report 14/2006

SUBJECT:	COUNCIL OWNED FICUS 'HILLII' (HILLS WEEPING FIG) GROWING OUTSIDE 16 ATHOL STREET, COOGEE.
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DATE:	16 February, 2006	FILE NO:	F2004/07359
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION:

The owner of 16 Athol Street, Coogee, has lodged a Development Application with Council for works that include the construction of a new vehicle crossing situated towards the western boundary of the property.

Should the requested driveway be approved by Council, it will be necessary to remove the Council-owned Ficus 'Hillii' (Hill's Weeping fig) street tree growing on the nature strip outside the front of the property.

ISSUES:

The tree is approximately six metres in height with a canopy spread of around seven metres. It is one of a number of the same species growing along both sides of the street and the street is recognised as containing a streetscape of significance.

All the fig trees on the northern side of the street have to be pruned on a regular and ongoing basis to maintain statutory clearances around overhead powerlines and domestic service wires. This particular tree has to be pruned away from both powerlines and several domestic service wires and is growing immediately adjacent to a power pole and streetlight.

This particular tree has been assessed as having a low risk potential. It has also been assessed as having a low hazard rating when issues such as failure potential, target rating and the size of any potential branch failures are considered.

It has been assessed as having high scenic/environmental amenity and with providing average habitat/food source. The effect of removal on soil stability/land degradation would be negligible.

The tree has been calculated as having an amenity value of \$2,400 using the Standards Australia AS – DR99307 valuation guide.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The total cost to remove and stump grind the subject tree, re-instate the nature strip and footpath, and to replace the tree with a 100-litre advanced replacement species would be approximately \$2,000 and this would come from Council's annual tree management budget.

CONCLUSION:

This species of tree is entirely inappropriate for growing in a confined nature strip situation such as this, immediately adjacent to a residential front brick fence, concrete footpath and adjacent driveway.

The inappropriateness of this species as a street tree growing in confined nature strip situations has been acknowledged by Council and it resulted in a strategy for the removal of aggressive-rooted street trees being adopted by Council on 26 November, 2002.

The tree is situated less than one metre from the western boundary of the adjacent property and it certainly could not be retained if the proposed driveway were approved.

There is a large healthy street tree of the same species situated to the west of where this tree is growing and this would negate to some degree the impact removal of the requested tree would have.

The tree in question is in a fair condition but its canopy is growing into overhead powerlines and through a number of domestic service wires entering several properties. Its canopy is also growing into an adjacent street light and these factors mean that the canopy has to be regularly pruned quite severely.

Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 23 November, 2004, resolved that the Works Committee would consider and determine any applications/requests (not subjected to delegated authority) associated with the removal of significant trees (Resolution 295). However, there are a number of procedural and/or policy matters relating to a number of elements within Resolution 295 that are still either being drafted or are the subject of legal opinion/briefing. It is therefore appropriate that until these matters have been fully resolved and Council commences its adopted development consent procedure for dealing with the proposed removal of significant trees within the City, that any such recommendations are forwarded to the Works Committee for resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council approve the removal of the Ficus 'Hillii' (Hill's Weeping fig) growing on the nature strip outside 16 Athol Street, Coogee, and that it be replaced with a super-advanced Syzygium luehmanni (Lilly Pilly) – as per Council's Street Tree Masterplan.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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JORDE FRANGOPLES
DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

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BRYAN BOURKE
TREE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Director, City Services' Report 15/2006

SUBJECT:	ONGOING REVIEW OF STREET TREE MASTERPLAN.
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DATE:	1 March, 2006	FILE NO:	F2004/07359
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

INTRODUCTION:

Council at its Works Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 6 December, 2005, resolved on the Motion of Councillor Hughes and Councillor Belleli that -

- (a) *a decision be deferred to allow for Sydney Water to be approached for greater clarification on the damage rating it attributes to Pepper/Peppercorn Trees in terms of sewer, footpath or other infrastructure damage; and*
- (b) *Council seek clarification on the number of insurance claims against the Council involving the tripping on Peppercorn trees.*

ISSUES:

On 21 December, 2006, Council's Tree Management Officer spoke to Rodney Kerr, Strategic Asset Management Officer at Sydney Water, who advised him that the tree species *Schinus areira* (Peppercorn trees) constituted no major damage problem for Sydney Water and specifically that there had been no sewer chokes caused by tree roots along Doncaster Avenue in the past five years.

Mr Kerr provided a list of plants that Sydney Water recommended should be avoided near sewers and drains and this list ranks species in order of their likelihood of causing blockages in sewer pipes.

Peppercorn trees are not contained in that list of 18 tree species and in fact they are listed at the bottom of a group of 16 tree species that collectively account for less than 10 percent of all plants identified as causing problems and are not ranked by that organisation as being in any way problematic.

A study of all insurance claims made against Council for the period 1 July, 2005, to 21 December, 2006, indicates that no claims involved the species *Schinus areira*.

CONCLUSION:

Sydney Water attributes no damage rating to Peppercorn trees and no insurance claims have been made against Council in the period 1 July 2005 – 21 December, 2006, involving tripping on Peppercorn trees.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the species Schinus areira (Peppercorn trees) be retained as a nominated species on Council's Street Tree Masterplan.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

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JORDE FRANGOPLES
DIRECTOR, CITY SERVICES

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BRYAN BOURKE
TREE MANAGEMENT OFFICER

MOTIONS PURSUANT TO NOTICE

6.1 Notice of Rescission Motion by Councillors Daley, Tracey, Andrews, Bastic & White – Works Committee Meeting – 5.2 – Director, City Services’ Report 2/2006 - Clovelly Beach Resident Parking Scheme. (F2004/08439)

That the resolution passed at the Works Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 14th February, 2006 reading as follows:-

that this matter be deferred to the next works committee meeting to allow the Deputy Mayor and a representative from the Clovelly Precinct Committee to doorknock streets proposed for the visitor parking scheme to ensure resident’s views haven’t changed since the initial survey in 2004.

BE AND IS HEREBY RESCINDED.

Upon the abovementioned Rescission Motion being carried, it is intended to move the following motion:-

That this matter be deferred for 4 months to allow the residents and the Clovelly Precinct Committee to review and make submissions to Council in respect to implementing a Parking Scheme in the Clovelly Precinct.

General Business

Notice of Rescission Motions