

11 May 2021

General Manager  
City of Canada Bay Council  
1a Marlborough Street  
Drummoyne  
NSW  
2047

**Re: 1 Ramsay Road Development Proposal – Justification of Tree Removal (*Syzygium paniculatum*, Magenta Cherry)**

**Document Review – New Leaf Arboriculture**

1. This letter is the result of a document review and site visit commissioned by Karen Judd, City of Canada Bay Council, of a Tree located on 7 Harrabrook Avenue which has been proposed for removal to allow development of the site at 1 Ramsay Road, Five Dock.
2. Council is considering a Planning Proposal for the development of land involving the removal of a *Syzygium paniculatum* (Magenta Cherry), listed as Tree 1 in the New Leaf Arboriculture, Arboricultural Impact Assessment dated 01 October 2020 (the report).
3. In the report, the tree was assessed to have a 'High' retention value, 'Good' health and 'Good to Average' condition.
4. The tree is located within the footprint of the proposed design and the report states that this tree could not be retained in the context of this design. The report goes on to recommend that the tree should be considered for transplanting. There was no specific recommendation to remove the tree in the report.
5. A subsequent amendment has been made to the report, dated 14 April 2021 (the amendment), titled Supplementary Arboricultural Assessment – 1 tree at 7 Harrabrook Ave, Five Dock. This amendment stated that the original assessment of the tree was carried out from the boundary fence of the property, with limited visibility.
6. The amendment goes on to describe a more detailed inspection of the tree. The condition rating was amended from 'Good to Average' to 'Average to Poor'. The health rating was also amended from 'Good' to 'Good to Average'. The amendment goes on to describe some features which were not observed during the earlier inspection, which changed the recommendation of the initial report.
7. The single most significant feature described is an active split (partial failure) of one of the main unions which starts at approximately 1.7 metres from ground level and extends down to approximately 700 mm above ground level. It was also observed that this feature continues to the soil surface. If this feature were to completely fail, approximately 50% of the tree canopy would be lost and the part size would be significant, between 500 and 700 mm in diameter and the full height of the tree, 12 metres. The amendment goes on to describe that a failure of this size would then change the wind loading of the remaining canopy, potentially leading to further failure potential.

8. The amendment also noted that the tree was potentially causing damage to the adjacent, brick built, structure and a diagonal crack in the brick work was identified.
9. A full tree Risk Assessment was not conducted in either the report or amendment, but the amendment suggested that in the next 12 months, the likelihood of failure would be either 'Probable' or 'Imminent' (ISA TRAQ Terminology).
10. As a result of the amendment, mitigation options were revised and transplanting was not considered to be appropriate due to the severity of the feature described in 7. Additional suggestions were made, such as crown reduction, bracing or bolting of the split. Removal was also considered.
11. The result of the amendment recommends that the tree be removed due to its Short Useful Life Expectancy but seed should be collected for propagation and replanting due to the potential ecological significance of the specimen.

#### **Document Review - City of Canada Bay Council Landscape Team**

12. A document supplied titled '1. Existing Trees' describes the significance of this tree to the Council including the possibility of it being remnant, an important landmark tree and its contribution to the ecology, biodiversity and mitigation of climate effects within the local area.
13. This document suggests that a redesign of the space could make this tree a focal point and community area within the new development.

#### **Site Visit 03 May 2021**

14. A site visit was conducted to verify the findings of the report and/or amendment. Attendees included Ian Consalvey – Active Green Services, Wendy Wright – Landscape Design Council, Susan Martello – Arborist Council and Karen Judd – Planner Council. The scope of this meeting was to;
  - a. Confirm the significance of the tree and advise whether there is sufficient justification to warrant its retention or removal based on the arguments provided in the Arboricultural reports by New Leaf Arboriculture.
  - b. Confirm whether the existence of a sewer main warrants the removal of the tree.
15. Ian Consalvey carried out a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) during this visit and verified all the findings within the New Leaf Arboriculture amendment were correct and accurate. This was corroborated by Susan Martello, City of Canada Bay Council Arborist.
16. It was agreed that this tree was not sufficiently structurally sound to relocate, or transplant.
17. It was agreed that the active spit described in 7 had a high risk of failure and could not be used as part of a focal community area.
18. It was agreed that the location of a sewer underneath the tree is irrelevant in this case and there was no reference to sewer problems in the New Leaf Arboriculture documentation.

## Recommendations

19. If this site were to be left undeveloped, the tree could remain with regular monitoring.
20. In its current environment, the tree has a high risk of failure but as the land is unkept and occupation looks to be low, the benefits of keeping the tree outweigh the risk. However, any development of this site would increase this occupation rate and the risk would increase to unacceptable levels. The process of demolition and construction would only further deteriorate the condition and health of the tree, increase the wind load on the active split and make the risk of failure more likely.
21. It is recommended that this tree is removed prior to development of the site and suitable replacement plantings installed, to replace the lost canopy. Seed samples should also be collected for propagation purposes.

Please do not hesitate to contact the author if any clarification is required.

Yours sincerely



**Ian Consalvey**

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