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Supplementary Arboricultural Assessment - 1 tree at 7 Harrabrook Ave, Five Dock

1. I have been engaged by Ary Bornoush to provide a brief supplementary arboricultural assessment of one tree, which was previously assessed based on limited visibility from outside the boundary fence (New Leaf Arboriculture, Arboricultural Impact Assessment, 1 Ramsay Road, Five Dock, 1 October 2020). The tree was assessed from within the property (7 Harrabrook Ave) on 9 April 2021, and the following updated assessment is provided.
2. The tree was found to be in good to average health, with somewhat sparse foliage at the apex, for the species (*Syzygium paniculatum*, Magenta Cherry). The tree is a native species and provides amenity and environmental benefits in the locality. The structural condition of the tree was assessed to be average to poor, mainly due to an active split (partial failure) at one of the main unions at approximately 1.7m above ground level. The crack extends to 0.7m above ground as an open fracture, but it appears that the weakness continues to ground level. The size of parts (upright branches) affected by the defect are 500mm and 700mm diameters, and these branches extend to the full height of the tree. The base of the tree is in contact with the brick wall of the neighbouring building, and there is a diagonal crack across the wall from the point of contact with the tree up to the corner of the building where 1cm upward displacement between bricks has occurred.
3. If total failure of this tree defect were to occur, about 50% of the tree's crown would be lost, and the remaining crown would be open to different wind loading and biased to the south over the yard of the property, and potentially increasing the "lever arm" action against the brick wall which the base of the tree is in contact with.
4. A full Tree Risk Assessment has not been carried out due to timing, however utilising the principles of Tree Risk Assessment (based on the ISA TRAQ method), the likelihood of failure of this part is estimated to be either probable (over a one year period) or imminent; the likelihood of impacting the neighbouring building is high, and the likelihood of impacting people would be low to medium, assuming a low occupancy rate at the rear of the yard (with severe consequences for impacts to people, and minor consequences for impact to the building). This results in an estimated Risk Rating of Moderate risk to the building, and Moderate to High risk to people.

5. Mitigation options for this tree could include crown reduction, and/or cable bracing or bolting the affected parts. However, these possible actions should be weighed against the tree's location in contact with and impacting the structure of the neighbouring building which also limit the tree's useful life expectancy. Removal of the tree is a potential mitigation option, which may be required.
6. The tree is not considered suitable to be transplanted due to the structural defect.
7. Changes to the tree's growing context such as demolition of the neighbouring building and soil disturbance, would open the tree's crown to different wind loading, and affect the tree's health and condition.
8. The tree has been given a Short Useful Life Expectancy due to the structural defect and limited growing room with respect to the proximity of the neighbouring building. And although the tree has been assessed as High significance, the Short ULE results in a Low Retention Value, based on the IACA STARS method.

Recommendations:

- A tree permit or development approval should be sought to remove the tree due to its structural condition, and limited useful life expectancy in the current context.
- If the tree is found to be ecologically significant, the tree should be used for propagating new specimens to be planted in the local area and/or on site. Otherwise, suitable native replacement tree planting should be carried out on site to offset the loss of this tree.

Attachments (2):

Tree Survey Information Table

Photos

Further clarification can be sought from the author.



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Tree No.	Botanical & Common Name	Height	Spread	DBH (mm)	DRB (mm)	Age	Health	Condition	ULE	Significance	Amenity Value	Ecological Value	SRZ	TPZ	Retention Value (STARS)	Site Notes
1	<i>Syzygium paniculatum</i> Magenta Cherry	13	16	1000	1100	M-OM	G-Av	Av-P	S	H	H	H	3.4	12.0	Low	Leaf blisters. Active split in junction between 700Ø & 500Ø main upright branches - split extends from junction @ 1.7m to ground level. Crack is open from 1.7 to 0.7 above ground. Adventitious root growing from 0.2m above ground between crack. Crossing branches. Root buttress growing against brick wall to E. Main stem 0.3m from brick wall. Crack in wall 1 cm upward displacement @ end of wall. Multi stems from 1.8m. Large low branches pruned. Small epicormics & dead epicormics. Somewhat sparse @ top (for species). Insect damage to foliage.

Key: Height (in metres) ; Spread (crown spread in metres) ; DBH (Diameter at Breast Height / 1.4m) in millimetres ; DRB (Diameter above Root Buttress) in millimetres ; Age (Semi-mature, Mature, Overmature, or Senescent) ; Health (Good, Average or Poor) ; Condition (Good, Average or Poor) ; Useful Life Expectancy (ULE) (Short, Medium or Long) ; Significance (High, Medium or Low) ; Amenity Value (High, Medium or Low) ; Ecological Value (High, Medium or Low) ; SRZ (Structural Root Zone) radius in metres ; TPZ (Tree Protection Zone) radius in metres

Photos



Photo A: Indicating the location of the failed main union. Tree viewed from south.



Photo B: Indicating the length of the crack so far. Tree viewed from east.



Photo C: Indicating the root buttress in contact with the brick wall. Tree viewed from east.



Photo D: Highlighting the extent of the crack in the wall. Tree viewed from south.



Photo E: Growing context of the tree. Tree viewed from southeast.