



**PROFESSIONAL TREE SURGEONS**  
TROJENS & Co PTY LTD

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## **Arborist Assessment and Report**

**Prepared for:** Town of Cottesloe

**Subject:** Row of 15 Claret Ash (Fraxinus angustifolia 'Raywood')

**Location:** Napoleon Street, Cottesloe

**Date:** 20/06/2016

**Prepared by** Royce Turner  
*Cert Arb*



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### 1. Purpose of the Report

As per your request, the primary objectives of the inspection were to:

1. Inspect and assess the current health and vigour and structural form of the identified trees.
2. With both a short and long term view, report on the suitability of this species of tree in their given locations.

The following is a brief of my findings, opinion and future management recommendations.

### 2. An Overview of Tree Assessment

The trees in this assessment are Claret Ash (*Fraxinus angustifolia* 'Raywood'), this particular ornamental cultivar owes its origins to South Australia however the parent genus is spread widely through Europe, Asia and North America. There is good evidence of this tree growing reasonably well in Perth.

These particular trees range from new plantings through to young trees. They range in height from 2.0m through to 6.0m and range in circumference relative to their height and age.

These trees were brought to my attention regarding whether or not they would be suitable within the streetscape with particular consideration to the long term aesthetics and longevity.

### 3. Tree Assessment Method

The trees were assessed on a ground level visual assessment basis. No inspections below ground level were undertaken at this time. No root samples were taken.

Particular points of reference considered whilst assessing:

**Tree characteristics:** i.e. species height and spread of canopy, crown ratio, age, pruning history and special value.

**Tree health:** i.e. foliage condition, density, leaf size, growth obstructions, and wound wood development, vigour class and pests or diseases.

**Site conditions:** i.e. site characteristics, landscape type, irrigation, recent site disturbances, distance from structures, soil issues and exposure to wind.

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**Target:** i.e. use under tree, recreation, building, car park and the rate of occupancy or frequency of use.

**Tree defects:** i.e. suspected root rot, collar rot, poor taper, buttressing wounds, lean, root heave or compaction, co-dominant stems, multiple attachments, cracks and splits and so on.

### 4. General Observations

Generally the majority of the trees fit into the category of fair to average condition showing signs of stable peripheral growth with reasonable internode spacing. Some decline in the mature trees is evident, this is prevalent amongst this species within the Perth metropolitan area.

The decline in the upper canopy of these trees will always be present as the trees are planted on the edge of their preferred natural range. The parent species originate from the northern hemisphere with a preferred cooler climate.

Our intense dry heat during summer causes stress and decline in the upper canopy and in this condition they can be susceptible to the fungus botryosphaeria

This species of Claret Ash fair far better in protected gardens throughout Perth with well mulched and fed soils and understory cover to protect roots from heat in summer. On the northern side of the street with greater protection from the sun due to the buildings there is clear evidence of this with healthier growth.

Some significant and varying types of damage is evident in both the newer plantings and mature trees. This ranges from vehicular damage through to severe weather and pruning damage. Given the extent of some of this damage and the average form of the majority of the trees, it will take some time to recover the exposed heartwood with cambium. This will therefore expose the trees for an extended period of time to a greater risk of pest and disease.

See image below illustrating evidence of decline.

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### 5. Key Findings

These trees, although considered a desirable ornamental deciduous tree will find it difficult to maintain a full and lush canopy given the above mentioned factors. If the planted environment remains the same they will struggle with vitality. Furthermore, the surrounding grates will continue to interfere with the lower trunk cambium.

Claret Ash would not normally be considered hardy enough for plantings surrounded by bitumen or paving near to the road edge in a busy commercial area.

If the trees are to remain I would suggest the following under recommendations for management.

See image below illustrating damage to cambium layer to allow for grates:

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### 6. Recommendations for management

Based on my observations if the trees are to remain they will require:

- Pruning to best arboricultural practice to clear building facias in regard to damaging the limbs.
- Removal of deadwood throughout the canopy on an annual basis to reduce pest and disease.
- Expansion of grates around the trees instead of pruning the trunks which removes vital cambium severely detrimental to the trees' vascular system.

In the short term if the trees are maintained to best practice including feeding, pruning and allowing for stem growth, they will maintain a green landscape.

The long term view for these trees will depend greatly on the treatment however even with best practice they will continue to struggle with canopy form from severe sun damage, evident with all Claret Ash in Perth even in the most ideal conditions.

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Recommendations long term would be to plant a more appropriate ornamental species given the surroundings.

Image below illustrating limb damage:



### Summary

Trees represent a great asset in any streetscape and although the species and site selection are not always well matched, they are an asset to the local landscape and the people in the area. Therefore, the current trees should be monitored and maintained to best Arboricultural practice and to the Australian Standard for pruning amenity trees, until such time a decision is made to replace them in a preferably staged program with alternate plantings of a more desirable species for the location long term.

Should you have any queries regarding the contents of this report please do not hesitate to

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### **Disclaimer and Limitations:**

This advice has been provided in good faith and based upon the material information provided by the Client. This report only covers identifiable defects present at the time of inspection. The author accepts no responsibility or can be held liable for any structural defect or unforeseen event/situation that may occur after the time of inspection.

The author cannot guarantee trees contained within this report will be structurally sound under all circumstances, and cannot guarantee that the recommendations made will categorically result in the tree being made safe.

Unless specifically mentioned this report will only be concerned with above ground inspections, that will be undertaken visually from ground level.

It is also important to take into consideration that all trees are living organisms and as such there are many variables that can affect their health and structural properties that remain beyond the scope of reasonable management practices.

Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified so far as possible; however, the author can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of information provided by others.

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