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**10.1.5 STREET TREE REMOVAL REQUEST**

**File Ref:** SUB/446  
**Attachments:** Nil  
**Responsible Officer:** Mat Humfrey  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Author:** Nick Woodhouse  
Manager Engineering Services  
**Proposed Meeting Date:** 24 April 2018  
**Author Disclosure of Interest:** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

Council is requested to consider the removal of a street tree at 63 Eric Street, Cottesloe.

**BACKGROUND**

The Town has received a request from the owner of 63 Eric Street for the removal of the Norfolk Island Pine adjacent to their home. Correspondence from the resident was provided at the March 2018 Briefing Forum.

The Town initially received a complaint from the property owner that the tree roots were causing damage to a boundary wall. The Town sought advice from a certified arborist which revealed that the roots required cutting back and a concrete root barrier installed. The Town has completed these works.

The landowner has since requested that the Town remove one of the Norfolk Island Pines to allow the other Norfolk Island Pines to grow and allow sun light into their home. The cost of the tree removal will be met by a landscaping company as the tree can be relocated (outside Cottesloe).

Please refer to the image below which shows the location of the tree.



Figure 1:  
Norfolk  
Island  
Pine (63  
Street)

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

*Strategic Community Plan 2013-2023*

Priority Area One: Protecting and enhancing the wellbeing of residents and visitors.

A major strategy identified in the *Strategic Community Plan 2013 to 2023* is the development of policies to protect trees and increase the tree canopy.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Street Tree Policy states that:

*'Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees. The Manager Engineering Services must give approval for any tree removal.'*

**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

*Local Government Act 1995*

*Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no perceived financial implications arising from the Officer Recommendation as the tree is being removed at the cost of a landscaping company.

**STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

There are no perceived staffing implications arising from the Officer Recommendation.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The urban forest is recognised as a vital component of the urban landscape which provides a range of important benefits for residents and visitors to the Town. Trees are potentially the largest and most significant element in the urban landscape. As such, they provide the greatest opportunity for the development of identity and neighbourhood character. Given the importance of trees and other vegetation in people's daily experience, the role of trees in improving this can be broadly categorised into cultural, environmental, psychological and economic benefits.

**CONSULTATION**

Town of Cottesloe Staff

Owner of 63 Eric Street

**STAFF COMMENT**

An assessment has found that the tree is neither dead and/or dangerous, therefore, according to the Street Tree Policy, the tree should not be removed.

**QUESTIONS PROVIDED BY CR BOULTER – EMAILED 16 APRIL 2018**

Q1 What does the TOC arborist say about how the maturity and development of the two northerly trees will be impeded by the southerly tree (nearest the neighbour)?

A1: The two northerly trees do not appear to be impeded by the southerly tree. All the trees appear to be in good health.

Q2: What does the neighbour's arborist say about this?

A2: The report does not address the northerly trees.

**VOTING**

Simple Majority

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council not support the request to remove the Norfolk Island Pine adjacent to 63 Eric Street, Cottesloe.

**COUNCILLOR MOTION**

**Moved Cr Pyvis Seconded Cr Boulter**

That Council authorise the owner/s of 63 Eric St to liaise with The Arbor centre to arrange for the removal (for transplanting) of the Norfolk Island Pine on the verge, as identified on page 24 (OCM Agenda) of the officer report.

**PROCEDURAL MOTION**

**Moved Cr Rodda Seconded Cr Thomas**

**Defer this item pending a review by the Administration of the Town's existing Street Tree Policy and, in particular, the provisions of clause (4) paragraph 5, which states that: Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees.**

**CARRIED 6/2**

**For: Mayor Angers, Crs Rodda, Harkins, Thomas, Tucak, and Young  
Against: Crs Pyvis and Boulter**