

**OFFICERS' ADVICE****REMOVAL OF THE NATURE STRIP TREE OUTSIDE 66 HARLINGTON STREET, CLAYTON**

Submitting Councillor: Cr T Zographos

**MOTION**

*That Council removes the nature strip tree outside 1/66 Harlington Street, Clayton in order to improve the sight line for the resident reversing out of the driveway.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Council has funding to remove nature strip tree, if the motion is passed.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

There are no impacts on internal resources, if the motion is passed.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

Monash Council Plan 2017-2021: One of the Four Strategic Objectives

*We value our natural environment and want to preserve and enhance the leafy and green character of our city. Monash's desirability as a place to live, learn, work and play needs to be protected.*

Council's policy is to retain nature strip trees and only remove trees that are dying (assessed as having less than two years useful life, for example diseased) or dangerous (pose an inappropriate level of risk to people) or assets which cannot be reasonably managed.

**RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES**

Council's Arboriculture Services Officers conducted an assessment of the tree a *Corymbia ficifolia* (Western Red Flowering Gum) after a complaint was received from the resident. The assessment noted that the tree is in good health and structure with no evidence or history of branch failure or attachment. The tree has >90% vigour and has been assessed as having > 10 years useful life expectancy. Therefore it does not meet the current removal criteria. The assessment noted that two branches adjacent to the service pole could be removed due to their proximity to the pole and may slightly improve the sight line to road. Pending the outcome of this enquiry the clearance pruning will be arranged. Council's arborist was also requested to complete a Street Tree Amenity Evaluation which has been completed. The amenity value of the tree is \$33,104.74.

Harlington Street has many similar-sized nature strip trees in similar locations. The sight line was considered to be reasonable if the driver positioned their vehicle near the property boundary and the footpath when reversing from the property to check if the street is clear.

Council's Transport Engineers re-assessed the location and concluded that the sight distance is good if the driver positions their vehicle correctly before the power pole and the nature

strip tree when reversing out of the driveway. From conversations with the resident, it appears that the resident might have been frightened by a vehicle travelling along Harlington Street when reversing out of their driveway one time.

Council's Transport Engineers had also inspected the street to determine if there is any non-residential parking occurred at night and five vehicles were observed parking on street along Harlington Street between McBean Street and Centre Road. All parked vehicles appeared to belong to residents as they were scattered along the street.

Harlington Street had been surveyed in May 2018 and it has an average traffic volume of 432 vehicles per day and a general traffic speed (85% speed) of 52 km/h between McBean Street and Centre Road. This street does not have a traffic speeding problem. The traffic volume is relatively low compared with other local roads in the area such as Scotsburn Avenue which has about 1730 vehicles per day.

#### ***FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS***

If the motion is passed a replacement tree would be recommended to be planted in a central location of the nature strip using the most appropriate species of tree for the site and existing streetscape to ensure the strategic objectives of Council's Street Tree Strategy implementation are realised.

If the motion is passed, this may lead to a number of similar requests making it difficult for Council Officers to adhere to Council's policies and Council plan in order to maintain a leafy city for the community.