

**OFFICERS' ADVICE****STREET TREE REMOVAL – 10 BURLEY COURT, MULGRAVE**

Submitting Councillor: Mayor

**MOTION**

*That Council approves the removal of two street trees at 10 Burley Court, Mulgrave.*

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The estimated cost to remove and replace the two streets is \$2,500.

**IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES**

It would be expected that there may be an increase in Notice of Motions submitted by Councillors which would require officers to produce an increased number of officer advice reports. An increase in approved tree removals would also have an impact on council's budget allocated to reactive tree works.

**COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

One of Council's 4 strategic objectives is to provide 'A liveable and Sustainable City' underpinning this objective is ensuring our tree canopy is not only preserved by proactive maintenance and planning controls but also enhanced via councils street tree replanting program and street tree strategy implementation.

At its meeting on 27 June 2017, Council passed a resolution in relation to the implementation of the street tree strategy that provides criteria a street tree must meet for it to be considered for removal.

The recommendation states 'that only trees that are dead, dying, (assessed as having less than 2 years useful life, for example diseased) or dangerous (pose an inappropriate level of risk to people or assets which cannot be reasonably be managed ) will be removed as soon as practical and replaced based on a site assessment and consultation with residents directly affected'.

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

The two street trees are *Corymbia maculata* (Spotted Gums) that were planted in the mid-late 1970's as part of the subdivision. The two trees are both well established and would be approx. 12m and 18m in height.



#Street trees at 10 Burley Court, Mulgrave

The trees have been assessed by Council's arborist as being in good to very good condition with no reported major limb failures. Council's arborist have assessed these trees on 9 occasions dating back to November 2011. On all occasions the trees have been assessed as not meeting the criteria for removal, however pruning works have been programmed to reduce the canopy as much as practical.

Council's officers have offered to seek advice on garden maintenance support via our Aged and Community Services, however this has been declined as removal has been the residents' preferred outcome. Footpath repairs were completed in 2014 to rectify a raised section. This repair has maintained the footpath in an acceptable condition to date.

#### **FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

The resident contacted Council to request the removal of the two street trees both *Corymbia maculata* due to the amount of debris the trees shed into his front yard which requires a lot of cleaning up to maintain his front yard. Council's arborist and Manager of Horticulture have met with the resident to discuss their issues and assess options to mitigate the concerns.

The street trees are well established and are being maintained within all parameters for Council's street trees. The footpath has been inspected, assessed and repaired and will be continue to be monitored under councils Road Management Plan.

A small branch has fallen from the tree which is typical during high wind events of which there have been 2 recently.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on a series of assessments that provide qualified arboricultural advice that the trees are in good condition and will continue to provide the many benefits that well established street trees provide to the local street and neighbourhood. The trees should be retained and maintained as part of Council's annual cyclic program. Further investigation should be made into support services for the elderly residents at this address to determine if they can receive assistance for maintenance of their gardens.