



BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST INC

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The General Manager
Hornsby Shire Council

Dear Sir

DA1541/2016 Subdivision at 76 Boronia Place Cheltenham

The Trust objects to this DA as we have serious concerns regarding the recommended removal of tree No 22, a turpentine. Its recommended removal is based on the fact it has a noticeable lean.

The Arborist stated ;

Section 5.4.2 Tree no. 22 Syncarpia glomulifera (Turpentine) 5.4.2.1

This tree is located in the rear yard on the south western area of the site. It is mature in age and in adequate health though has a significant lean to the north. While there is no generally accepted minimum angle of lean, the greater the angle, the greater the risk for tree failure' Leans as small as 15 degrees may constitute high risk in some situations. When lean exceeds 45 degrees, it is considered a severe defect (Smiley et al. 2002). If other risk factors are associated with the tree – such as decay, restricted root zone, soil mounding, high soil moisture, or severed roots – the potential for failure is even greater (Smiley 2005). 5.4.2.2 The proposed building envelope is located 16m from the trunk, which is outside the TPZ.

The subject Turpentine is located amongst other Turpentines of similar age and health. The Trust considers the subject tree shows no sign of past or recent movement and is highly unlikely to fail soon or in the future. Turpentines are the idea urban tree as they are compact, don't drop branches, termite resistant and a good fauna habitat. They are also indigenous to the area, and being slow growing can't be quickly replaced. The Trust strongly believes the heritage of Beecroft and Cheltenham is slowly losing its unique quality through tree loss and that every endeavour should be taken to preserve as many trees as possible.

The Trust requests that a second opinion is sought, either an independent arborist such as Stuart Pittendrigh or council's own qualified staff.

Another related issue has been brought to the Trust's attention that requires prompt action. The Trust has been informed that the owner has removed three Turpentines located between the house and the pool. We understand this was without consent. We further understand that the Council officer who was contacted by the neighbour about the tree removal has failed to reply after numerous phone calls. The Trust requests that this matter be resolved immediately as it may have a bearing on the assessment of this DA. The neighbour in question should be on Council's records of course. Otherwise contact me direct on 0412 257 556.

Yours faithfully

Ross Walker

Vice President
Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust

14 January 2016