

13th July 2023

Hygge Property

Attention: Adam Davidson, Project Manager

Re: Response to email, Subject: 9 Raglan Street – Avenue of Honour Tree

Adam,

I am writing in response to your email dated the 12th July 2023 11:36am, Subject 'Re: 9 Raglan Street – Avenue of Honour Tree. Your email has requested feedback on the three questions based on a *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. *angustifolia* (Desert Ash) located at the front of 9 Raglan Street Daylesford

Question 1

Confirmation regarding the location and ID number of the proposed Avenue of Honour tree that is required to be retained by Condition 1b) and removed by Condition 88. Our assessment of the arborist report prepared by Xylem Tree Care indicates that the tree is Tree ID:1, which is a mature Desert Ash in good health with fair structure. Please confirm if this is correct.

Response

According to the Xylem TreeCare – Preliminary Arboriculture Tree Assessment Report for Raglan and Smith Street Daylesford, issued on the 19th November 2022 (PATA) the tree is Tree ID:2 not Tree ID:1 as outlined above. This tree is located at the front entrance of the property. The subject tree is *Fraxinus angustifolia* subsp. *angustifolia* (Desert Ash) and at the time of assessment the tree received a health rating of 'Good' and structure rating of 'Fair'.



Figure 1, Direct extract from the Preliminary Arboriculture Tree Assessment Report for Raglan and Smith Street Daylesford, issued on the 19th November 2022 Tree ID:2 located at the entrance of the property

Figure 2 show the subject tree at the existing entrance of the property. There has been an approximate 50% reduction in the tree canopy to allow for cyclic pruning away from the overhead powerlines.



Figure 2, Subject Tree, note the reduction in canopy due to cyclic pruning from overhead powerlines.

Figure 3 shows a cavity within the lower and mid-trunk regions, it is likely that there is connectivity between the two cavities outlining the likelihood that the trunk is hollow between these two points, and this may continue up past the larger cavity into the primary limb region.



Figure 3, Subject tree, the yellow arrow shows cavities within the lower and mid-trunk regions.

Question 2

Advice prepared by a suitably qualified professional (i.e. arborist) regarding the ability to successfully transplant the tree to a new location within the Avenue of Honour.

Tree Health and Structure

As outlined within the Xylem TreeCare PATA Report the subject tree was given a health status of 'Good'. This was based on the tree demonstrating extension growth with little to no canopy dieback (deadwood present). The tree has however lost approximately 50% of its canopy due to the Power Distribution Business (PDB) cyclic pruning program (refer Figure 2). In the trees current state without significant root loss the subject tree is able to provide sufficient carbohydrates and starches through photosynthesis to maintain the trees normal functions i.e. growth, root development, fruit development and wound occlusion etc. In the event where this tree was to be transplanted, it is expected that there would be >50% viable root surface removed to accommodate a manageable root ball for the purpose of moving the tree. It is likely that due to the already reduced canopy, the capacity for the tree to re-establish a viable root system would be compromise, therefore causing the tree health to decline. The likelihood of this tree ability to survive the trauma associated with tree transplanting is quite low.

The subject tree also has a compromised trunk region due to the level of decay present (refer Figure 3). There is a likelihood that the tree may fail during the transplanting process due to the mechanical strain placed on the tree while being lifted. This provides an unnecessary risk to those performing the transplanting.

Site constraints

The subject tree is growing directly under a 22kV high voltage powerline. In order to successfully transplant this tree, a large crane would need to be used to lift the tree from site. This would require the power to be de-energised and possibly have the conductors removed to avoid damage. This would result in loss of power to the local area for an extended period. The application process through the PDB (responsible for such works) may take an extended period, be cost prohibitive, and may be rejected by the PDB.

The preparation for transplanting the subject tree may require up to a working week to excavate and prepare the root ball. Due to the proximity of the tree to the roadside, and the need to protect those working on site, this would require the closure of the traffic lane for the duration of the preparation period.

Recommendation

Based on the following reasons it is determined that the tree is not suitable for transplanting:

- The subject tree lacks symmetry and would be considered to have poor form.
- Due to the lack of existing canopy, it is likely that the tree would not survive the trauma associated with transplanting.
- There is a likelihood that the tree may fail in the trunk region during transplanting, which could put those performing the transplanting at risk.
- The site would require the de-energising of the above 22kV powerline for an extended period, and authorisation required to de-energise and potentially remove the overhead conductors from the PDB could take a very long time and there is a chance that the PDB may reject the request.
- There will be a requirement to close a traffic lane for an extended period.
- The cost of transplanting the subject tree would be prohibitive.



It is recommended that an advanced tree of the same species be planted in an appropriate location determined by the relevant authority.

Question 3

Advice regarding possible new transplant locations for the tree and confirmation on whether these locations have been discussed with the relevant authorities.

Response

As outlined, it is recommended that the subject tree not be transplanted for the reasons stipulated above. It is recommended that an advanced stock tree with a species in line with the theme of the Avenue of Honour be planted. The location will need to be discussed and agreed upon through consultation with the relevant authority.

I hope this provides adequate response to the posed questions.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Wyper", is written over a faint, light-colored rectangular background.

Travis Wyper
Senior Consulting Arborist

References:

Pryor, M. Watson, G. (2016) 'Mature Tree Transplanting: Science Supports Best Management Practice', *Arboricultural Journal*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/03071375.2016.1157401>.