
Sent: 11/11/2013 3:35:19 PM

Subject: 'Submission: Draft WDCP - Private Property Tree Management'

'Submission: Draft WDCP - Private Property Tree Management' with the responses below. A full report of all survey submissions is available within the activity report. TRIM PEX2013/0007

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| Name | Melanie Hamilton |
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| Address | |
| Do you support the proposed changes allowing trees within 3 metres of a building or structure to be removed without requiring approval? | No |

Comments.

Most properties these days are built within 3m from the boundary line (and much closer) so it gives residents wholesale approval to remove every perfectly healthy tree around their property - including screening trees that have been planted as a condition of development consent or trees that are important landscape/habitat features protected as a condition of consent. It is a recipe for neighbourhood disputes and conflict. Does a structure include elevated decks and property foundations that have been built on piers to protect an existing trees critical root zone? Once again it gives residents approval to remove healthy trees that are not any danger to people or property and have been protected by arboricultural and engineering solutions. There will be a huge loss of canopy tree cover for the Warringah area and trees that are an important landscape feature for the individual property and surrounding area. Lastly, where is the 3m going to be measured from at the base of the trunk? The front, middle, back of the base of the trunk?

Do you support the proposed changes to include a further 9 tree species to the list of trees that can be removed without approval? (see full list in library)

Yes

Comments

Do you support the proposed changes to increase the minimum height of a tree that requires approval to be removed, from 5 metres to 6 metres?

No

comments

Should be increased to ten metres for trees on private property. This allows a property owner to remove trees less than 10m on their land that they are concerned about and reduces the amount of trees that Council officers need to assess. However, it does not allow residents to remove healthy, mature trees greater than 10m just because they are within 3m of a building or structure and not causing any damage and providing a function, such as screening around a boundary line, habitat, shade etc. Conditions also need to be included that residents cannot remove trees that were planted as a condition of DA consent on an approved landscape plan before they reach ten metres or the matures.

Any other comments on the proposed changes?

The rule that allows residents to remove any tree within 3m of a building or structure appears to be an over-reaction that is going to allow for the removal of healthy canopy trees and trees around the perimeter of all unit blocks and houses that are built within 3m of the boundary line - which is most properties these days. You would be better of repealing your tree protection

regulations for private property all together than putting in place regulations that allow residents to remove mature, healthy trees that are not causing any damage to property or persons and can be managed by regular pruning and maintenance.

File Upload if required