

Stirling Park Pine Tree Removal and Rehabilitation Works

Questions and Answers

Question: How many trees are the NCA going to remove?

Answer: There are 600 trees (*Pinus radiata*) that will be removed. In 2015, the NCA felled 48 that presented an unacceptable safety risk. As this plantation becomes more open the potential safety risks increase. This work will remove these potential safety issues for the community.

Question: Why were the trees planted?

Answer: The trees were planted to quickly rehabilitate a section of degraded land towards the bottom of the hill. Most of them are in a senescent state, which means they are in decline.

Question: How old are the trees?

Answer: The trees are over 40 years old.

Question: What is the heritage status of the trees?

Answer: While the trees have been there for some time and enjoyed by many local people for their stature, colour and place in the landscape, they are not listed heritage items.

Question: How long will it take to remove the trees?

Answer: It will take approximately three months. Our contractors will work up to five and a half days a week, 7am to 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

Question: How much noise and dust will be created during the works?

Answer: Large excavators and grinding equipment will be used to implement the works. Mitigation measures will be put in place to reduce the impact of noise and dust. The NCA will closely monitor works to ensure compliance with the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (ACT) and the Environment Protection Regulation 2005.

Question: What will happen to the trees when they are removed?

Answer: The majority of the trees will be turned into mulch and compost on site and used to improve the soil in garden beds and under trees across NCA managed land in Canberra. We're also exploring opportunities to reuse some of the good quality timber, such as for heritage restorations.

Question: What happens if it rains during the works?

Answer: If there is heavy rain works may need to stop. The NCA will implement measures to prevent erosion and run off from the site.

Question: How will the NCA ensure the safety of the community during the works?

Answer: The entire site will be fenced and a site manager will be employed to monitor safety measures to protect public safety. If you have any concerns we will have people available to respond to your questions.

Question: How will you communicate with the community during the project?

Answer: The NCA will provide the details of the Site Manager on the site signs and information on its website about the project and how to contact us.

Question: Once the trees have been removed will the land use zoning change?

Answer: There is no intention to change the land use from open space. After a period of weed control during 2020/21, the planting of native species will commence in autumn 2021. We will discuss these plantings with the community during the project.