REDGUM
THE TREE SPECIALISTS
ACN 34 125 456 395

Mr Bob and Mrs Charlotte Nattey
10 Canterbury Crescent,
Deakin, ACT 2600

11 September 2018

Dear Bob and Charlotte,

Re: Tree Assessment

The following assessment contains the information requested by you for the tree at the property 10 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin, ACT 2600. The subject tree was assessed to establish if removal of the tree meets the requirements for approval pursuant with the *Tree Protection Act 2005.*

The tree was assessed using the Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) and a detailed explanation of SULE can be found on pages 5-6.

To record the health and condition of the tree, a visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was undertaken on the subject tree on Friday 31 August 2018. The criteria for this assessment is set out in the TreeAZ and is recognised by the International Society of Arboriculture.

The heights and distances in this report have been measured with a NIKON Forestry Pro laser measure.

TREE ASSESSMENT

This assessment is for the property 10 Canterbury Crescent, Deakin 2600. The objective of this report is to establish:

- Tree identity and background information;
- Make general observations of the tree and its surrounds; and
- Assess potential risks and hazards.

TREE IDENTITY

Scientific name: Ulmus Glabra
Common name: Scotch Elm
Height: 17.8 meters
Crown spread: 28 meters
Circumference above breast height: 410cm
Health: Poor
Structure: Poor
Age: 60 years (approx.)
Tree species native to: England
SULE Category: Z5, Z6

BACKGROUND

The Ulmus Glabra (Scotch Elm) is a deciduous tree native to England and widely spread throughout the Northern hemisphere. Introduced into Australia in the 1860's, the elm has become a popular choice of shade tree. The Scotch Elm is distinguished from other elm species by its horizontal growth habit in the crown as it matures. Considered a large elm, it can grow to heights of more than 20 meters with a crown spread that is much wider than they are tall.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE TREE AND ITS SURROUNDS

This elm is situated on the North-Western side in the backyard of the property and is 18m tall. It has a very wide canopy spread that extends over and above the house roof, the backyard and the public easement to its west. It had large leaders and branches that have snapped out of the crown.

This elm has grown fast and is very large for its age. I suspect that its root system is benefiting from the natural water easement to its North/West.

This tree has had extensive remedial work over the years to maintain its aesthetics, and to help manage its size and reduce the chance of branches failing in high winds and storms. Especially, as it matured and encroached on the house and became more exposed.

The trees position has provided great shade for the west side of the house and garden.

The elm's root system is lifting the paving as it grows towards the house, and it is likely the roots are in the storm water drainage.

The trees large trunk branches out into four leaders from 2meters above ground level. These branch joints are suffering from 'slime flux' and there is evidence of rot.

POTENTIAL RISKS AND HAZARDS

This elm is now in its senescent life stage.

Due to this elm trees size and poor structure, its age and declining health, it is a safety concern and will continue to be a high failure risk in wind and storms.

The house and public easement is in the fall zone of many of the branches and the tree.

REMEDIAL ACTION

Pruning to reduce limb or canopy weight has in the past been an expensive yet viable option. However, over the last 18 months the trees crown has been damaged by wind on several occasions. The most recent was detrimental as a large section of the crown split and broke away. This indicates that the tree is in poor health and rapid decline, and pruning or trimming is no longer a safe or feasible option.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This Ulmus Glabra meets the approval criteria under Sch 1 s 21 of the *Tree Protection Act 2005* to damage/removal to a regulated tree on several accounts:

    (a) the tree is in decline and its life expectancy is short; and
    (b) the tree represents an unacceptable risk to public or private safety; and
    (c) the tree is shown to be causing or threatening to cause substantial damage to a substantial building, structure or service.

This Ulmus Glabra is in its senescent life stage, and due to its growing form with long reaching heavy limbs is now a safety risk to the public and property. In my opinion, the only option is complete removal. However, **replacement planting** is critical to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Urban Forest.

If you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Dave May

Director
Redgum, The Tree Specialists
0403 122 278

TreeAZ Categories (Version 10.04-ANZ)

Category Z: Unimportant trees not worthy of being a material constraint

Local policy exemptions: Trees that are unsuitable for legal protection for local policy reasons including size, proximity and species

Z1 - Young or insignificant small trees, i.e. below the local size threshold for legal protection, etc

Z2 - Too close to a building, i.e. exempt from legal protection because of proximity, etc

Z3 - Species that cannot be protected for other reasons, i.e. scheduled noxious weeds, out of character in a setting of acknowledged importance, etc

High risk of death or failure: Trees that are likely to be removed within 10 years because of acute health issues or severe structural failure

Z4 - Dead, dying, diseased or declining

Z5 - Severe damage and/or structural defects where a high risk of failure cannot be satisfactorily reduced by reasonable remedial care, i.e. cavities, decay, included bark, wounds, excessive imbalance, overgrown and vulnerable to adverse weather conditions, etc

Z6 - Instability, i.e. poor anchorage, increased exposure, etc

Excessive nuisance: Trees that are likely to be removed within 10 years because of unacceptable impact on people

Z7 - Excessive, severe and intolerable inconvenience to the extent that a locally recognized court or tribunal would be likely to authorize removal, i.e. dominance, debris, interference, etc

Z8 - Excessive, severe and intolerable damage to property to the extent that a locally recognized court or tribunal would be likely to authorize removal, i.e. severe structural damage to surfacing and buildings, etc

Good management: Trees that are likely to be removed within 10 years through responsible management of the tree population

Z9 - Severe damage and/or structural defects where a high risk of failure can be temporarily reduced by reasonable remedial care, i.e. cavities, decay, included bark, wounds, excessive imbalance, vulnerable to adverse weather conditions, etc

Z10 - Poor condition or location with a low potential for recovery or improvement, i.e. dominated by adjacent trees or buildings, poor architectural framework, etc

Z11 - Removal would benefit better adjacent trees, i.e. relieve physical interference, suppression, etc

Z12 - Unacceptably expensive to retain, i.e. severe defects requiring excessive levels of maintenance, etc

NOTE: Z trees with a high risk of death/failure (Z4, Z5 & Z6) or causing severe inconvenience (Z7 & Z8) at the time of assessment and need an urgent risk assessment can be designated as ZZ. ZZ trees are likely to be unsuitable for retention and at the bottom of the categorization hierarchy. In contrast, although Z trees are not worthy of influencing new designs, urgent removal is not essential and they could be retained in the short term, if appropriate.

Category A: Important trees suitable for retention for more than 10 years and worthy of being a material constraint

A1 - No significant defects and could be retained with minimal remedial care
A2 - Minor defects that could be addressed by remedial care and/or work to adjacent trees

A3 - Special significance for historical, cultural, commemorative or rarity reasons that would warrant extraordinary efforts to retain for more than 10 years

A4 - Trees that may be worthy of legal protection for ecological reasons (Advisory requiring specialist assessment)

NOTE: Category A1 trees that are already large and exceptional, or have the potential to become so with minimal maintenance, can be designated as AA at the discretion of the assessor. Although all A and AA trees are sufficiently important to be material constraints, AA trees are at the top of the categorization hierarchy and should be given the most weight in any selection process.