ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday 2 June 2010

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

www.leichhardt.nsw.gov.au
Environment and Recreation Committee Terms of Reference

The Environment and Recreation Committee, being guided by the principles of ecologically sustainable development and maximising local passive and active recreation opportunities, deals with, but will not be limited to, the following:

Environment Policy development on:
- Council’s Sustainability Strategy
- Environmental health
- Waste minimisation and resource recovery
- Stormwater management
- Corporate Sustainability
- Trees and open space
- Landscaping
- Environmental education
- Pollution monitoring
- Biodiversity conservation and enhancement

Recreation Policy development on:
- Open space plans of management and masterplans
- Management of companion animals in open space
- Management and provision of open space, including small parks and sports fields
- Management and provision of recreational facilities
- Provision of recreational programs and services

Chairperson: Cr Rochelle Porteous
Deputy Chairperson: Cr Michele McKenzie

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.
NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Environment & Recreation Committee will be held in the Supper Room, Leichhardt Town Hall on Wednesday, 2 June 2010 at 6:30pm.

Peter Head
General Manager

AGENDA

Acknowledgement of Country

1. Apologies

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and Non-pecuniary Interest

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting: 7 April 2010

4. Summary of Resolutions

5. Correspondence
   – Feedback on Growing Food in the City Workshop
   – Cat Control at Balmain Campus

6. Reports from the Community

7. Policy Items Environment – Nil
   7.1 Report – Resource Recovery Initiatives for Organics

8. Policy Items Recreation
   8.1 Report – Class 4 Weed Declarations
   8.2 Report – Urban Forest Strategy Sections 7 Guidelines for Tree Management


10. Other Business

11. Next Meeting – 4 August 2010
**DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan Objective:** | Community Well-being  
Accessibility  
Place where we live and work  
A sustainable environment  
Business in the Community  
Sustainable Services and Assets |
| Staffing Implications:  | Nil |
| Notifications:          | Nil |
| Other Implications:     | Nil |
1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise Council of the status of Minute Recommendations of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 7 April 2010 including the amendment made at its Ordinary Council meeting held on 27 April 2010.

**C178/10 RESOLVED PARKER/HOWISON**

That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 7 April 2010 with the accompanying recommendations with the exception of ERC 21/10 (Ballast Point Park) being changed to read;

“A report be prepared on the issue of Ballast Point Park being transferred to Leichhardt Council, particularly in context of the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plans and Council’s Risk Management Plan”.

2. **Recommendation**

That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 7 April 2010 with the accompanying recommendations including the amendment per Council resolution (C178/10).
MINUTES of the Environment and Recreation Committee of Leichhardt Municipal Council held in the Supper Room on 7 April 2010.

Present at the meeting: Cr Daniel Kogoy, (Chair), Cr Vera Hannaford, Cr Gordon Weiss, Cr John Stamolis, David Lawrence, Paul Geraghty, Gillian Leahy, Kim Wheatley

Staff Present: Doug Anderson, Vince Cusumano, David Eckstein

Apologies Cr Rochelle Porteous, Bev Maunsell, Bronwen Campbell, Gill Dawson, Aaron Callaghan

Meeting Commenced: 6.35pm

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Cr Daniel Kogoy performed acknowledgement of country in the capacity as Chairperson.

I acknowledge the Gadigal and Wangal people of the Eora nation on whose Country we are meeting today, and their elders past and present.

BUSINESS:

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

ERC11/10 RECOMMENDED

That apologies be accepted for the non attendance of Cr Rochelle Porteous, Bev Maunsell, Bronwen Campbell, Gill Dawson and Aaron Callaghan.

ITEM 1 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cr Kogoy identified a non-pecuniary interest regarding reference, in the Summary of Resolutions table, to land controlled by the State Transit Authority.

ERC12/10 RECOMMENDED

That Cr Kogoy's non-pecuniary interest be noted and accepted.
ITEM 3
MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 3 February 2010

ERC13/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment & Recreation Committee held on 3 February 2010 with the accompanying recommendations.

2. That a hard copy of letter of thanks to Cheryl Walker, Waste Projects Officer be provided at the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.

3. That clarification on the status of the Gladesville Hospital / Cornucopia Café and Nursery – in relation to the NSW Government tender for operational activity be sought and the committee advised.

4. That correspondence concerning cat control at Balmain campus of Sydney Secondary College be provided for the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.

ITEM 4
SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS

ERC14/10 RECOMMENDED

That the information in the Summary of Resolutions be received and noted.

ITEM 5
CORRESPONDENCE

Paul Geraghty tabled the item Economic growth cannot continue http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8479508.stm from the BBC website for circulation. The article presented two contrasting views (from the New Economic Foundation and the Adam Smith Institute) on the environmental sustainability of current global economic growth patterns.

ITEM 6
REPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY – Nil

ITEM 7.1
CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – CORPORATE MINUTES

David Eckstein clarified two items from the CCTF Meeting recommendations that Councillors had sought further information upon at the March 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting – namely:
That a budget be made available for new staff in the environment team, with a focus on on-ground implementation” and “That Council support any community group aiming to bulk-purchase renewable energy through promotion and media”

**Regarding budget for staffing focused on implementation**

A significant funding allocation has been made for several greenhouse gas abatement initiatives in the draft 2010-2011 budget. This funding could be accessed to enable suitably skilled staff to be hired on contract to project manage delivery of specific programs such as overseeing the tender process, design and delivery of cogeneration plant at LPAC.

**Regarding Council support for community-based bulk purchase of renewable energy technology**

Council’s support would be in the form of, for example, providing meeting spaces for the community, and promoting a community bulk-purchase program, if established, on Council’s website, as opposed to Council playing a lead role in administering any renewable energy bulk purchase scheme.

Cr Stamolis sought clarification regarding the core purpose of the Climate Change Taskforce and questioned whether the name of the committee fully reflected the matters it considers – including energy usage, energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

**ERC15/10 RECOMMENDED**

1. That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) – Corporate Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 including the additional recommendations made by Council at the 23 March 2010 Ordinary Meeting be noted (C96/10).

2. That consideration be given to renaming the Climate Change Taskforce to the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Taskforce.

**ITEM 7.2 CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – COMMUNITY MINUTES**

**ERC16/10 RECOMMENDED**

That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force – Community Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 be noted.
ITEM 8.1
URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTIONS 3 - BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES BROCHURE & PARK SIGNAGE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council adopt the wording provided for information leaflet on key points of the Urban Forest Policy.

2. That Council adopt the proposed draft format for diverse value of trees sign to be used in parks.

ERC17/10 RECOMMENDED

1. That Council adopt the wording provided for information leaflet on key points of the Urban Forest Policy.

2. That Council adopt the proposed draft format for the ‘diverse value of trees’ sign to be used in parks, with review of wording prior to finalisation

3. That placement of information signs of this type be incorporated into all future Plans of Management for parks in the LGA.

ITEM 8.2
URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTION 4 EXISTING TREES IN THE LEICHHARDT MUNICIPALITY

ERC18/10 RECOMMENDED

That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, this being:

- Section 4 Existing Trees in the Leichhardt Municipality

ITEM 8.3
COMMUNITY BASED FAUNA MONITORING PROGRAM

Doug Anderson indicated that further consideration of the near-term value of the proposed biodiversity monitoring website was required. An alternative more targeted program (for example targeting specific pest species) may be more appropriate.

David Eckstein indicated that Council’s direct experience with schools has shown that there is seriously limited ability to ‘take on more’ tasks, given existing curriculum and other established activities. Therefore strong school engagement within the proposed website was not assured.
Gillian Leahy described the current problems with rat infestation around the Whites Creek Community Garden, and the Mosman black rat control (and native rat re-introduction) program.

David Lawrence enquired about the status of the Canberra Indian Mynah control program. Doug Anderson advised that completion of the study by late 2010 is unlikely but that the trial is already providing important indication of the effectiveness of control of this species when undertaken at a regional scale.

**ERC19/10 RECOMMENDED**

That work on the proposed full biodiversity monitoring website be deferred in preference for more targeted programs – a short report will be provided on proposed fauna biodiversity and fauna pest control focussed programs.

**ITEM 8.4 Fungal Disease Fusarium in Gladstone Park Phoenix Palms**

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Council remove infected palms in Gladstone Park and as much of root ball as possible in accordance with the Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory report.

2. That a development application be lodged for the removal of these trees as Gladstone Park is listed on Council’s LEP 2000 as being a Heritage site.

3. That Phoenix Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) to be replaced by Livistonia Palms (*Livistona australis*).

4. That all Council staff and contractors will be required to sterilise their saws and other pruning implements prior to undertaking works on Phoenix Palms in Council parks and when moving from one park to another which have this species of plant in them.

**ERC20/10 RECOMMENDED**

1. That Council remove infected palms in Gladstone Park and as much of root ball as possible in accordance with the Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory report.

2. That a development application be lodged for the removal of these trees as Gladstone Park is listed on Council’s LEP 2000 as being a Heritage site.

3. That Phoenix Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) to be replaced by Livistonia Palms (*Livistona australis*).

4. That all Council staff and contractors will be required to sterilise their saws and other pruning implements prior to undertaking works on Phoenix Palms in Council
parks and when moving from one park to another which have this species of plant in them.

5. That Council seek to promote this tree health issue to the public.

**Related Update – Relocation of Victoria Road Washingtonia Palms**

Council’s Parks Manager updated the Committee regarding the relocation of the mature *Washingtonia* Palms that were removed as part of the State Government major works on Victoria Road, Rozelle.

No suitable location has been found within Council’s parks and street environments. A proposal to place the trees at the corner of Norton Street and the City West link has also proved unsuccessful with the RTA opting to maintain the existing Jacarandas at that location.

As no local site can be found for the palms Council has informed the RTA that it should seek alternative locations beyond the municipality.

**ITEM 8.5**

**BALLAST POINT PARK (VERBAL REPORT)**

Council has contacted SHFA regarding a Memorandum of Understanding regarding park management practices. SHFA have advised that the agency does not consider an MoU necessary, and that current arrangements are considered satisfactory.

Cr Stamolis recommended that representations be made to the NSW Government to enable transfer of Ballast Point Park to care and control of Council. The recommendation was seconded by Gillian Leahy.

**ERC21/10 RECOMMENDED**

That representations be made to the NSW Government to enable transfer of Ballast Point Park to care and control of Council, with appropriate on-going maintenance funding budget provided by the State Government as part of any transfer arrangement.

**Note:** At the April 2010 Ordinary Meeting, Council made a change to the Recommendation ERC21/10. Council resolved that:

“A report be prepared on the issue of Ballast Point Park being transferred to Leichhardt Council, particularly in context of the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plans and Council's Risk Management Plan”.

11
ITEM 8.6
STEPHEN STREET TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENTS (VERBAL REPORT)

Resident opposition to the proposed street tree removal and replacement has led to an alternative approach, namely trial of root control barriers for two of the trees most affecting the pavement.

Cr Stamolis noted the importance of the Urban Forest Policy as a means of improving community understanding of tree management matters in Leichhardt.

ITEM 8.7
COMMUNITY NURSERY UPDATE

No update provided.

ITEM 8.8
FLINDERSIA TREE – NORTON STREET (VERBAL REPORT)

Despite efforts to improve the health of this particular tree, its condition continues to decline. Removal is to be scheduled with replacement with a semi-mature tree, specifically a Flowering Pear.

ITEM 10
OTHER BUSINESS - NIL

ITEM 11
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2 June 2010 at 6:30pm.

Other Meetings for 2010: 4 August, 6 October, 1 December

Meeting closed at 6:35pm
**LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVISION:</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBJECT:</td>
<td>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUTHOR:</td>
<td>GILL DAWSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MANAGER ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN PLANNING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FILE REF:</td>
<td>F97/00807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE:</td>
<td>25 MAY 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WORD PROCESSING REF:</td>
<td>F:\Planning - Administration\Committees\Environment &amp; Rec Committee\2010\1006 - June\Agenda\Env &amp; Rec Agenda 020610.doc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

| Financial Implications:       | Nil                                     |
| Policy Implications:          | Nil                                     |
| Leichhardt 2020+ Strategic Plan Objective: | Community Well-being                     |
|                               | Accessibility                            |
|                               | Place where we live and work            |
|                               | A sustainable environment               |
|                               | Business in the Community               |
|                               | Sustainable Services and Assets         |
| Staffing Implications:        | Nil                                     |
| Notifications:                | Nil                                     |
| Other Implications:           | Nil                                     |
1. **Purpose of Report**

To advise Council of the status of the Environment and Recreation Committee Resolutions of April 2010.

2. **Recommendations**

That the information be received and noted.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN/PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **ERC35/06 - BRIDGEWATER PARK – POTENTIAL SPORTING FIELD** | 3. That a Draft Plan of Management for Bridgewater Park be developed within the next 12 months which includes provision for low impact sporting activities, landscaping improvements and public amenities.  
5. That Council look at options for the inclusion of native corridors connecting through Bridgewater Park. | 3. The preparation for the draft POM has commenced.  
5. To be addressed as part of the concept in the development of a POM for the park. | Aaron Callaghan |
| **ERC 57/07 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME** | 4. That a report on the progress of LGETS be brought back to Council prior to the completion of the transitional year after which Council will decide whether to continue for the remaining years of the trial period. | Report prepared – to go to Climate Change Taskforce – Corporate Stream - July Meeting. | David Eckstein  
Team Leader  
Environmental Strategy |
| **ERC 16/08 COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROPOSAL, WHITES STREET** | That funds be set aside for the establishment of an orchard, chicken run and bee hive in the 2008-9 budget in accordance with the adopted plan of management for White Creek Valley Park (noting a slight variation to the fence line). | Council is still awaiting information from the Department of Planning on the disposal of these properties to Council and contamination issues that may be associated with these areas.  
Further to the above Council has put in a request to the Department of Planning under FOI as to when handover will occur.  
The Biodiversity Officer will develop estimates to establish these facilities in White St properties as shown on the WCVP POM.  
If handover is to occur in 2010 then these will be included in the 2010 – 2011 budget deliberations. | Vince Cusumano  
Manager Parks and Streetscapes |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERC 03/10 February 2010</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • That a formal request be made to the Department of Planning to separate the issue of the Wisdom St nursery from that of the properties at 35, 37 and 39 White Street and that the Mayor seek a further meeting with the Minister for Planning and the State Member for Balmain on this matter. Members of the native nursery to also be invited to attend the meeting to assist in conveying that the native nursery is being unnecessarily delayed as a result of debate on the use of the White Street properties.  
• That a verbal report be brought back to the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee. | • Council’s Manager Property & Commercial Services has sent a letter to the Minister for Planning | Vince Cusumano |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ERC18/08 COMPANION ANIMAL ACCESS BLACKMORE PARK</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2. Council publicly exhibit the new regulations pertaining to Blackmore Park for a period of 28 days following which the introduction of an enforcement regime is implemented which includes the introduction of new signage and compliance works to educate companion animal owners of their responsibilities.  
This was amended as follows at Ordinary Council on 24 June 2008: That the decision with regards to access changes to Blackmore Oval be reviewed to ensure pedestrian access is retained and no action taken in this regard until a full report is brought back to the July Council Meeting on how this can be achieved. | • Verbal report provided at April Meeting stating that we are meeting with DoP in May to try and resolve the matter | Vince Cusumano |

• The Draft PoM will be reported to Council in June 2010 and recommendations pertaining to companion animal access to Blackmore Park will be contained within the Draft POM. If approved by Council the Draft POM will be exhibited. | Aaron Callaghan |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC50/08 URBAN FOREST POLICY UPDATE</td>
<td>2. That sections of the proposed Urban Forest Strategy be presented to the Environment and Recreation Committee over the next year for discussion and comment.</td>
<td>2. Sections of the proposed Urban Forest Strategy will be presented over the next year as per the Committee’s adopted timetable.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC12/09 ITEM 2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: 4 February 2009</td>
<td>That a Committee report is prepared on the need for increasing the staff of the Bushcare Crew and whether this could be done within the present budget, either by replacing vacancies or retraining or whether an application to expand the budget in the 2009/10 year needs to be made.</td>
<td>New staff position identified and included in 2010-2011 budget deliberations.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC33/09 June 2009</td>
<td>That a letter be sent to the Bushcare Group advising of the resourcing strategy for the Bushcare Crew for 2009/10.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC39/09 BIRCHGROVE TREE</td>
<td>2. That the sapling which recently died next to the mature <em>Eucalyptus tereticornis</em> at Birchgrove Park be replaced by two <em>Eucalyptus tereticornis</em>. 3. That Council examine opportunities for additional plantings and landscape embellishment at Birchgrove Park in consultation with the community.</td>
<td>Following on-site meetings with community representatives the following works are scheduled to occur  - The replacement of the Angophora costata with two Forest Red Gum trees will be undertaken in May.  - The planting of the new garden beds at the rear of the Louisa Rd properties with native shrubs is scheduled for June.  - Installation of the timber boardwalk over the roots of T3 Hills Fig and new path ways is proposed for July.  - Council will install a Botanical Gardens style fence around the Forest Red Gum tree in late May and the under planting will take place in June.  - The relocation of the Jacaranda tree by</td>
<td>Heidi Webb Parks Technical Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</td>
<td>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</td>
<td>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</td>
<td>OFFICER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC47/09</td>
<td>1. That Biodiversity Officer to produce a <em>Celtis sinensis</em> information leaflet for targeted distribution to residents. The leaflet to include alternative trees suitable for planting which are good food and habitat sources for small birds and possums.</td>
<td>1, 2 &amp; 3 Awaiting declaration by DPI.</td>
<td>Doug Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. That a programme including the issuing of control notices, community education and eradication measures to control <em>Celtis sinensis</em> be implemented as outlined in Section 4 of this report.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. That Biodiversity Officer to be authorised to issue weed control notices.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. That the Light Rail feasibility study address the issue of the greenway project, protection of small bird habitats and the issue of <em>Celtis sinensis</em> removal as part of the brief.</td>
<td>4. The Study brief has been issued by the NSW State Government. The brief includes a requirement for the environmental impact and the Greenway Strategy to be assessed/considered as part of the feasibility study.</td>
<td>Doug Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• That a Draft Brochure be provided for Committee consideration at the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee</td>
<td>• Draft brochure will be produced on declaration of Celtis. There is no guarantee that the National Weeds Advisory Council will approve the declaration.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC03/10</td>
<td>• Council is determining a DA for the removal of the next stage of Camphor Laurels and Privet trees in June and these will be replaced with 2 Lily Pilies and a Turpentine in July.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2010</td>
<td>the tennis courts will be undertaken in July when the tree is dormant.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Update on Celtis Sinensis** (August 09)

- ERC47/09
- ERC03/10
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Committee.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• That a verbal report on the status of formal listing of Camphor Laurel as a Noxious Weed be provided at the April 2010 meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee.</td>
<td>will approve the declaration of Celtis..</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The process to have Camphor Laurel declared as a class 4 weed is underway at the regional level.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC48/09 NATIVE PLANTINGS IN VERGES</td>
<td>1. That Council initiates a pilot programme in cooperation with residents to determine community interest in, and likely acceptance of, a broadscale native verge planting programme and that the program be considered as part of the Living Streets Project.</td>
<td>1, 2 and 3. Being considered as part of Living Streets programme.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. That Council carry out community consultation in a selected street to gauge the likely participation and cost implications to undertake and adopt-a-verge programme of planting native plants instead of grass and that the results of this consultation be brought back to the Environment and Recreation Committee.</td>
<td>A Draft programme will be prepared in June for an adopt a verge trial.</td>
<td>Doug Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. That the street chosen for the pilot programme will be derived from the current footpath replacement programme.</td>
<td>Report to the August 2010 Committee meeting on the selected streets, draft programme including consultation strategy for the programme.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>A review/check will be undertaken of the upcoming footpath programme and a list will be developed of appropriate species for use on verges.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC49/09 BIRCHGROVE PARK – REPORT ON FOREST REDGUM FROM THREE WISE MEN PTY LTD</td>
<td>1. That an immediate exclusion zone be established around the Forest Gum Tree advising the public of the safety issue.</td>
<td>1. Exclusion zone established with temporary fence.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parks and Technical Officer attended the Feb 2010 Birchgrove Precinct Meeting who approved the adoption of Botanical Gardens’ fence for</td>
<td>Heidi Webb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</td>
<td>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</td>
<td>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</td>
<td>OFFICER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>installation around the tree. Pruning works as set out in report to be carried out once DA for tree removals is determined. Works will coincide with approved removal works on other trees.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC51/09 BALLAST POINT PARK</td>
<td>That a report be brought back to Council and the Committee on management arrangements (if any) associated with Ballast Point Park, SHFA and Council in relation to ongoing management of the park.</td>
<td>Refer to ERC21/10.</td>
<td>Aaron Callaghan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC59/09 URBAN FOREST STRATEGY PART 8 – STREET TREE SEQUENTIAL REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME</td>
<td>1. That Council adopt Part 8 of the Urban Forest Strategy pertaining to Community Consultation. 2. That Council undertake consultation for a trial of the sequential removal and replacement programme as outlined in Section 5 of this report in Stephen St Balmain. 3. That a further report on this trial be bought back to the Environment and Recreation Committee.</td>
<td>1. Noted 2. Community consultation was held in December 2009. Support retention of all trees. Information received from contractor that root barriers can be installed in August 2010. A verbal report re costings to carry out root pruning and barriers for identified trees in Stephen St. to be provided to the Committee. 3. Programme of works to be developed - refer to above.</td>
<td>Heidi Webb Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC05/10 COUNCIL FACILITATION OF</td>
<td>1. That the report be received and noted. 2. That Council consider promotion of</td>
<td>1 &amp; 2 Promotion is dependent upon businesses demonstrating energy efficiency initiatives have been implemented, evidence of this yet to be</td>
<td>David Eckstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</td>
<td>Summary of Resolutions</td>
<td>Action/Taken &amp; Planned Estimated Completion Date</td>
<td>Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Energy Efficiency Audits for Small/Medium Businesses in Leichhardt</strong></td>
<td>Businesses that have been proactive and undertaken energy efficient retrofits as a result of the audit program through such avenues as the Council newsletter or Mayoral column.</td>
<td>Obtained. Awaiting opportunity to contact audited businesses and assess which, if any, have implemented energy savings actions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ERC06/10 Footprints Eco Festival</strong></td>
<td>1. That Council approve all current expenditure and logistical plans for the Footprints Eco Festival. 2. That relevant staff, councillors and community members meet regularly ahead of the event to assist with planning – commencing late February.</td>
<td>1. Noted 2. First meeting held in February 2010, email update provided to Festival reference group.</td>
<td>Katie Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ERC07/10 Urban Forest Strategy Revised Sections 3 – Benefits of Urban Trees and 10 – Risk Management of Trees</strong></td>
<td>1. That Council adopt the next two sections of the Urban Forest Strategy, those being: • Section 3 – the Value of Urban Trees and • Section 10 – Risk Management of Trees 2. That the authors of the report be congratulated for the quality of its content. 3. That a proposal be brought to the Committee for signage highlighting the diverse values of trees, for display in parks / use when street tree planting consultations are scheduled. 4. That a summary of the key points from the report be produced in brochure format for community and staff education purposes.</td>
<td>1. Noted 2. Actioned 3. Actioned Report presented to the April Env &amp; Rec meeting 4. Actioned Report presented to the April Env &amp; Rec meeting.</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano Gill Dawson Vince Cusumano Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</td>
<td>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</td>
<td>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</td>
<td>OFFICER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERC10/10 CORNUCOPIA CAFÉ AND NATIVE NURSERY (GLADESVILLE HOSPITAL GROUNDS)</td>
<td>That Council write to the Department of Health, Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Mental Health) and Minister for Health emphasising the high value of services provided by Cornucopia Café and Native Nursery in terms of employment opportunity for persons suffering mental health conditions.</td>
<td>Actioned</td>
<td>Doug Anderson Vince Cusumano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL RESOLUTIONS</td>
<td>1. That Council adopt the minutes of the Environment &amp; Recreation Committee held on 3 February 2010 with the accompanying recommendations.</td>
<td>1. Noted</td>
<td>Gill Dawson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. That a hard copy of letter of thanks to Cheryl Walker, Waste Projects Officer be provided at the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.</td>
<td>2. June Committee agenda - correspondence</td>
<td>David Eckstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. That clarification on the status of the Gladesville Hospital / Cornucopia Café and Nursery – in relation to the NSW Government tender for operational activity be sought and the committee advised.</td>
<td>3. Request for further information from Cornucopia unanswered at this stage</td>
<td>Vince Cusumano Doug Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4. That correspondence concerning cat control at Balmain campus of Sydney Secondary College be provided for the June 2010 Environment and Recreation Committee meeting.</td>
<td>4. June Committee agenda - correspondence</td>
<td>David Eckstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</td>
<td>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</td>
<td>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</td>
<td>OFFICER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ERC15/10 CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – CORPORATE MINUTES | 1. That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force (CCTF) – Corporate Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 including the additional recommendations made by Council at the 23 March 2010 Ordinary Meeting be noted (C96/10). Additional recommendations made by Council at the March 2010 Ordinary Meeting (C96/10):  
- The Director Corporate & Information Services to investigate how to incorporate the Actions identified in the “Service Delivery Strategy for near-term greenhouse gas abatement” into the Budget, along with funding to install ceiling fans in Council’s meeting spaces.  
- Call on the Taskforce to clarify Points 6 and 7 of the recommendations regarding new staffing, and promotion and media support for community groups aiming to bulk purchase renewable energy | 1. Minutes adopted  
Additional recommendations by Council concerned:  
- budget funding for actions identified in draft Climate Change Strategy’s Service Delivery of near-term GHG abatement – this is actioned via Draft Budget Allocation already in train for 2010-11  
- Clarification of budget allocation for new staff in Environment Team with implementation focus – addressed via same mechanism as above  
- Clarification of type of support that can be provided by council to any community groups re: bulk purchase of renewable energy systems – council support would be in terms of providing meeting space, not program administration or $ assistance. | David Eckstein |
<p>|  | 2. That consideration be given to renaming the Climate Change Taskforce to the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Taskforce. | 2. To be determined. | David Eckstein |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERC16/10 CLIMATE CHANGE TASKFORCE – COMMUNITY MINUTES</td>
<td>That the minutes of the Climate Change Task Force – Community Strategy meeting held on 3 March 2010 be noted.</td>
<td>Noted</td>
<td>David Eckstein</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ERC17/10 URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTIONS 3 - BENEFITS OF URBAN TREES BROCHURE & PARK SIGNAGE | 1. That Council adopt the wording provided for information leaflet on key points of the Urban Forest Policy.  
2. That Council adopt the proposed draft format for the ‘diverse value of trees’ sign to be used in parks, with review of wording prior to finalisation.  
3. That placement of information signs of this type be incorporated into all future Plans of Management for parks in the LGA. | 1. Wording adopted.  
2. Wording and design adopted, signs being fabricated.  
3. Noted | Heidi Webb |
| ERC18/10 URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTION 4 EXISTING TREES IN THE LEICHHARDT MUNICIPALITY | That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, this being:  
- Section 4 Existing Trees in the Leichhardt Municipality | Section 4 adopted at April meeting | Vince Cusumano |
<p>| ERC 19/10 COMMUNITY BASED FAUNA MONITORING PROGRAM | That work on the proposed full biodiversity monitoring website be deferred in preference for more targeted programs – a short report will be provided on proposed fauna biodiversity and fauna pest control focussed programs. | Report being prepared for August meeting | Doug Anderson |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment &amp; Recreation Committee April 2010</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF RESOLUTIONS</th>
<th>ACTION/TAKEN PLANNED &amp; ESTIMATED COMPLETION DATE</th>
<th>OFFICER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| ERC 20/10 Fungal Disease Fusarium in Gladstone Park Phoenix Palms | 1. That Council remove infected palms in Gladstone Park and as much of root ball as possible in accordance with the Sydney Environmental and Soil Laboratory report.  
2. That a development application be lodged for the removal of these trees as Gladstone Park is listed on Council’s LEP 2000 as being a Heritage site.  
3. That Phoenix Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) to be replaced by Livistonia Palms (*Livistona australis*).  
4. That all Council staff and contractors will be required to sterilise their saws and other pruning implements prior to undertaking works on Phoenix Palms in Council parks and when moving from one park to another which have this species of plant in them.  
5. That Council seek to promote this tree health issue to the public. | 1. DA lodged for these works  
2. DA lodged for these works  
3. Noted  
4. Noted  
5. Short press release to be prepared and sent to local media advising of dangers of Fusarium | Heidi Webb |
| ERC 21/10 Ballast Point Park (Verbal Report) | A report be prepared on the issue of Ballast Point Park being transferred to Leichhardt Council, particularly in context of the Long Term Financial Plan, Strategic Asset Management Plans and Council’s Risk Management Plan. | A meeting has been organised with the relevant internal staff for discussion on the matter. | Gill Dawson |
November 19 2009

Cheryl Walker
Waste Projects Officer
Leichhardt Council

RE: Feedback on Growing Food in the City Workshop

Dear Cheryl,

A short letter to acknowledge the hard work you put in to the Growing Food in the City Workshop held at White St Community Centre in October. Feedback from attendees was very positive concerning skills development in improving soils, set up a worm-farm, choosing seeds and start a no-dig garden.

On behalf of Council I would like to thank you for providing this valued learning experience for the local community.

Gill Dawson
Manager
Urban and Environmental Planning
5 March 2010

Lee Wright
Principal
Sydney Secondary College, Balmain Campus
Terry Steet
Rozelle
NSW 2039

RE: Cat control at Balmain Campus of Sydney Secondary College

Dear Lee,

Thanks for the recent opportunity to visit your campus and assess the current situation regarding the presence of cats on the school premises.

The issue of the need to control feral cat populations within the municipality is regularly raised at Council’s Environment and Recreation Committee. One driver for this is that, over the past decade, considerable community and council effort has been invested in our biodiversity programs – especially regarding native revegetation works.

A key indicator of program success is the extent to which small native bird species are able to recolonise revegetated areas. The presence of cats acts as an impediment to fauna re-colonisation, and a threat to those native species that still exist in Leichhardt. While both domestic and feral cat populations contribute to this threat, the ability for feral populations to increase at speed (as they are typically not de-sexed) can add significantly to the threat-level.

Through inspection and discussion with your staff on site it appears that the number of cats has been reduced compared to previous times. Council understands that the cost of removing cats (trapping, transportation, vet treatment) can be an impediment to consistent cat control program. However, it would be much appreciated if the school can maintain its efforts to control cat occupation at the site. It is especially important that, whenever kittens are located, they are immediately removed from the site.

Thank-you for your school’s continued efforts to control cat occupation on the campus.

Yours sincerely

David Eckstein
TEAM LEADER ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY
**DIVISION:** INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY  
**SUBJECT:** RESOURCE RECOVERY INITIATIVES FOR ORGANICS  
**AUTHOR:** ALLAN WILLDING – MANAGER WORKS & WASTE SERVICES  
**FILE REF:** F08/00050  
**DATE:** 12 MAY 2010  
**WORD PROCESSING REF:** F:\Planning - Administration\Committees\Environment & Rec Committee\2010\1006 - June\Agenda\Env & Rec Agenda 020610.doc

**DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Any additional costs will be funded from the existing waste budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Strategic Plan Objective: | 4. Sustainable Environment  
6. Sustainable Services & Assets |
| Staffing Implications:  | Nil |
| Notifications:          | Nil |
| Other Implications:     | Nil |
1. **Purpose of Report**

To report on Council’s waste avoidance and resource recovery initiatives, with a particular focus on organics and composting.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 That Council notes that placing food scraps in the garden bin has been previously trialled and is a preferred option if a combined food and garden organics collection is implemented to all households in the Leichhardt Local Government Area.

2.2 That Council sell The Bokashi Bucket from July 2010 together with compost bins and worm farms.

2.3 That Council include information about its composting products and environmental workshops with its quarterly rates notices, and this information be made available in both hard and electronic copies.

3. **Background**

Leichhardt Council has practiced waste avoidance / resource recovery initiatives in relation to organics, for over 15 years. This includes the provision of infrastructure, such as a garden collection service and drop off centre; the sale of compost bins and worm farms to manage organics on-site; and environmental education / engagement to guide the community towards living more sustainably.

At the February 2010 Ordinary Council meeting it was resolved:

‘That Council builds on its strong waste avoidance and resource recovery initiatives by investigating the following to be reported on at the June 2010 Environment & Recreation Committee meeting and the June 2010 Ordinary Council Meeting:

- An expansion of Leichhardt Council’s food recycling collection service to all households. That this investigation considers allowing food scraps to be placed in the green garden bin.
- Including Bokashi Buckets as another household composting option for sale alongside compost bins and worm farms.
- That Council investigate including information about its composting products and environmental workshops with its quarterly rates notices, including its electronic rate notices.
- That Council’s report includes an analysis on how Kiama and Woollahra Councils assess the Bokashi Bin and the Kitchen to Compost initiatives.’

4. **Report**

4.1 **Expansion of food recycling collection**

Since 2004 Council have adopted several resolutions relating to the recovery of food organics that will further increase Leichhardt’s level of sustainable practice. In 2007, Council conducted a
food collection trial for a total of 600 households consisting of both Multi-Unit Dwellings (MUD’s) and single dwelling properties for 13 weeks. This trial provided information on service costs and the community’s views on the most appropriate collection system for food organics if the service was offered on a permanent basis.

Different scenarios for food collection bins were trialled including a food and garden organics mix in the existing garden bin. Placing food scraps in the garden bin was considered a viable collection option for people with an existing garden bin. Alternative options were provided for households with space constraints / no garden material i.e. a 46L food bin for single dwellings and 240L shared food bin for MUD’s (see Appendix 1 for full details on the food collection trial).

During the trial both single and MUD’s audits revealed a 47% participation rate. In single dwelling households 3 kilos of food was collected per household per week. If Council extrapolated the tonnages of food collected from the single households who participated in the trial, this would equate to 2,340 tonnes of food per year if all single households were offered the service. The same audit showed on average 1.2 kilos of food collected per unit in MUD complexes per week (exact participation rate per unit is unknown as units share bins) totalling approximately 586 tonnes per year if all units were offered the service.

If all households in the Leichhardt Local Government Area (LGA) were offered the food & garden organics service there is the potential to collect a total of 2,926 tonnes of food per year.

The food collection trial proved particularly successful in MUDs. Considering this success (98% of unit respondents said they would continue with the service if offered). Council implemented an ongoing food collection service to MUD’s with 10 or more units who shared bins (approximately 250 buildings and 5,600 individual units) in July 2008. No additional space was required to accommodate the food collection as existing garbage bins were simply exchanged for food bins in the bin bay area. MUDs were also less likely to have garden material than single dwelling households and less likely to have the space to manage food onsite eg in a home composting bin. Separated food is taken to Earthpower at Camellia in Sydney for processing into a nutrient rich fertiliser and bio energy.

To ensure there is a continuing focus on the food collection service Leichhardt Council distributes an annual Information Sheet to participating units which outlines how to use the food collection service and where to get kitchen bench top bins / bags. It also provides educational information regarding the impacts of food in landfill and the environmental benefits gained by using the service including green house gas reduction. This Information Sheet is also sent to all new residents in the participating MUD’s with their bins / bags, active Body Corporate / Strata Managers, and Real Estate Agencies who manage the complexes to ensure all new residents are aware of the food collection service and to encourage their participation.

Whilst the Earthpower facility that currently receives Council’s food organics can process food material, it cannot process garden organic material. Therefore, to enable the expansion of the food recycling service to single dwelling households, a processing facility that can manage both garden and food material together is required.

Leichhardt Council has been the lead Council in a joint regional tender process with the Inner Sydney Waste Managers Group (ISWMG - comprised of Ashfield, Auburn, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt & Strathfield Council’s) and the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Water (DECCW) for a facility to process both garden and food organics for composting. The tender evaluation confirmed that all tenderers were non-conforming and as such rejected. The ISWMG Council’s will commence negotiations with the highest ranked tenderer in June 2010 once all respective ISWMG Council’s have formal resolutions to commence negotiations.
4.2 The Bokashi Bucket System

The Bokashi Bucket is another alternative for home composting. It uses the process of ‘fermentation’ made possible by the ‘EM’ (Effective Micro-Organism) Bokashi which is sprinkled over the kitchen organic material collected in a Bokashi Bucket. All organic matter can be placed into the system including meats and fish. Once the Bokashi bucket is full the contents are buried in the garden to produce a nutrient rich soil conditioner, with a liquid nutrient also produced via the system for gardens, plants etc.

Council currently sells the Aussie Rotter composting bin and the Reln Worm farm from its Citizen Services Centre at wholesale prices with a nominal administration fee. The Bokashi bucket system can be made available for sale at Council at $66.00 / 20L bin and the Bokashi fermentation mix at $6.60 / 1 kilo bag, GST inclusive. Costs related to The Bokashi System have been included in Council’s DRAFT schedule of fees and charges to be considered in line with the 2010 / 11 Budget and if adopted can be on sale from July 2010.

Whilst not previously offered for sale from Council, the Bokashi system has been promoted in the past at Council events, including the Eating for the Earth Expo (2007) and Purchasing Expo (2008) and as prizes for particular campaigns and most recently in Council’s Home Composting Program.

4.3 Rates notice promotion – Composting products / environmental workshops

Leichhardt Council has a long history of promoting home composting and worm farming, running regular activities since the mid 1990’s. These include the 1996 / 7 “On site Management of Domestic Green Waste” a regional project with surrounding Councils; several Earthworks community waste reduction programs offered at both Council and via the Sydney Community College; sponsorship, promotion and composting events for International Composting Awareness Week in 2008 / 2009 / 2010.

In 2004 Leichhardt Council initiated the current Treading Lightly Eco-living program together with Ashfield Council and has more recently partnered with Burwood, Canada Bay & Strathfield Councils to deliver a variety of hands-on workshops including worm farming and composting, organic gardening, living with less chemicals, natural baby care, rainwater tank information, natural pest control and growing food in small spaces.

In addition to Leichhardt’s regular composting / worm farming program Council recently provided a Home Composting Program to approx 60 single dwelling households, including a free compost and kitchen bench top bin. A pre and post resident survey is being used to ‘self’ measure any reduction of food / garden material in participants’ garbage bins. A visual assessment of waste volumes is an accepted way of monitoring and capturing indicative information of home composting systems. Program participants also attended a 2.5 hour ‘composting tea party’ workshop that looked at the Bokashi bin system.

It is proposed that a copy of the June – December 2010 Treading Lightly Eco-living program calendar be included in the July quarterly rates notices (electronic and hard copies) together with an Order Form promoting Council’s composting products for sale, including The Bokashi Bucket ( if the draft schedule of fees & charges is adopted by Council in the 2010 / 11 budget process).
4.4 Assessment of Organic Waste Systems at Woollahra and Kiama Councils

4.4.1 Woollahra Council - Kitchen to Compost

Woollahra Council completed a 12 month trial of a residential food organic collection service in September 2007. Food organics were collected in the green garden bin along with garden refuse for composting. The trial was offered to single households in two suburbs and is now available to all single households in the LGA (around 9,500). Another 12,000 units have yet to be directly notified of the service but they can participate if they find out via their website, word of mouth, newspaper advertisements etc. The participation rate of the notified households is 39%. Woollahra now also offers a smaller bin for residents to purchase (similar to the one Leichhardt used in its trial) for its single dwelling households who do not have a garden bin.

Woollahra Council sends a separate newsletter flyer to all households who have previously received official notification of the Kitchen to Compost program on an annual basis aimed at keeping up momentum, keeping residents up to date and informing new residents. The most recent newsletter reported on the organics audit (see below), welcomed the most recent suburbs who had joined the service and encouraged more residents to participate in the service.

Woollahra’s main assessment tool for its Kitchen to Compost program is via an auditing process of their waste and organics collection. Auditing of household waste and recycling bins is considered a robust method to determine how a system is working i.e. what types of materials are being recycled / recovered or disposed of and is used as a key assessment tool in the waste industry.

Woollahra’s audit undertaken in 2008 / 9 (about one year after the service was available to all single households) reported that 98.9% of garden organics was being recovered / recycled and 13.1% of food organics (equivalent to 372 tonnes of food) was being recovered / recycled from the overall waste generated.

4.4.2 Kiama Council - The Bokashi Bucket System

As part of Kiama Councils initiative to further reduce waste going to landfill, the Council launched the sale of the Bokashi Bucket at its waste / recycling facility in September 2007. Residents could purchase the Bokashi Bucket, find out how the system worked and discuss any concerns or queries regarding home compost heaps and worm farming at the information session held on the launch day.

Bokashi Systems have been offered for sale by Kiama Council on an ongoing basis since the launch date in 2007. A starter kit includes the 20L Bokashi Bucket and 1kg of Bokashi fermentation mix. Throughout 2008 / 2009 five workshops were conducted by Kiama for residents on composting, worm farming and the Bokashi Bucket with a total of 115 participants.

Kiama Council’s assessment of The Bokashi Bucket initiative is via a survey given to all residents who had purchased a Bokashi system (approximately 1 year after the introduction of the initial sale i.e. October 2008). To date the surveys have been used to ascertain the success of the system from the users perspective (and to determine if the Council would continue to subsidise their sale) rather than to measure any waste reduction.

Of the 43 surveys returned in the 2008 year, 90% said they would recommend the system to others. As a further promotion residents participating in workshops in the 2008 / 09 year could...
purchase the Bokashi Bucket at a reduced price of $30. At the end of the 2008 / 09 financial year 225 Bokashi systems had been sold. Kiama Council also undertook an audit of household waste, recycling and organics, which revealed 47% of the household bin, is comprised of organics, the majority of which is food. This would indicate that to date, the Bokashi Bucket system is acting as a small scale waste avoidance system as a suitable alternative or addition to compost bin and worm farm systems.
Summary of Leichhardt Council’s Kitchen Organics Food Recycling Collection Trial

Appendix 1

"Kitchen Organics – Leichhardt Food Recycling Collection Trial"

Cheryl Walker
Resource Recovery & Waste Management Officer
LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

Presentation Outline

The Leichhardt LGA
Background
Objectives / Evaluation
Methodology
The Trial
Meeting the objectives

Leichhardt LGA
Population.......... 51,660
Households.......... Single Dwellings - 15,000
Multi Unit Dwellings (more) - 9,400

"We are a community with a high proportion of professional and managerial, a higher than average excess & legal proportion of residents in the 25-39 age group."

Existing waste/recycling services

Waste – weekly, volume based differential pricing
Recycling – 2 bins – alternate weekly service
Garden organics – automatic fortnightly service

Separate White goods
Separate General Household Clean-up.

Leichhardt LGA
10 sq km

Project Background

- Regional contract
- 66% recovery target by 2014
- 44% of the rubbish bin is food
- Less leftovers in Leichhardt
- Council resolution to collect food separately
- Composting & wormfarming
Appendix 1

Project Objectives

- To find an acceptable collection method
  - more food than garden organic
  - majority of residents did not have on existing garden bins
  - space constraints with multiple bins
- To find out more about residents knowledge, current practices & views
- To gather more information on service costs, processing availability.

Project Evaluation

Quantitative
Before and after trial
- Weights of rubbish bins
- Resident surveys
- Space constraints with multiple bins
- During the trial
- Weight – rubbish & food bins
- Participation rates
- Visual % quantity in food bins
- Contamination

Qualitative
- Interviews
- Focus groups x 2

Communication & Education

Letter & survey from the Mayor
Brochure & information sheet
Delivered with bins for zero
Bin Bay signs

Methodology

Consultant
33 weeks
June – Sept. 07
600 dwellings
4 different trial areas
1. Single Dwellings – with a garden bin (24 houses)
Norman kitchen bench top bin – food into garden bin

2. Single Dwellings – (no bags = 161 houses)
Norman system – kitchen bench top bin
Small (46 l) kerbside food wheels bin

3. Single Dwellings – (with bags = 135 houses)
Biofilm bags in aerated kitchen bench top bin
Norman small kerbside (46 l) wheeled bin
Leichhardt Council’s food collection trial was powered by Biodiesel
LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORT

DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

SUBJECT: CLASS 4 WEED DECLARATIONS

AUTHOR: DOUG ANDERSON – BIODIVERSITY OFFICER

FILE REF: F97/02156

DATE: 13 MAY 2010

WORD PROCESSING REF: F:\store\council reports\council reports\class 4 weed declarations.doc

DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications: Nil

Policy Implications: Urban Forest Policy

Strategic Plan Objective: Sustainable Environment

Staffing Implications: Nil

Notifications: Nil

Other Implications: Nil
1. **Purpose of Report**

   To seek endorsement of Class 4 weed declarations in the Leichhardt LGA for the six weed species discussed in this report.

2. **Recommendations**

   1) That Council endorse the declaration of African Olive, Camphor Laurel, Turkey Rhubarb, Moth Vine, Madeira Vine and Morning Glory as Class 4 noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 in the Leichhardt LGA.

   2) That the Class 4 Management Plans for these weeds be presented to the Environment and Recreation Committee for endorsement prior to implementation.

3. **Background**

   Leichhardt Council is a member of the Sydney Central Regional Weeds Committee. Local government representatives on the committee have discussed and agreed upon seeking a regional listing for the plants discussed in this report as declared noxious weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act, 1993.

   There are five possible categories of weed classification in NSW. They are as follows:

   **Class 1 - State Prohibited Weeds.** "The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant."

   **Class 2 - Regionally Prohibited Weeds.** "The plant must be eradicated from the land and the land must be kept free of the plant."

   **Class 3 - Regionally Controlled Weeds.** "The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed."

   **Class 4 - Locally Controlled Weeds.** "The growth and spread of the plant must be controlled according to the measures specified in a management plan published by the local control authority."

   **Class 5 -** There are no requirements to control existing plants of Class 5 weeds. However, the weeds are "notifiable" and a range of restrictions exist on their sale and movement.

   The classification sought for the weeds discussed in this report is Class 4. This classification allows local councils to specify control measures that take local factors into consideration. Management plans can therefore be tailored to avoid potential environmental or financial difficulties.
The table below describes the process of weed declaration and indicates the current status within that process of the weeds described in this report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage Noxious Weed Declaration process</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the weed warrant coordinated action?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consult stakeholders, Regional Weeds Advisory Committees and adjoining Local Control Authorities</td>
<td>Completed – Consultation occurred through 2 regional weed committees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are current resources sufficient to meet goals?</td>
<td>Yes – Possibility of also acquiring additional grant funding through declaration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the current legal status of these weeds under the Noxious Weeds Act adequate?</td>
<td>No, the weeds are currently not declared in the Leichhardt LGA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Regional weed plan</td>
<td>Sydney Central Regional Management Plan for these weeds sent to NWAC for approval February 2010.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Council endorsements sought for declaration of noxious weed</td>
<td>This report dated 13th May 2010 has been prepared for Council endorsement - other councils have agreed to do the same.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councils apply to National Weeds Advisory Committee (NWAC) for noxious weed declaration</td>
<td>To be undertaken by the Regional Weeds Committee once endorsements and application forms for the region are received.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minister for Primary Industries accepts declaration or may request the plan to be reviewed</td>
<td>Subject to comments and/or approval of Management Plans by NWAC.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declaration changes documented in Government Gazette</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Central Regional Management Plans for these weeds implemented</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Report

Details of plants being proposed for Class 4 declaration are as follows:

1. African Olive

African Olive *Olea europaea subsp. cuspidata* is an aggressive invasive species in the Sydney region. It is a hardy, drought-tolerant plant, often causing severe negative impacts on established native species in remnant bushland and revegetated areas.

A native of southern Africa, African Olive is a large shrub or branched tree to about 12 m high. Fruits are smaller than those of the European Olive and are spread by birds, foxes and other animals over considerable distances. Often grown as a garden ornamental and as a hedge, it is now a major environmental weed throughout the Sydney Region.

In the Leichhardt LGA, African Olive is commonly seen in unmanaged areas such as railway corridors. There are light to moderate infestations in Callan Park, including the bush remnant at Callan Point. There is a moderate infestation in some of the steep, difficult to access areas in Elkington Park, and there is a moderate infestation in the area above Ewenton Park currently owned by NSW Police.

Council is currently controlling African Olive in its parks as operational budgets allow.

If African Olive is not declared a noxious weed in the Leichhardt LGA and is not controlled, it will continue to spread to new areas and will have a negative impact in other LGAs where it may be declared. Council will continue to be powerless to act regarding infestations on non-council lands.

2. Camphor Laurel

Camphor Laurel *Cinnamomum camphora* is an aggressive species in the Sydney region, capable of invasion and replacement of remnant native vegetation, including rainforest, sandstone forest, pastures and riparian systems.

A native of China, Taiwan, Indochina and Japan, Camphor Laurel is a large evergreen tree that grows up to 20–30 metres tall. The leaves have a glossy, waxy appearance and smell of camphor when crushed. It produces clusters of black berry-like fruit around one centimetre in diameter.

Introduced into Queensland in 1822 as a garden ornamental, Camphor Laurel has spread down the east cost of Australia and is now a major environmental weed.
Camphor Laurel aggressively replaces native vegetation, shading out existing grasses, groundcovers and shrubs, and excluding native plant species from becoming established, impacting on biodiversity in suburbs already under threat from fragmentation and intense urban impacts. In urban areas, old camphor laurel trees develop a massive root system that can block drains and crack concrete structures.

Council is currently controlling Camphor Laurel in its parks and streetscapes as operational budgets allow.

If Camphor Laurel is not declared a noxious weed in the LGA, Council officers will continue to be powerless to act regarding infestations on non-council lands. It will continue to spread and will have a negative impact in other LGAs where it may be declared.

3. Madeira Vine

Madeira Vine *Anredera cordifolia* is an aggressive invasive species in the Sydney region, capable of invasion and replacement of remnant native vegetation.

A native of tropical South America, Madeira Vine is a perennial climber that can reach heights in excess of 20m on supporting vegetation or other structures. It is commonly found on disturbed sites and wastelands. Stems bear aerial tubers which form clusters high in the vine; tubers drop from the vine, and sprout readily to start new infestations. Tubers also grow on underground stems, and over time a main underground tuber develops and grows up to the size of a big pumpkin. The vines can smother tall trees and block out light, thus preventing any other plants from growing. Its weight can break down trees.

Within the Leichhardt LGA, heavy infestations of Madeira Vine are commonly seen along railway corridors, and there are heavy infestations in areas of Callan Park including the bush remnant at Callan Point. There is a moderate infestation of the weed in Elkington Park, and a heavy infestation in the area above Ewenton Park currently owned by NSW Police. Madeira vine is commonly seen growing along residential fencelines.

Council is currently controlling Madeira Vine in its parks as operational budgets allow.

If Madeira Vine is not declared a noxious weed in the Leichhardt LGA, council officers will continue to be powerless to act regarding infestations on non-council lands.
4. **Morning Glory**

Morning Glory *Ipomoea indica* is an invasive species in the Sydney region. Introduced from tropical America and once popular as a garden plant, Morning Glory is a vigorous, twining, herbaceous perennial climber that grows to the top of the canopy and forms a dense cover, smothering and killing all other vegetation. This weed is highly invasive and poses a significant threat to the bushland environment. It may cause distress to neighbouring properties through the plant stems spreading over boundary lines.

Within the Leichhardt LGA, heavy infestations of Morning Glory are commonly found in railway corridors, and there are heavy infestations in areas of Callan Park including the bush remnant at Callan Point. There is a heavy infestation in the area above Ewenton Park currently owned by NSW Police, and moderate infestations in Elkington and King George Parks.

Council is currently controlling Morning Glory in park areas as operational budgets allow.

If Morning Glory is not declared a noxious weed in the Leichhardt LGA and is not controlled, it will continue to threaten native vegetation in bushland areas and Council will be powerless to act regarding private property infestations.

5. **Moth Vine**

Moth Vine *Araujia sericifera* is an aggressive invasive species in the Sydney region, capable of invasion and replacement of remnant native vegetation.

A native of Peru, Moth Vine is a perennial climber that can reach heights in excess of 5m on supporting vegetation or other structures. Moth Vine smothers groundcovers, shrubs and small trees, and prevents native seedlings from establishing. It has large choko-like fruit, which splits to release masses of fly-away feathery seeds. The sap is acrid and causes severe discomfort if in contact with eyes or mucous membranes, making it a threat to human health.

Within the Leichhardt area, heavy infestations of Moth Vine are commonly found in unmanaged areas such as railway corridors, and there are light to moderate infestations in areas of Callan Park including the bush remnant at Callan Point. There is a moderate infestation in the area above Ewenton Park currently owned by NSW Police. Moth Vine is sometimes seen growing along residential fencelines.

Council is currently controlling Moth Vine in its parks. This work is being compromised by infestations on private land.

If Moth Vine is not declared a noxious weed in the Leichhardt LGA and is not controlled, it will continue to spread to new areas, and council will continue to receive complaints from residents. Council will continue to be powerless to act regarding private property infestations.
6. Turkey Rhubarb

Turkey Rhubarb *Acetosa sagittata* is an aggressive invasive species in the Sydney region, capable of invasion and replacement of remnant native vegetation. It is found in a variety of ecosystems including riparian systems, woodlands, forests, coastal dunes and wastelands and other modified environments.

A native of South Africa, Turkey Rhubarb is a perennial scrambler that can reach heights around 5m on supporting vegetation or other structures. Introduced into Australia for ornamental use, Turkey Rhubarb smothers groundcovers, shrubs and small trees, and prevents native seedlings from establishing. Turkey Rhubarb has yellow beetroot-like underground tubers, which become large and woody with age. Small green-white flowers appear in spring and develop into small clusters of 3-winged cream paper-like fruit that turn brown with age. Hundreds of seeds are produced over summer and autumn. These seeds are dispersed by wind and water and can easily spread over a large area.

Within the Leichhardt area, heavy infestations of Turkey Rhubarb are commonly found in unmanaged areas such as railway corridors. Moderate infestations can be found in areas of Callan Park including the bush remnant at Callan Point, and in the area above Ewenton Park currently owned by NSW Police. Light infestations can be found in parts of Elkington Park. Moth Vine is sometimes seen growing along residential fencelines.

Council is currently controlling Turkey Rhubarb in its parks as operational budgets allow.

If Turkey Rhubarb is not declared a noxious weed in the Leichhardt LGA and is not controlled, it will continue to spread to new areas and have a negative impact in other LGAs where it may be declared. Council will continue to receive complaints from residents, and will continue to be powerless to act regarding infestations on non-council lands.

* * * * *

Once the plants discussed above are declared as noxious weeds, a Class 4 Management Plan will be developed for each weed as required under the legislation. These will be developed to suit local circumstances. The management plans will outline Council’s strategic approach and help mitigate any financial impacts. They will aim to:

- plan for the progressive reduction in infestations on public land;
- prioritise and target control programs according to available resources;
- justify inaction in particular areas if appropriate (e.g. heritage trees);
- encourage control on private land through education and incentives, and so reduce the need for regulatory action.
The declaration of the weeds described in this report as Class 4 Noxious Weeds will assist in their strategic management through more integrated and effective control across land management and LGA boundaries in the Sydney region.
**LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL**

**REPORT**

**DIVISION:** INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY  
**SUBJECT:** URBAN FOREST STRATEGY SECTIONS 7 GUIDELINES FOR TREE MANAGEMENT  
**AUTHOR:** VINCE CUSUMANO  
MANAGER - PARKS & STREETSCAPES  
**FILE REF:** F05/00106  
**DATE:** 14 MAY 2010  
**WORD PROCESSING REF:** F:\store\council reports\council reports\UFP section 7.doc

### DIRECTOR’S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Implications:</th>
<th>Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Implications:</td>
<td>In line with Council’s Urban Forest Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Plan Objective:</td>
<td>4 A Sustainable Environment 6 Sustainable Services and Assets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notifications:</td>
<td>These will be placed on all trees which have been nominated for removal in accordance with the Urban Forest Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Implications:</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. **Purpose of Report**

To inform the Environment and Recreation Committee of the development of Section 7 – Guidelines for Tree Management in the Urban Forest Strategy and to seek adoption of this section.

2. **Recommendations**

1. That Council adopt the next section of the Urban Forest Strategy, this being:
   - Section 7 – Guidelines for Tree Management

3. **Background**

At the Environment and Recreation Committee in October 2009, the committee resolved that:

   4. *The Environment and Recreation Committee endorse the timetable for the submission of further sections for the Urban Forest Strategy as outlined in Section 4 of this report.*

Set out below is the table which was adopted at the October Environment and Recreation Committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Urban Forest Strategy Section</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Urban Forest Policy Aims and Objectives</td>
<td>Adopted with UFP in July 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Value of Urban Trees</td>
<td>To be bought to Environment and Recreation Committee in December 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Existing Trees in the Leichhardt Municipality</td>
<td>To be bought to Environment and Recreation Committee in March 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Tree Preservation Order</td>
<td>Currently being reviewed by Assessments and when adopted by Council will be included in the UFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Guidelines for Development</td>
<td>Currently being reviewed by Assessments and when adopted by Council will be included in the UFS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Guidelines for Tree Management</td>
<td>To be bought to Environment and Recreation Committee in May 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Community Consultation</td>
<td>To be bought to Environment and Recreation Committee in October 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Tree Asset Management</td>
<td>Street tree inventory completed in June 2008 Park tree inventory to be completed December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Risk Management of Trees</td>
<td>To be bought to Environment and Recreation Committee in December 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since the October Environment and Recreation Committee meeting the Parks & Streetscapes Section have been further refining Section 7 – Guidelines for Tree Management.

In accordance with the timetable adopted by the committee set out in this report is the nominated section. Once adopted, this will form the basis for the ongoing implementation of the Urban Forest Policy and will enable staff and the community to see how the UFP is used to further enhance and improve the tree cover in the Leichhardt municipality.

Section 7 – Guidelines for Tree Management, looks at the tree selection process for trees in the Leichhardt Municipality in various situations such as street and park trees, town centre plantings and trees and plants for use in Council’s ongoing bushcare programme.

This section also deals with the manner in which Council makes decisions on what species of tree is selected for each street as well as giving an explanation as to the manner in which the tree inventory was developed and the information gathered.

Various figures in this section give graphical information which would allow Council staff, contractors and the community to undertake planting in a manner which would ensure the long term viability of these plantings while avoiding the problems which have been experienced with plantings undertaken in the past.

The Appendices referred to in this report are attached as Appendix A.
7.0 GUIDELINES FOR TREE MANAGEMENT
7.0 TREE MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

This document has been developed in order to achieve an effective system of tree management. The formulation of this document has been based on the following considerations:

- The experience of Council staff involved with tree management.
- Liaison with other Councils, professional organisations and public authorities.
- Bringing this strategy in line with Council’s adopted Urban Forest Policy
- The needs of the public in relation to trees.
- The need for Council staff and the public to have definitive policies to relate to.
- The need for Council's tree management practices to be more sustainable, economical, efficient and effective.
- The need to streamline the administrative processes involved in tree management practices to become more proactive rather than reactive.

This document will primarily look at the management of street trees and trees in parks and open space as the majority of Council’s tree management funding is expended in these areas.

Trees in private property will not be dealt with on an individual tree by tree basis as it is extremely difficult to carry out an inventory of trees in these areas. An assessment on the overall effect of these trees on the overall urban forest of Leichhardt will be carried out using information from Council’s GIS system. Trees in private property will also be managed through Council’s Tree Preservation Order and through Development Controls which will look to educate and inform developers and residents about the importance of planting the correct tree in the correct location.

Through the UFP principles, through education and promotion and via Council’s Tree Preservation Order, it is envisaged that the overall health, suitability and location of trees on private property can have a positive impact on the environment of Leichhardt

This document will also be used in conjunction with a number of other key Council programmes, plans and strategies such as:

- Water sensitive urban design,
- Council’s bike plan,
- Council’s Access plan,
- Parking/traffic planning,
- Council’s Plans of Management

7.1 STREET SELECTION

To enable the long term planting and maintenance of street trees it is appropriate that a preferred species is developed for each street in the municipality. Council currently receives many individual requests from residents for new street trees in their streets. The current arrangement relies on
individual residents to nominate a street and therefore has the potential for streets most in need of planting not to be addressed. Therefore to provide the preferred long term species and overall priority listing for all streets in the municipality, individual inspections have been undertaken by Parks & Streetscapes.

To determine where planting opportunities exist, each street in Leichhardt will be assessed based on certain criteria such as:

- Width of street
- Width of footpath
- Presence of overhead wires
- Presence of underground services
- Existing species within the street

Based on these attributes and the field data collection, a score will be determined for each street which will enable a ranking to be developed for all streets in the Municipality.

These ranked street tree planting works will form the basis for on-going budget development and will allow for future asset management processes to be incorporated into tree management practices in Leichhardt.

### 7.2 SPECIES SELECTION

Detailed investigations have been undertaken in order to identify tree species that are horticulturally suitable and appropriate for planting in the Leichhardt Municipality. Factors considered include site suitability, mature height and overall size of the trees, type of root system, flower and leaf drop and the ability to tolerate pollution. Inappropriate species selection in the past has left a legacy of costly on-going maintenance problems. Much of this information was determined from the tree inventory process conducted to formulate the Urban Forest Policy.

There has also been much debate as to the merits or otherwise of native versus exotic trees being planted with advantages and disadvantages for these trees being investigated as part of the urban forest policy development.

With the removal of the greater proportion of the natural soils from the area it has been found that in hostile environments such as street tree plantings, some of the exotic species have tended to do better, Council has however looked at a number of natives that also do well and these are included in the schedule of suitable trees in this strategy.

A list of trees identified as suitable for planting in the Leichhardt Municipality has been included as Appendix B. This appendix shows common names and overall characteristics of each species. Although by no means complete, this list may be used by residents, developers and others as the trees contained on it are known to grow well in the Leichhardt area.

In order to select the most appropriate tree for various situations, all Council-owned trees within the Leichhardt Municipality have been divided into the following categories:

- street trees
- trees and plants for bushland and green web corridors
- trees in town centres
- trees in parks and reserves
- trees around Council buildings

The characteristics of each category are listed below and future tree planting will be carried out in accordance with these guidelines.

### 7.3 STREET TREES

The following trees are considered suitable for planting in the naturestrip of streets. The species vary depending on the width of the footway and on whether there are overhead wires.

#### a) Footpaths > 3 Metres Wide Without Wires –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acer negundo ‘Sensation’</td>
<td>Box Elder Maple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acmena smithii</td>
<td>Lilly Pilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calodendrum capense</td>
<td>Cape Chestnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</td>
<td>Blueberry Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pistachio chinensis</td>
<td>Pistachio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glochidion ferdinandii</td>
<td>Cheese Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</td>
<td>Tuckeroo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platanus digitata</td>
<td>Chilean Plane Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backhousia citriodora</td>
<td>Lemon Myrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lophostemon confertus</td>
<td>Brush Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metrosideros excelsa</td>
<td>Pohutukawa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podocarpus elatus</td>
<td>Brown Pine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syzygium lehmannii</td>
<td>Lilly Pilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backhousia citriodora</td>
<td>Lemon Ironwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus heamastomia</td>
<td>Scibbly Gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon serratifolia</td>
<td>Black Wattle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corymbia eximia</td>
<td>Yellow Bloodwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus botryoides</td>
<td>Bangalay, Southern Mahogany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus tereticornis</td>
<td>Forest Red Gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaleuca decora</td>
<td>White Feather Honeymyrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacaranda mimisofolia</td>
<td>Jacaranda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syncarpia glomulifera</td>
<td>Turpentine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zelkova serrata ‘Green Vase’</td>
<td>Zelcova</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### b) Footpaths > 3 Metres Wide With Wires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acmena smithii</td>
<td>Lilly Pilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon viminalis ‘Hannah Ray’</td>
<td>Weeping Bottle Brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Callistemon viminalis ‘Kings Park’</td>
<td>‘Weeping Bottle Brush</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eucalyptus ‘Summer Beauty’</td>
<td>Red Flowering Gum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptospermum laevigatum</td>
<td>Coastal Tree Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaeocarpus reticulatus</td>
<td>Blueberry Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fraxinus griffithii</td>
<td>Evergreen Ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagerstroemia indica</td>
<td>Crepe Myrtle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leptospermum petersonii</td>
<td>Lemon Scented Tea Tree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melaleuca ”Revolution Gold”</td>
<td>Gold Paper Bark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metrosideros excelsa ‘Variagata’</td>
<td>Pohutukawa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA – JUNE 2010

Pistacia chinensis
Prunus cerasifera ‘Nigra’
Tibouchina lepidota ‘Alstonville’

**c) Footpaths 1.8 - 3m Wide Without Wires**

Calodendron capense
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Prunus cerasifera ‘Nigra’
Backhousia citriodora
Callistemon ‘Kings Park Special’
Cupaniopsis anacaroides
Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’
Magnolia grandiflora ‘Greenback’
Lagerstroemia indica
Tibouchina lepidota ‘Alstonville’
Tristaniopsis laurina
Eucalyptus ficifolia ‘Summer Beauty’
Pistacia chinensis
Podocarpus elatus
Syzygium leuhmannii
Backhousia citriodora
Eucalyptus heamastomia
Cupaniopsis anacaroides
Melaleuca decora
Jacaranda mimisofolia
Syncarpia glomulifera
Zelkova serrata ‘Green Vase’

**d) Footpaths 1.8 - 3m Wide With Wires**

Acmena smithii
Callistemon viminalis ‘Hannah Ray’
Elaeocarpus reticulatus
Lagerstroemia indica
Prunus ‘Amanogawa’
Prunus cerasifera ‘Oakville Crimson Spire’
Prunus x brilena
Prunus cerasifera ‘Nigra’
Prunus dulcis ‘Purpurea’
Ceratopetalum gummiferum
Fraxinus grifithii
Magnolia x soulangiana
Persoonia levis

**Footpaths less than 1.8 metres Council will not plant street trees due to the fact that there is insufficient room to allow for an adequate tree hole while still maintaining the required path width for disability access.**

51
Figure xx Prunus “Amanogawa” planted in narrow footpath Rofe St Leichhardt with porous tree surround

Figure xxx Avenue planting of Lophostemon confertus planted in the road shoulder in Campbell Ave Lilyfield
7.4 TREES AND PLANTS FOR BUSHLAND AND GREEN WEB CORRIDORS

As part of the ongoing works carried out by the dedicated group of community bushcare volunteers such as Rozelle Bay Community Native Nursery and the Callan park Bushcare Group, a detailed list of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses has been developed. These plants are native indigenous species which are endemic to this area and suited to Leichhardt’s climate and conditions.

When Council is undertaking revegetation works to compliment and enhance the Green Web Corridors, these are the plants which will be used. Where possible, local provenance plants of these species are to be used. With the development of Council’s Community Nursery, Council will be in a better position to develop the plants required to continue this valuable work.

The full list of these species and their characteristics are included in Appendix C.

7.5 TREES IN TOWN CENTRES

Similarly, the following treatments are considered suitable for planting in Town Centres where there may or may not be awnings over the footways.

a) Awnings Over Available Planting Space

When awnings restrict the space available for tree planting in town centre situations, preference will be given to using planter tubs to green these areas. In the case of new developments in town centres, consideration should be given to designing awnings that have cut out sections to accommodate street trees.

b) Without Awnings Over Available Planting Space

- Pyrus Chanticleer: Flowering Pear
- Tristaniopsis laurina: Water Gum
- Lagerstroemia indica: Crepe Myrtle
- Flindersia australia: Flindersia
- Cupaniopsis anacardiodes: Tuckeroo
7.5 TREES IN PARKS AND RESERVES

Preferred species for planting in parks and reserves are detailed in Appendix C as known species for open/closed forest on Hawkesbury Sandstone derived soils, coastal areas.

Taking into consideration the number of parks whose landscape value is heritage listed, Council must be sympathetic to the original landscape design and future plantings must comply with either relevant plans of management or be consistent with the aesthetics of the original design.

Relevance must also be given to the works currently being undertaken by the Friends of the Parks and bushcare volunteers who are using native indigenous plants. These plants provide habitat for birds, reptiles and other invertebrates which are increasingly returning to the inner city. A list of the species that these groups use in their plantings is incorporated in Appendix C.

Design and layout, are detailed considerations not dealt with in this document, however, proposed planting layouts should take into account the fact that planting large trees close to adjoining property boundaries can cause great nuisance and should therefore be avoided. Adjoining residents will be consulted as per section 8 of this policy.

Green Web objectives will be used in parks where corridors can be used to join other green web areas of open space.
7.5.1 Council’s Significant Trees

An important part of the Tree Management Strategy is determining the species to be used in our parks and streetscapes, and in particular, the species to be used as replacements for trees regarded to be of special significance. The list contained in this section will guide future plantings and replacements of significant trees.

Council maintains a register of Significant Trees which are primarily in Council’s parks & reserves. Trees to be listed have been chosen from those already identified as Heritage Items in the LEP 2000, and from the list of Significant Trees identified in the tree inventory currently under development.

To date Council has mapped and located all of the trees considered significant in our major parks and reserves, and a report was presented to, and adopted by, the Environment and Recreation Committee in April 2008.

Trees were considered for inclusion in the Significant Tree Register on the basis of categories of significance such as: outstanding aesthetic significance; outstanding height, trunk circumference or canopy spread; age or venerability; association with important historic events or persons; association with aboriginal activities; status as remnant native vegetation; and other factors that indicate that the tree provides a unique contribution to the landscape. Note that significant trees may be indigenous or exotic, wild or cultivated.

When trees deemed as Significant need to be replaced because of disease, damage or decline, or for reasons of public safety, these trees will be replaced with a tree of suitable species.

Trees currently listed as Heritage Items in the LEP 2000, or listed as Significant Trees in the tree inventory currently under development, range across fourteen species.

The species and suggested replacements are listed below:

- Red Ironbark, *Eucalyptus sideroxylon* – replace with Grey Ironbark, *Eucalyptus paniculata*
- Tallow wood, *Eucalyptus microcorys* - replace with Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera*
- Sydney Blue Gum, *Eucalyptus saligna* - replace with Blackbutt, *Eucalyptus pilularis*
- Spotted Gum, *Corymbia maculata* - replace with Smooth-barked Apple, *Angophora costata* or Forest Red Gum, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*
- Brush Box, *Lophostemon confertus* – replace with Bangalay, *Eucalyptus botryoides*
- Moreton Bay Fig, *Ficus macrophylla* – replace with same
- Port Jackson Fig, *Ficus rubiginosa* – replace with same
- Hill’s Fig, *Ficus macrophylla var. hillii* – replace with Moreton Bay Fig, *Ficus macrophylla* or Port Jackson Fig, *Ficus rubiginosa*
- Canary Island Date Palm, *Phoenix canariensis* – replace with Cabbage-tree Palm, *Livistona australis*
- London Plane Tree, *Platanus x-hybrida* – replace with Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera*
- Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris* – replace with Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera*
- Turpentine, *Syncarpia glomulifera* – replace with same.
- Bangalay, *Eucalyptus botryoides* - replace with same

The trees listed have been chosen as suitable replacements because:

1. they are attractive trees of similar dimensions and, where possible, appearance;
2. they will tolerate a wide range of conditions;
3. they are locally indigenous.

The fig species listed above should not be planted when the fungal pathogens *Armillaria luteobubalina*, *Phytophthera cinnamomi* or *Phellinus noxius* are present in the soil.

Native species will be favoured over exotic species. However, in exceptional cases where heritage considerations dictate that the same species be used as a replacement, then the same species will be planted. Trees that require replacement and that fall under the category of significant or heritage items as identified in Councils LEP 2000 would require a development application to be lodged. This process would then allow for the choice of a replacement species. The adoption of this list will form an important guide to this replacement species selection.

Council has an adopted Significant Tree Management Programme which has a series of works which will be carried out such as hazard reduction pruning, mulching, deep fertiliser treatment and annual monitoring of trees for pests and diseases.

*Figure xx Yellow Box growing in King George Park*
7.6 TREES AROUND COUNCIL BUILDINGS

Council buildings and facilities such as libraries, child care centres, and sporting venues, are subject to high levels of usage by people of all ages. Proposed planting schemes shall take into consideration the potential toxic effects of various tree species when selecting plants for these areas. A list of toxic and poisonous plants not recommended for planting near Council buildings is contained in Appendix.E.

In addition to these general categories species selection shall take into consideration the site specific factors listed below:

- existing environmental and physical constraints such as microclimate
- selection of species which complement the existing landscape
- street orientation
- type of road
- soil type
- noise attenuation
- resident attitudes to street trees

Preferred tree species for planting around Council buildings:

Acer negundo  
Box Elder Maple
Callistemon viminalis ‘Hannah Ray’  
Weeping Bottle Brush
Gordonia axillaris  
Chinese Tea Tree
Lagerstroemia indica  
Crepe Myrtle
Pistacia chinensis  
Chinese Pistachio
Syzygium luehmannii  
Small leaf Water Gum
Ulmus glabra ‘Lutescens’  
Golden Elm
Glochidion fendinandi  
Cheese Tree
Cupaniopsis anacaroides  
Tuckeroo
Pyrus calleryana ‘Chanticleer’  
Chanticleer Pear
Magnolia grandiflora ‘Greenback’  
Magnolia
Lagerstroemia indica  
Crepe Myrtle
Tibouchina lepidota ‘Alstonville’  
Tibouchina
Tristaniopsis laurina  
Watergum
Backhousia citriodora  
Lemon Ironwood
Eucalyptus heamastomia  
Scibbly Gum
Callicoma serratifolia  
Black Wattle

Note: Whilst the trees contained on this lists may be used subject to approval from the relevant Council Officers other species will be considered pending on the site conditions.
7.7 SITE SUITABILITY

Critical to the choice of appropriate and attractive street trees are a number of factors affecting site suitability. These factors include the positioning of the trees in relation to the proposed planting zone and the trees ability to survive the physical constraints imposed upon it. Before tree planting is carried out, it is important to investigate and consider the following:

7.7.1 VISUAL/AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS

a) **Scale**  Choose trees of a scale appropriate to the surrounding urban space.

b) **Evergreen or Deciduous**  Consider light requirements and the effect of leaf litter.

c) **Flowers/Fruit/Berries**  Consider potential problems caused by flowers dropping such as hazardous, slippery pavements, or fruit and berries dropping, including fouling of shop awnings and signage.

7.7.2 FUNCTIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

a) **Overhead Powerlines**  - Choose small or medium sized trees unless Aerial Bundle Cabling is proposed.

b) **Underground Services**  - Ascertain depth and location of any services or drains prior to commencing planting.

c) **Width of Pavement**  – This will determine whether trees can be planted at the suggested location

d) **Soil Depth**  - Ascertain the presence of rock which is a significant factor inhibiting plant growth.

e) **Roots**  - Choose trees which do not have vigorous root systems likely to uplift footpaths and damage property.

e) **Sight Lines**  - Ensure trees are sufficiently set back from driveways, access gates, street corners and roundabouts.

f) **Maintenance**  - Choose trees which require minimal maintenance.

7.8 DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR STREET TREES

The design guidelines which follow form the basis for selection of street trees suitable for planting throughout the Leichhardt Municipality. The Urban Forest Policy will use the information gathered as part of the tree inventory process to identify streets that require programmed tree planting to be undertaken.

This will involve the development of a street by street programme for the sequential removal and replacement of trees in Leichhardt. In the case of streets which contain trees which have been identified in the tree inventory of having little remaining value as street trees and may even be
considered as having potential risk implications will be listed for works earlier than streets which have semi-mature specimens that may not require replacement for decades.

Set out below are the aims and strategies to deal with the on-going management of street trees in the Municipality. These are tailored to deal with the existing scenarios facing the Parks & Streetscapes section when dealing with street trees

7.8.1. PROMINENT QUANTITIES OF EXISTING STREET TREES

a) Aim  Visual continuity and compatibility with existing planting

b) Strategies

- Where there will be no conflict with powerlines, plant trees of the same species.
- Where the existing species can be managed to grow around powerlines with minimal maintenance and minimal loss of form, plant trees of the same species.
- Where existing species cannot co-exist with powerlines, choose a visually compatible alternative.
- Where possible and appropriate, existing tree species may be planted within the road shoulder.
- Plant trees in accordance with Section 6.8 Tree Planting Specification

7.8.2. NO PROMINENT STREET TREE PLANTING EXISTS.

a) Aim  Establishment of a strong new character

b) Strategies

- Street trees to be planted in all suitable locations where no objections have been raised.
- In streets with overhead wires on both sides, small to medium trees are to be planted.
- In streets with overhead wires on one side, only plant large trees on the wire free side unless Aerial Bundle Cables are proposed.
- In streets where there are no overhead wires, appropriate tree species are to be planted.
- Natural or endemic vegetation is to be planted where appropriate and suitable.
- Landmark trees are to be used as street trees along ridge lines and other prominent roads.
- Tree species that reflect the heritage qualities of an area are to be used where appropriate.
- Streets containing existing tree planting in their shoulder are to be retained wherever possible.
Where footpaths are narrow, the possibility of planting medium to large trees in the road shoulder to provide a sense of human scale is to be considered.

Where trees are planted in road shoulders the bitumen is to be replaced with a more porous material and an edge material used which will be flush with the road service.

Tree planting is to be of an appropriate scale to reduce the visual impact of unsightly developments or large pavement areas.

Boundary plantings in parks are to be considered for incorporation into street tree planting schemes.

Groups of trees are to be planted where space permits; for example in road closures and parks.

Plant trees in accordance with Section 6.8 Tree Planting Specification.

7.8.3 CURRENT DOMINANT TREE PLANTING SPECIES IS UNSUITABLE AND NEEDS TO BE REPLACED

a) Aim Replace a streetscape that has declining amenity with a new street tree planting scheme.

b) Strategies:

- Conduct consultation as per Section 7 to determine the manner and timing in which the existing declining street trees are to be sequentially removed and replaced.

- Street trees to be planted in all suitable locations where no objections have been raised.

- In streets with overhead wires on both sides, small to medium trees are to be planted.

- In streets with overhead wires on one side, only plant large trees on the wire free side unless Aerial Bundle Cables are proposed.

- In streets where there are no overhead wires, appropriate tree species are to be planted.

- Natural or endemic vegetation is to be planted where appropriate and suitable.

- Landmark trees are to be used as street trees along ridge lines and other prominent roads.

- Tree species that reflect the heritage qualities of an area are to be used where appropriate.

- Streets containing existing tree planting in their shoulder are to be retained wherever possible.

- Where footpaths are narrow, the possibility of planting medium to large trees in the road shoulder to provide a sense of human scale is to be considered.

- Where this is not possible consideration is to be given to the planting of trees with porous paving surrounds to maximise the footpath area for pedestrians and disabled access.
Where trees are planted in road shoulders the bitumen is to be replaced with a more porous material and an edge material used which will be flush with the road service.

Tree planting is to be of an appropriate scale to reduce the visual impact of unsightly developments or large pavement areas.

Boundary plantings in parks are to be considered for incorporation into street tree planting schemes.

Groups of trees are to be planted where space permits; for example in road closures and parks.

** Preference may be given to including Green Web Corridors to each of these categories.

### 7.9 TRAFFIC DEVICE PLANTING

The increased use of traffic devices such as splinter islands, street planting beds and roundabouts, as well as road narrowing and pavement widening within the Leichhardt Municipality, provides an opportunity to visually enhance the existing streetscape with plantings to help green the Municipality as a whole.

A number of guidelines for the planting of traffic devices have been developed and are listed below. These guidelines aim to ensure the development of planting schemes which provide a unifying element in all traffic calming schemes as well as giving a visual cohesion to a municipality with a mix of development types.

- Where appropriate, low maintenance planting schemes are to be installed in preference to hard pavement surfaces.

- Trees are to be planted on traffic devices only if space is available. Under pruning will be carried out where required to maintain sight distances. Where trees cannot be accommodated, new shrubs and groundcovers are to be planted in these devices.

- Where road narrowing is used as a traffic calming device, planting and other landscaping is to be carried out in the widened footpath if services allow.

- Where appropriate, road closures are to be treated in a similar manner to nearby open space areas to create a visually unified space.

- Consider possible passive recreation functions of road closures and other traffic devices such as the creation of seating areas, and develop if appropriate.

- Tree species should be chosen to integrate with the species in the adjoining street to provide for continuity of the streetscape.
7.10 TREE PLANTING SPECIFICATION

In order to ensure optimal survival and growth rates for newly planted trees, it is important that planting is carried out in accordance with recommended horticultural practices. Guidelines for tree planting are set out below:

a) **Planting Season** - Depending on the level of care available, trees may be planted at any time of year. However, close consideration should be given to the following points:
   - Optimum planting time is spring or early autumn
   - Bare rooted deciduous species may be planted in winter
   - Planting in mid summer will require an additional watering program, thus adding significantly to costs.

b) **Plant Material** - Ensure all plants are vigorous, true to type, well established, hardened off, of good form, free from disease and with large healthy root systems. Trees shall have a single leading shoot. (Natspec) Accreditation

c) **Tree Size** - The minimum size of trees should be:
   - Native Species Tubestock - Bushland, Parkland and Open Space Large Beds
   - 100 litre - Exotic & Native Species Feature Trees - Parkland and Open Space
   - 100 litre - Commercial Areas
   - 45 litre - Residential Areas – Wide footpaths
   - 25 litre – Residential Areas – Narrow Footpaths
   - 5 litre – Parks & Reserves – Non-feature Planting

d) **Rooting Barriers** - Rooting barriers will be installed to a minimum depth of 300mm prior to planting in all full width concrete/asphalt footpaths and mainstreets (see Appendix I) for approved root barrier designs).

e) **Fertilising** – “Terra-cottem” or its equivalent is to be incorporated into the planting medium when planting. Directly after planting, apply slow release fertiliser in accordance with the manufacturers directions.

f) **Watering Dish** - Create a small depression around the base of all single tree plantings to act as a water reservoir.

g) **Staking** - Secure tree loosely to stakes with flexible material, preferably hessian tape or its equivalent, (minimum 25mm wide) wound in “figure of 8” fashion (See Figures 2 & 3 under).
   - Residential areas: 1 Hardwood stake 50 x 50 x 1800mm to be installed on the upwind side of the plant.
   - Commercial areas: 2 Hardwood stakes 50 x 50 x 2400mm to be installed.
   - Larger species installations should require no staking
   - Staking is to be removed after 12 months or earlier if the trees have established well enough.

h) **Additional Considerations** - When planting trees in hard pavement areas, use mulch such as pine bark nuggets or its equivalent, as directed by the Landscape Co-ordinator, around the base of the tree.

   In commercial and industrial situations give consideration to the use of tree guards and grilles when appropriate.
Consideration for water sensitive urban design in all areas where kerb gutter and footpath replacement is been conducted. It also should be considered that as part of this renewal program that whole street replacement be undertaken.

### 7.11 POST PLANTING SPECIFICATION

The development of a comprehensive maintenance strategy for the management of Council-owned trees based on preventative measures is vital. Current tree maintenance practices, based on Council staff reacting to problems as they occur and are reported, are unsatisfactory both from the point of view of Council and the public.

In order to rectify this situation the following measures are to be implemented after new tree plantings have been carried out.

**a) Watering**

Regularly water new trees for at least the first 12 months, particularly during warm, dry periods. During extended dry periods consideration may be given to more mature plantings also receiving water. Area Based Teams will be responsible for the weekly watering of new plantings for the first three months following planting. Then once a fortnight watering until the trees establish. Council will pro-actively seek the cooperation of residents to assist with the watering of newly planted street trees in front of their homes. Council will provide written advice outlining the frequency that these trees should be watered.

**b) Weeding**

Control weeds around new trees for the first 2 years by hand weeding, steam treatment herbicide spraying, and by using mulch.

**c) Fertilising**

Apply a follow up application of fertiliser at the rate recommended by the manufacturer.

**d) Pruning**

Train new tree plantings by pruning lower branches yearly prior to the prime growing period as required, and keep trees to a single trunk where necessary. Sucker growth is to be removed by the Area Based Teams as part of their regular cycle.

**e) Advice**

Council Officers will be available to provide advice on basic tree maintenance procedures such as watering on request.

**f) Replacement**

Replacement of failed plantings - where possible failed plantings will be replaced with the same species.

**g) Stakes**

Stakes are to be removed after 12 months or sooner if the tree has established well.

### 7.12 TREES UNDER POWERLINES

Responsibility for managing trees under powerlines is shared between Council and Energy Australia. Energy Australia is responsible for maintaining adequate clearance between trees and powerlines, for ensuring the safety of the community, and for maintaining a safe and continuous electricity supply to customers.
Council does, however, have a role to play in the management of trees under powerlines. Compilation of the planned Council Tree Inventory will assist Council in formulating preferred management strategies for treatment of existing trees under powerlines and for new tree planting schemes.

As well this inventory will allow Council to ascertain the budgetary requirements to manage these trees. Council can then advise Energy Australia of their preferred treatment for trees including possible removal, replacement, Aerial Bundled Cables, undergrounding, pruning and training, and this information will be considered by Energy Australia in the determination of their future programs.

Council will continue to lobby Energy Australia to underground powerlines so that this disfiguring pruning can be abolished.

7.13 PRUNING PRACTICES

Pruning work on all Council trees shall be restricted to the reduction and elimination of hazards. All pruning work shall be carried out in accordance with approved, professionally accepted arboricultural practices such as AS4373-2007.

**a) Pruning Guidelines** - All pruning work carried out on Council trees should be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Where Council trees are overhanging roadways or footpaths, remove the branches which are adversely affecting traffic or pedestrian inter-visibility.

- Where Council trees are obscuring street lighting or signage, remove the offending branches.

- Where Council trees are overhanging private property, an investigation is to be carried out to establish the extent of the problem, and if appropriate, the offending branches will be removed and regrowth will be monitored to avoid a recurrence of the problem. This pruning will be carried out where the general shape of the tree can be retained.

- Removal of dead or diseased growth which may become a hazard to the public if it was to break off and fall.

- Some acceptable pruning techniques are shown in Figures 4, 5, 6, and 7.

**b) Invalid Reasons for Tree Pruning**

- leaf drop
- a desire for more natural light
- obstruction of views
- shade created by the tree
- fruit and resin drop

In order to control and minimise future pruning requirements, all new trees planted should be shaped from a young age to a single trunk and an upright growth habit. Low lateral branches should gradually be removed to lift the crown and eliminate problems of traffic and pedestrian inter-visibility.
Dense canopy of large tree or tree previously hebbly pruned.

Selected Crown thinning areas canopy and allows light through.
CORRECT PRUNING
USING C.O.D.I.T. PRINCIPLES

Trunk

Don’t cut behind the branch bark ridge

Branch

Branch Collar

Branch Bark Ridge

Chemical protective layer forms in this area

Do cut from outside branch bark ridge

Do not injure or remove branch collar

Source: Harshville City Council, 1991
TREE PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE HINTS

A variety of minor tree surgery tasks can be undertaken by maintenance gangs, however it is essential that the tree work follows proper pruning and treatment procedures if further damage is not to occur.

The identification and treatment of potential problems are essential for a successful maintenance programme to be completed.

(1) Urgent removal required of hanging branches.

(2) Trees infected by flux bacteria require proper pruning and feeding to invigorate and improve health.

(3) Bark wound requiring proper scribing. Paint with suitable wound sealant if desired.

(4) Branch section. Termite and borer attack will be within compartment walls. Treat only if required.

(5) Dead branches to be removed to collar. When removing live or dead branches do not make cut behind branch bark ridge.

(6) Cavities may require filling. Do not clean or break compartment walls. Filling is to provide bridge for closure of wound.

Roots damaged
c) **Council Trees Under Powerlines** - The pruning of Council trees growing under overhead wires is the responsibility of Energy Australia. Energy Australia has developed a set of guidelines for pruning of trees under powerlines, see Appendix J. Council will continue to liaise with Energy Australia in order to get them to modify their current tree pruning practices so they can be more sympathetic to the streetscape.

### 7.14 CYCLIC TREE PRUNING

In the past tree pruning requests have been reactive in nature and were actioned following requests for work from residents, Council staff and elected representatives. This lack of programmed work does make best use of Councils tree management budget and as most requests are one-offs, the cost to carry out these works.

Investigations by Council staff and quotations received from tree contractors have shown that pruning works carried out on a street by street cyclic basis rather than on a reactive one-off request basis could reduce the cost per tree down by 40-50% per tree.

Council in 2008 introduced a cyclic tree maintenance trail in two areas. This was expanded to the remainder of the municipality the following year. Council is now committed to carrying out cyclic tree maintenance every two years.

By carrying out these works in this cyclic manner, a number of tree structural faults are caught at an earlier stage and as such the remedial pruning avoids larger and more complicated and damaging removal of limbs and branches at a later date.

Reactive pruning works will still need to be undertaken however the cyclic tree pruning should, over time, reduce these requests.

### 7.15 ROOT DAMAGE CONTROLS

**a) Damage by Tree Roots** - Tree roots are a source of constant problems in urban situations. The roots are often vigorous and invasive, and poor selection of planting sites can also lead to complications. Surface compaction resulting from poor soil structure and heavy wear causes roots to develop near the surface, searching for water and air.

The most common problem caused by tree roots is the cracking and lifting of kerbing and guttering, and lifting of footpath slabs causing trip hazards. Other problems include damage to building foundations, roots invading stormwater and sewerage pipes through cracks, and roots invading hardstand areas and garden beds making maintenance difficult.

**b) Remedial Work** - Where existing tree roots are causing problems, there are a number of steps which can be taken to contain them:

- Where there is a desire to retain a particular tree that is causing damage, the installation of root barriers should be considered in order to prevent further damage.

- Root pruning will only be carried out after careful consideration has been given to the health, well being and stability of the tree. Root pruning will not be undertaken in mid-summer.

- Where appropriate, consideration should be given to footpath widening and the installation of root barriers adjacent to the new kerb line.
• Where the footpath is subject to damage by tree roots, consideration is to be given to whether a sealed surface is required. Asphalt is more flexible and porous than concrete, and decomposed granite or mulch may also be used where appropriate. Council will investigate the use of alternative surfaces such as wet pour rubber and epoxy bonded porous gravel in the case of significant trees that warrant retention.

c) Removals - Trees which are causing ongoing root problems and on which remedial works have been deemed as not being successful, are to be systematically removed. Authorised Council Staff may grant permission to remove these trees and have them replaced with a more suitable species. Any removals will be carried out only after consultation as per Section 8 is carried out.

An example of a commonly occurring problem tree in the Leichhardt area is Eucalyptus nichollii - Narrow Leaved Peppermint. The inherent characteristics of this species prove its unsuitability for street tree planting. This tree has an extensive root system which has resulted in lifted kerbs and gutters and damaged footpaths, fences, and driveways. It is also a short lived species (around 25 years), prone to dieback in its maturing form and prone to failure in moderate to high winds. In 2005-2006 this species of tree was responsible for numerous damage claims for car and property damage as a result of falling over or limb shear in storm events.

It is therefore recommended that as these types of trees which cause on-going problems and are suffering die back, be removed and replaced with a more suitable species from the species lists in this document.

d) Root Control Guidelines - Listed below are a number of guidelines which are to be implemented to prevent new tree plantings causing damage in the future:

• Provide ample growing space for root systems, keeping trees and structures well apart.
• Prepare large, well aerated planting holes or strips with drainage provided if appropriate.
• Install root barriers parallel to kerbs and footpaths where new trees are to be planted in narrow footpaths. These physical barriers deflect root growth downward and thus minimise damage to nearby structures (See Appendix I).
• Contain the roots of the tree within a given area while still providing for its growth requirements. This can be achieved by providing a larger planting hole to encourage roots to forage for water and nutrients at a lower level.
• Where appropriate, construct root resistant pavements, foundations and pipes.
• Select less damaging tree species, i.e. trees with relatively small and compact root systems.
Figure 1. Planting specifications for Deep Root surround planter (RP 22-30-18).

Rootstop Linear Barrier
Typical Installation

Distance to be determined by a qualified arborist upon site inspection and consideration of species involved.

Note: Top edge must be above finished grade to prevent root migration above barrier.

Trench to be cut and roots to be pruned using industry accepted pruning methods. Trench to be backfilled using max 12mm smooth aggregate.

Depth to be determined by a qualified arborist upon site inspection and consideration of species involved.

Disclaimer: This product is designed to be a barrier to tree roots. However, due to variations in tree species, root and soil conditions, the manufacturer takes no responsibility for failures caused by root growth.
7.16 COMPUTERISED TREE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

a) Background

Leichhardt has been working towards a completely computerised tree management system since the initial GIS street tree inventory was established back in 1996. In 2006 following Council’s decision to establish an Urban Forest Policy a new temporary internal position was established and work commenced on building a new management system.

b) Objective

The objective is to have a system that collects all the existing tree data placed in a tree database called a tree register. This will initially record all street tree information. The system will then look at Council’s park and open space trees. Information on individual private trees will be not be recorded by rather an estimate gained from Council’s GIS system will be included.

This information is raw data or tabular data (that sits in the tree register database.) The next step is to build this information by conducting biennial inspections and to incorporate a computerised risk management system into this process. The next step is to have the tabular information represented spatially or visually on a map called a Global Positioning System and GIS. Following on, this will be linked to Council’s GEAC system for managing all of Councils tree related requests that require management intervention.

Any requests that require decision-making or programmed works to be carried out will be placed in the Arboricultural database. We envisaged the entire system will be interconnected so that the different databases and software worked together to provide a complete Tree Management System.

Finally, the system must be mobile so that officers can do inspections, write reports, photograph trees and link all of this information together into the one request record whilst working in the field. From here it is hoped that the requests could then be transferred from the mobile unit to the main database using a synchronisation process. The Parks & Streetscapes section can then review the recommendation before a works order is sent electronically to the service provider.

c) The Process

• All trees will need to be surveyed every two years and each tree located using Global Information Systems - GIS - software and unique identifying numbers. Detailed information and risk analysis information will be collected for each tree and where appropriate, as in the case of trees which are programmed to be removed and replaced, several digital photos are linked to the tree record.

• All tree data will be stored on a tree register. The tabular data can be viewed by using Global Information Systems. In practice this means that every tree can be viewed on the computer screen by clicking a particular tree icon. The search functions enable the Parks & Streetscapes section to locate a tree and all its unique information, including digital photos and records of previous works within seconds. The tree register is linked to the Arboricultural database and GIS.

• Resident requests will be divided into two categories; those that are very straight forward and do not require management intervention, which are sent directly to the service provider via our GEAC customer service system; and those that require management intervention and decision-making by the Parks & Streetscapes section and the Manager – Parks & Streetscapes. The requests that are sent directly to the service provider will be tracked and managed using clearly defined auditing processes. The auditing and measurement processes ensure that the resident requests are completed within the agreed time frame. If for some reason requests are not completed on time the system alerts us to this fact so that remedial action can be taken.
• All requests that will be handled by the internal team are acknowledged in writing so that the customer knows the request has been received and the length of time required to complete the task.

• The Parks & Streetscapes section uses mobile computers and a process of synchronisation to do field inspections for resident requests that require careful consideration. This mobile system has GPS capabilities that can be used to navigate and locate each service request. The mobile system could have report writing functions and digital photo recording that is linked to the unique tree identifier. The field officer is able to complete the request and provide a final recommendation.

• When the day’s inspections have been completed the work can be downloaded into the main office system via synchronisation. Finally, the officer responsible for processing requests will review the recommendation and complete the process. If the work involves the removal of a tree a notification letter will be sent to surrounding residents and a notice placed on the tree. If no objections are received the works order will be sent to the service provider electronically and the request is closed. If objections are received the officer will review the objections and discuss the reasons given and make a final decision. In some cases the officer will involve the manager in order to reach a solution.

d) Outcome

The implementation of this program has the potential to reduce the administrative processing time by a substantial amount. The need to use paper can also be reduced. The data, tree report information and digital photo link to the tree icon will allow the Parks & Streetscapes section staff to look up the details of each request within seconds and view the report and photo whilst talking to the resident. Each tree now will have a complete service history that is linked to the unique identifying number for each tree.

e) The Future

There will always be ways to improve these systems and we are committed to a process of review for this system as for all of our procedures and policies. Specifically, we would like to enable our contractors to report maintenance works in real time via hand held computers. The system has this capability but will need to be refined and tested before it can be implemented. The mid to long-term goal is to integrate the Arboricultural system with Council’s Customer Service System. This goal is currently being considered.
ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION COMMITTEE
OPERATION GUIDELINES

1. **Date & Time**
   - First Wednesday of every second month commencing in February.
   - 6:30pm – 8.30pm. The timing of the meeting can be extended by vote on the night.

2. **Location**
   - Leichhardt Town Hall Supper Room

3. **Chair**
   - Elected by Councillors and as determined

4. **Quorum**
   - Two Councillors (including chair)
   - In the absence of a quorum at the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting, it is proposed that the meeting proceed as long as one (1) Councillor is present (ERC10/05).

5. **Time period to wait for Quorum**
   - 30 minutes from starting time of meeting

6. **Councillor and Staff Attendance**
   - 4 Councillors
   - Manager Environment & Urban Planning and/or
   - Senior Environment Officer, Environment Officer
   - Senior Recreation Planner, Recreation Officer

7. **Community Representation**
   - Participation by community members, representatives of local community organisations and government agencies is to be actively encouraged.

8. **Decision made by Committee**
   - Decisions are made by majority vote of Councillors and community representatives.
   - Where a vote is tied the Chair shall exercise a casting vote.
   - Committee meeting minutes, including all decisions made by the Committee shall be referred to a meeting of Council to be endorsed.
   - Following the absence of a quorum at the Committee meeting, the Committee Agenda will be reported to the Ordinary Council meeting as a supplementary item (ERC10/05).

9. **Agenda and Report Availability**
   - Agendas and reports will be circulated to committee members by mail in the week prior to meeting.
   - Agendas and reports will be made available to the public 7 days prior to the meeting.

10. **Conflict of Interest**
    - At the commencement of each meeting the chairperson will ask all persons present to declare any conflicts of interest in relation to any items on the agenda. The chairperson will determine what action should be taken if such a conflict.