



## **Attachments to Agenda**

### **Parks and Reserves Committee Meeting**

To be held on  
Wednesday, 9 September 2015



01/12/14

Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup  
PO Box 94  
Donnybrook WA 6239

Attention: Luisa Dale

RE: ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT – BIRDWOOD PARK AVENUE OF HONOUR -  
BALINGUP

## ARBORICULTURAL ASSESSMENT – BIRDWOOD PARK AVENUE OF HONOUR - BALINGUP

Prepared for the Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup

PREPARED BY: Brett Moir

Dip. Hort (Arboriculture)  
Quantified Tree Risk Assessment –  
Licensed User No: 3417

PO Box 5227, West Busselton WA 6280  
PH: 08 9755 4361 | MOB: 0488 119 051  
E: [brett@arborguy.com.au](mailto:brett@arborguy.com.au)

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**1.0 Introduction****1.1 Overview & Scope of Works**

In May 2014 I was contacted by Wayne Irvine on behalf of the Balingup Lions Club. The Lions Club have invested considerable time and effort in fundraising for and carrying out restoration works within the Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour and the Memorial Gardens.

Wayne was specifically contacting me to seek advice on ways to mitigate the observed poor health and structure of some of the trees in the Avenue. I provided the Lions Club with a quotation to provide an Arboricultural Report on these trees and the Shire of Donnybrook/Balingup have agreed to cover the cost of this report.

On 18/11/14 I received a purchase order from the shire and began work on the project.

The intention of this report is to:

- Provide an overview of the health and structural condition of the trees.
- Determine any site or tree constraints on tree health
- Propose strategies and recommendations to counter and/or improve site constraints.
- Determine the risk of harm associated with these trees.

**1.2 Methodology**

A site inspection was undertaken on 26/11/14 comprising a ground-based Visual Tree Assessment (VTA). Minor excavations were undertaken across the site to determine soil conditions and investigate belowground tree parts.

Risk analysis was undertaken using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method.

All measurements for tree heights and trunk diameters are approximated.

## 2.0 What is Tree Risk Assessment

### 2.1 Visual Tree Assessment

The assessing arborist uses his skill, experience and knowledge to locate any visual abnormalities upon or surrounding the subject trees. VTA interprets the body language of trees, linking internal defects to the tree's own repair-structures, confirming and measuring these defects, and finally assessing them with failure criteria, and from this, deducing measures for the 'therapy' of the tree. Accordingly trees that are only apparently dangerous should be distinguished from those that are really dangerous, thus avoiding unnecessary fellings and accidents caused by tree failure.

VTA comprises the assessment of predictable symptoms associated with tree failures and / or tree disorders that culminate to form visual tree condition. This process is accepted by professional arborists as being a first measure in the assessment and management of urban trees.

The assessment is conducted visually from ground level or under binocular view. In order to achieve clear viewing the assessor may initiate clearance of vines or plant clutter from around tree base, upon tree main stems, within main branch unions or other key locations prior to conducting the assessment itself. Hand tools and data recording equipment are commonly employed during VTA.

In the event the VTA process is deemed by as being insufficient in determination of a trees condition then further measures of an exploratory or investigative nature may be recommended. Employment of specialist tools, sophisticated measuring instruments and laboratory-based analysis are a few of the investigative activities that may be adopted by the assessor as additional diagnostic tools in support of VTA.