

26. ECO-INFO -- CONSULTING ARBORIST REPORTS

Edited 21/12/01

This Eco-Info guideline lists the minimum required for the preparation of a consultant's report to:

- a) accompany an application for development which will affect trees, where requested by Council; or,
- b) support an application for tree removal, where requested by Council.

When should an arborist be consulted?

- ? Prior to and during design of the development.
- ? During site works including clearing, earthworks and service installation to ensure tree protection measures are implemented and maintained.

Choosing an arborist

Council recommends choosing a qualified and experienced person to prepare an arborist report. The minimum qualification recommended is the *Certificate of Horticulture*, including the *Arboriculture elective* or interstate equivalent, and preferably five years experience in diagnosing and reporting.

The consulting arborist should be familiar with state legislation regarding trees and tree clearing and Council Development Control Plans (DCPs), including the Tree Management DCP 14. It is recommended that the report format should follow the "Guide for Report Writing for Consulting Arborists" (International Society of Arboriculture).

INFORMATION REQUIRED

- ? Name, address, telephone number, qualifications and experience of the arborist carrying out the inspection and reporting.
- ? Address of the site containing the trees.
- ? Who commissioned the report, and why.
- ? What the report examines.
- ? The methods and/or techniques used in the inspection.
- ? Summary and date of the inspection.

- ? A plan, to scale, accurately showing the location of the trees on the subject site and any on adjoining land which may be affected by the development. Tree protection zones, lot boundaries, proposed development including services, driveways, and any alteration to existing surface levels should also be shown on this plan.

- ? A table setting out for each tree, the scientific name, age class, height, trunk diameter at 1.4 metres, canopy spread, health, condition, and estimated safe useful life expectancy.

- ? A discussion on the information collected - which may include details of wildlife hollows, tree structure/weaknesses, root form/distribution, pests and diseases, and/or a Tree Hazard Assessment.

- ? Supporting evidence such as photographs and laboratory results, where relevant, to confirm presence of soil pathogens or support soil assessment.

- ? Details of proposed replacement plantings and landscaping, and soil remediation.

- ? Tree protection measures and a post-construction tree maintenance program which can be used as conditions of development consent should the development be approved.

- ? Sources of information must be included when they are referred to in the report.

- Any additional matters that are relevant.

If you have any questions regarding this Eco-Info Sheet, please contact Council's Customer Service Staff on (02) 4350 5555.
