

**ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
28 JULY 2008**

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

PETITION 1	RECOMENDATION FOR PETITION STREET TREES ALMA ROAD
LOCATION/ADDRESS:	ALMA ROAD
RESPONSIBLE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:	DAVID YEOUART, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMUNITY ASSET SERVICES
AUTHOR:	DWAYNE CARTER, COORDINATOR PARKS SERVICES
FILE NO.:	S1184/08

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report is being presented to council as information arising from a petition to be tabled at council 28 July 2008 relating to Street Trees in Alma Road. The petition relates to proposed streetscape renewal works planned for Alma Road and specifically questions the tree selection and asks for Chinese Elms to be planted in place of the Magnolia trees proposed.

2. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 2.1. A response was forwarded 2 July 2008 to the petition as follows:-

*Council has received a petition signed by 34 residents for planting Chinese elms – *Ulmus parvifolia* as an alternative street tree for Alma Road. The proposed street tree is *Magnolia grandiflora* “St.Mary’s”*

Magnolia grandiflora “St.Mary’s” was selected after consideration of the following site conditions:

- *Overhead power lines- present along the entire length of Alma Road.*
- *Narrow footpath and/or grass nature strip.*
- *Proximity of buildings to property boundary and impact of street trees on foundations.*
- *Canopy spread and optimal performance of the tree in restricted space.*

The Chinese Elm, while being a beautiful semi-deciduous tree is unsuitable for Alma Road as it grows to a height of 12-13 meters, 5 meters above the height of the overhead power lines. The wide-spreading canopy of the Chinese elm would be restricted in areas where buildings are situated close to the property boundary. There are areas of Alma Road that could accommodate a Chinese Elm, however to plant them along only one side of the street would contribute to an inconsistent and “lopsided” streetscape.

*Where space permits; street corners without power lines, central median islands and in the widened footpath along Alma Park, a taller-growing tree is proposed - *Gleditsia triacanthos* “Limegold”. This tree has fine, pinnate, lime-green deciduous foliage to contrast with the dark evergreen foliage and white flowers of the Magnolia.*

There was feedback from one petitioner – Ms Livia Bonazzi – following the above advice.

A subsequent meeting was held 22 July between the Coordinator Parks Services and Ms Bonazzi to discuss council's selection. This meeting was very productive with Ms Bonazzi being provided with a greater understanding as to the choice of species.

At this meeting, there was also discussion on whether or not an opportunity to develop a central median strip that could accommodate much larger trees.

The Coordinator Parks Services has undertaken to explore this opportunity with council's traffic engineer. A report will be provided to Ms Bonazzi on the outcome of this investigation.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. That council continues with the streetscape upgrade of Alma Road by planting *Magnolia grandiflora* and *Gleditsia tricanthos*.
- 3.2. That council explores the opportunity to plant larger trees in Alma Road in the future as part of a new median strip.