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ADVERTISED PLAN



Tree Consultants & Contractors

4/Dec/19

SJB Planning
Attn. Kate Foldi

re: 346-350 Macaulay Road, Kensington

Introduction

In accordance with recent City of Melbourne Urban Forestry Comments from Phillip Russell to Markus Tschech dated 14/Nov/19, Galbraith and Associates undertook non root destructive exploratory hydro trenching opposite trees 1290317 (elm) and 1290316 (paper bark). The purpose of the exploration was to determine the root loss to the trees which would ensue as a result of constructing the 400mm deep cantilevered slab, as depicted in Section 3 of drawing No. TP07.01 Rev 5.

Methodology

Each trench was dug to a depth of 400-500mm depth at 75cm north of the southerly property line within what is currently a garden bed at the front of the building supporting a row of Pittosporum 'James Sterling'. The line of the trenches emulated the proposed southerly extent of any excavation necessary for the building. In this case it is for the cantilevered slab.

Opposite the elm, the trench was 11m long, beginning at the main vehicular entry into the site then heading east at 75cm from the road frontage.

The second trench was 4.5m long, 75cm from the street frontage and 2.25m east and west of the trunk centre of the paper bark.

Observations

Opposite each tree for the entire lengths of the trenches there was a hard layer of concrete or rock at mainly 400-500mm depth, but sometimes shallower.

At the western end of trench 1 opposite the elm, the depth of the underlying concrete graded up to approximately 150mm below grade. Very few roots of the elm were found. This may either be due to them being at much greater depth and beneath the concrete/rock layer, or alternatively the hard submerged layer has prevented any root growth into the subject site. Only one strand of elm roots were encountered, the largest being 40mm thick (see photos at page 3).

A similar storey applied opposite the paper bark. No paper bark roots were encountered down to the impenetrable layer at 400-500mm depth.

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Photos
The overlapping photos on pages 7-6 are of trench 1 and are in sequence from west to east, while those on pages 8-9 are of trench 2 in sequence from west to east.



Tree 1290317 (elm) with the trench

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Contextual view of the trench and elm trunk.



The largest roots of the elm found are arrowed.

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Rock



Surface Pittosporum roots

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East end of the trench opposite the elm.

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The yellow line represents the extent of trench 1.



Tree 1290316 (paper bark).

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The yellow line represents the extent of trench 2.



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part of a planning process under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

The excavation within the garden bed opposite the trees within 75cm of the road frontage.

Further excavation within 75cm of the road frontage, there will be no root loss of significance to either tree so long as there is no excavation deeper than 500mm or deeper than the base of the submerged layer of concrete and rock. There will be no root development of any significance beneath the footprint of the existing building because of the root impediment effect of the foundations.

Thus the building can be constructed as proposed according to the current plans, without causing significant root loss or impact on the health of the two trees.

GALBRAITH & ASSOCIATES

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