

Attachment 3 - Arboricultural Report Jardine Park



Jardine Park Eucalyptus Trees – Tree Report

Date of Report:	Friday 16 th December 2022
Date of Inspection:	Tuesday 15 th November 2022
Prepared By:	Tim Errington – QLDC Arborist
RFS Reference No:	TR22/0400
QLDC Tree Reference No:	202207-04

Introduction

The Kelvin Heights Croquet Club have raised concern regarding the condition and suitability of a group of Eucalyptus trees that are growing close to the croquet club green.

Description – Site & Trees

Jardine Park is a council reserve identified as a Community Park. It is located at the Western portion of the Kelvin Peninsula and has been subject to recent significant change as a result of a storm event that resulted in the loss of a large area of established conifer trees, these trees have since been replaced with native plantings. The immediate area also accommodates the Wakatipu Reforestation Trust HQ and associated plant nursery.

The croquet club have identified the Eucalyptus trees as a nuisance and potentially dangerous. These exotic broadleaf trees form a row of eight trees adjacent to the South-Western boundary that divides the croquet club green from the adjoining conifer plantation.

Arboricultural Assessment & Findings

The Eucalyptus trees are at a mature stage of their development and have attained an average height in excess of 20 meters. The presence of the nearby conifer plantation has given the Eucalyptus trees the benefit of a degree of shelter from the South-Westerly winds. In addition, due to the proximity of the conifer plantation, the Eucalyptus trees have formed very few branches on the aspect that faces the conifer trees due to competition for light and instead have formed the majority of their crown on the North-East side as light is plentiful on this aspect.

Of note, the Eucalyptus trees have been interplanted with Western Red Cedar trees which are still at a relatively juvenile stage of their development.

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A ground level visual assessment of the subject eight Eucalyptus trees identified no obvious issues regarding their health, vigour, structural condition or root environment. It is notable that the trees contain very little deadwood throughout their crowns, a likely indication of good health and the availability of necessary resources.

I am aware that it is proposed to eventually remove the section of conifer plantation directly to the South-West of the Eucalyptus trees, therefore exposing these trees to increased wind loading. However, when considering the open nature of the crowns and the unlimited root environment, I do not consider that this would increase the risk of complete tree failure beyond what is considered tolerable.

QTRA Assessment

On completion of my QTRA assessment of the row of Eucalyptus trees, I concluded the risk of harm to be <1/1 million which equates to a risk threshold of 'Broadly Acceptable'.

The target value has been identified as:

- Target 2
- Size 1
- Probability of Failure (PoF) 6

2022 QLDC Tree Policy

The tree policy does not generally support the removal of established healthy, structurally sound trees. There is one policy that may be considered relevant when considering the requested removal of the Eucalyptus trees:

4.18

Other - Requests for removal of tree(s) due to other issues will only be approved under exceptional circumstances and will be required to meet all the criteria below:

- The issue caused by the tree has a significant effect on the applicant's day to day living
- The tree is the sole cause of the issue
- The issue is not able to be mitigated through general maintenance by the applicant (e.g., clearing gutters of leaves)
- The issue caused by the tree cannot be mitigated by pruning
- No reasonable engineering solution can mitigate the issue caused by the tree.

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Conclusions

I am of the opinion that there is no justification to remove the Eucalyptus trees based on their health, vigour or structural condition.

Should the croquet club wish to pursue the removal of these trees, I suggest that the club assess their request against the 2022 QLDC Tree Policy and take their request to the Community and Services Committee for a decision as recommended in the QLDC Tree Policy.

Photographs



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