



Ref: HER/2001/001389, H2073, P9639

Level 7
8 Nicholson Street
East Melbourne 3002
Telephone (03) 9637 9475
Facsimile (03) 9637 9503
www.heritage.vic.gov.au

12 February 2006

Mr Brian Walsh
22A Fellows Street
KEW VIC 3102

Dear Mr Walsh

Re: Kew Residential Services Site – Bishops Pine and Tree Protection works

I write further to my letter of 22 January 2006 in relation to the above matters.

I advise that due to the continuing deteriorating condition of the Bishops Pine, Galbraith & Associates were again requested by Kew Residential Services to inspect the tree and provide advice and further recommendations. I enclose a copy of the response from Galbraith & Associates dated 6 February 2006. I have been advised that Mr Ian Smith will be inspecting the tree this week.

In relation to the tree protection works, I am advised that Tree protection fencing is 95% complete to Vegetation Protection Order and Heritage trees within Stage 1 and approximately 40% to other trees. The completion of the fencing is expected within two weeks. This work will be complete prior to full scale demolition commencing.

I trust this additional information on the current situation on site is of assistance, but do not hesitate to contact Ray Osborne on 9637 9495.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Tonkin', written over a faint circular stamp.

RAY TONKIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

cc:

- Helen Lardner, HLCD Pty Ltd
- John Ball, Walker Corporation
- Peter Anderson, DSE Regional Office, Box Hill
- National Trust
- City of Boroondara



Tree Consultants & Contractors
40 Glyndon Road, Camberwell 3124
Tel (03) 9888 5214
Fax (03) 9888 5063

6/Feb/06

Srini Vasam
Deputy Manager
Ancillary Services
Kew Residential Services
P.O. Box 15
Kew, Vic. 3101

cc John Ball
Walker Corporation

Dear Sir,

re: Bishop's Pine at Kew Cottages

Introduction

Since writing a report on this tree on the 15/Jan/06, Kew Residential Services has requested Galbraith and Associates to re-inspect the tree on concerns it has declined further. As a result I inspected the tree again on the 3/Feb/06. The following is a report on my observations and recommendations.

Observations

Since my last inspection of this tree on the 12/Jan/06, the condition of the Bishop's Pine has deteriorated significantly. The foliage on virtually the whole of the northerly side of the canopy has now browned off, as well as on approximately 40% of the canopy elsewhere. I again probed the soil north of the tree. In the previous report I had recommended irrigation its northerly side where the soil was found to be dry. The soil here was certainly more moist than at the time of the original inspection, although heavy rain had recently fallen. No other changes had appeared to have occurred around the tree than was noticed last time.

Conclusions

It seems more apparent to me the tree is being affected by a pathogen or abiotic agent not obvious from a visual inspection. The recent extremely hot days with north winds have probably tipped this already stressed tree over the edge. An old canker exuding resin at the base of the trunk may be a symptom of a fungal infection such as Diplodia canker. The possibility of root loss due to the cleaning of a blocked sewer is still there, however I have not been able to get much idea as to how close the pipe goes to the

Bishop's Pine. The inspection points are up to 30m from the tree, suggesting this cause is less likely.

Recommendations

Make sure the recommendations as made in my original report are followed. Arrange for Ian Smith, the forest pathologist for the Centre for Forest Tree Technology which is part of the Department of Sustainability and Environment, to inspect the tree. Soil and foliar analyses, as well as bark pathogen tests, may be recommended by Ian after the initial inspection.

Yours faithfully,
GALBRAITH & ASSOCIATES



Rob Galbraith
B.For.Sci.(Melb.)
N.C.H.(Arb.)(U.K.)