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VICTORIA

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Ref: HER/2001/001389, H2073, P9639

5 July 2006

Mr Brian Walsh
22A Fellows Street
KEW VIC 3102

Dear Mr Walsh

Re: Kew Residential Services Site

I refer to the recent telephone discussion and electronic communication and enclose for your information a copy of a letter from the Department of Infrastructure dated 14 June 2006, and attachments.

I have not included a copy of the Tree Management Plan and the Management Plan for *Pc* which accompanied this letter as I understand KCC already have copies of these documents.

I also attach for KCC's information a revised copy of the Management Plan for *Pc*, received this week from Walkers. I have been advised that testing across the site for *Pc* began last Friday, 30 June 2006.

Yours sincerely

RAY TONKIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Department of Infrastructure

14 June 2006

Major Projects Victoria
Level 18
80 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000
Telephone (03) 9655 8622
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Our Ref:

Ray Osborne
Assistant Director, Operations
Heritage Victoria
Level 7, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Mr Osborne

KEW RESIDENTIAL SERVICES – REMOVAL OF BISHOP PINE

I refer to discussions with you on 4 May 2006 in relation to the removal of the Bishop Pine, located on Lower Drive on the Kew Residential Services site. As requested in your email of 4 May 2006, I provide the following information:

1. Information on any other trees on the site that Kew Cottages Coalition (KCC) alleged are suffering dieback and proposed actions

Enclosed is the Arboricultural Management Plan prepared by Galbraith & Associates. This plan identifies every tree on the site, their condition, measurements and recommends maintenance treatments. This includes information on trees identified by KCC.

2. Details of the Phytophthora Cinnamomi (PC) Management Plan and its implementation across the site prior to any further construction works on site
The PC Management Plan forms part of the overall Arboricultural Management Plan referred to above, and forms part of the submission to Heritage Victoria as required under permit condition 3 of the Stage 1 Heritage Permit. Both reports are attached.

No new works have commenced on site to date. The PC Management Plan will be in place and will form part of Walkers' contractor's induction and works documentation prior to any new works commencing on site.

3. Current status of the overall tree management plan

The first stage of works was undertaken throughout February/March 2006 in accordance with the maintenance requirements set out in the attached report prepared by Galbraith & Associates. These works included extensive hand watering, dead wood removal, clearance and weight reduction pruning, possum isolation and cable bolting. As part of the overall tree management strategy, annual inspections will be taking place to ensure any change in the tree condition is identified and acted upon promptly. KRS frequently liaises with Galbraith & Associates to review tree condition and undertake maintenance when required outside of the maintenance strategy scope.

4. Details of other proactive tree works on the site

The enclosed paper prepared by landscape architects MDG, provides an insight into the extent of tree management and proactive works Walker Corporation has embarked upon since the original planning for the site.

5. Information on the removal of the Bishop Pine and proposals for a replacement tree

After consideration of advice and recommendations received from Ian Smith and ENSPEC, it is proposed that the Bishop Pine be removed as soon as possible. The PC Management Plan outlines how the works should be carried out, which Walker Corporation will adhere to. Also enclosed is a job method statement prepared by Galbraith & Associates which specifies exact work methods for the tree's removal. Walker Corporation is happy to consider planting a replacement tree, providing that the conditions of the site will be suitable for this particular species to be replanted, considering its susceptibility to the fungus.

I trust that this satisfies your requirements.

Yours sincerely



David Hodge
Project Director
Major Projects Victoria

cc. Mr Peter Anderson
Manager Planning and Development
DSE Regional Office - Port Phillip
Locked Bag 3000
BOX HILL VIC 3128

cc. Phil Storer
Planning Director
City of Boroondara
8 Inglesby Road
CAMBERWELL VIC 3124



4th June 2006

Luke McKie
Walker Corporation Pty. Ltd.
Level 7; 60 Collins Street,
Melbourne 3000

Dear Luke,

Re: Tree Removal Information – Kew Cottages (Bishop Pine).

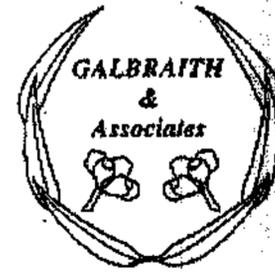
Further to my review of the various relevant documents in regard to this matter, I have made some brief comments in regard to a removal process for the tree in question.

- The infected tree (Bishop Pine) is now dead and should be removed.
- While there is some minor concern regarding the removal process spreading Phytophthora on the site, this would appear to be extremely unlikely where the above ground portions of the tree is concerned.
- The trunk and upper canopy can be chipped and either utilised on site or transported to a public tip site for disposal. As stated above, it is extremely unlikely that any part of the above ground portion of this tree will carry any Phytophthora spores.
- The stump of this tree can either be left in situ or can be ground. Regardless of stump removal or not, the area should be drenched (well wetted with infiltration of solution into soil) with a 1% solution of Phytoclean®.

I hope this clarifies the issues with the tree in question however should there be any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

GLENN WATERS
Director/Consulting Arborist



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

13 June 2006

Mr Edgar Elksmith
Walker Corporation
PO Box 248
Prahran, Vic 3181 Fax 9521 5047

Dear Sir,

re: Removal of Bishop's Pine in Relation to Phytophthora Containment

Task

The Bishops Pine at Kew Residential Services is to be removed, and the stump ground out. The following is the job method statement (JMS) with respect to Phytophthora root rot management. Two references upon which I base this JMS are by Glen Waters of Treelogic Pty. Ltd, namely:

- *Tree Removal Information – Kew Cottages (Bishop Pine)*, dated 4/June/06
- *Phytophthora cinamomi Management Plan for Kew Cottages, Kew*, dated May 2006.

Tree Removal

To be undertaken according to the job method statement for tree removal dated 13/6/06.

Mulching

To be undertaken according to the job method statement for mulching, dated 30/3/06. All the branch mulch is to be removed from the site, except a minor amount to be placed in the crater left by the removed stump.

Wood Removal

Branches too large to be mulched are to be placed in a hopper(s) and removed from the site. The bulk of the trunk will be cut into two logs, winched onto a modified tow truck, chained down and removed from the site.

Grinding of Stump

To be undertaken according to the job method statement for stump grinding.

Phytophthora Containment

All the vehicles associated with the tree removal process are to remain on the designated sealed drives and car parks, thus avoiding soil contact.

The tree is located in a heavily mulched area, the soil beneath of which has been found to contain Phytophthora. This soil was subjected to inundation with the disinfectant Ridomil in March 2006.

It is only the stump grinder which may come into contact with the soil.

Sterilising of the sections of the stump grinder in contact with the soil around the Bishop Pine will be undertaken using a 2% solution of Phytoclean. When the grinding has been undertaken, all parts of the machine in contact with the soil will be wiped clean using rags or tissues soaked in the Phytoclean solution, whilst the machine is next to the ground out stump. The cleaning materials will then be placed in plastic bags and disposed of appropriately away from the site.

The grindings will then be dug out and carted away. The hole and the mulched area around it will be soaked in Phytoclean solution. Some chips from the mulched tree will be put back into the hole.



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13 June 2006

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Dear Sir,

re: Tree Removal – Job Method Statement

Tasks

The tree(s) ear marked for removal can be either straight felled, then cut up and remove, or, more commonly, have to dismantled in size before they are small enough to be felled into the space available.

Tree Felling

When felling a tree, the faller has to be sure the tree will fall in the right direction into the space available without causing damage to personnel or property. If this cannot be achieved, then the tree may have to be dismantled by gaining access to the aerial parts of the tree (see below).

In order to minimise the risks in tree felling

- the faller must be experienced and educated in the type of task at hand
- the lean direction and wind direction and velocities must be noted
- it must be ascertained that the space available in which to fell the tree is sufficiently large to accommodate the falling tree without damaging any people or property in the process
- the site within the radius of the tree height must be clear of personnel
- the proposed felling direction must be decided upon
- the need for the use of felling aids such as ropes, wedges, winches and vehicles is assessed and acted upon if any doubt exists as to the necessity for these aids.

After felling,

The trees are accessed for removal by three methods. These are:

1. From the ground using an extendable pole saw device

2. By climbing the tree using rope and harness method, often with the aid of climbing spurs attached to the lower leg and ankles.
3. From an elevated platform.

Some of the hazards and the steps taken to minimize the hazards for each of the three methods are as follows:

Remover using pole saws (this method is used for small trees)

The two main risks associated with this method are:

1. The branches being pruned fall onto people or damage property
2. The remover gets electrocuted by touching naked conductors with the pole saw.

In order to minimize the chances of these risks materializing, the following steps need to be undertaken:

1. Cordon off the drop zone with signs and witches hats and keep people clear from the drop zone during the pruning operation.
2. Ensure the remover and grounds man/men are wearing hard hats
3. The remover must avoid cutting sections directly above his head and must be able to deflect the branch or sections thereof away from himself or valuable property
4. The remover must not use a conducting pole saw when pruning near naked live electrical conductors.

Remover using rope and harness method for access to the tree

The main risks of this method, and the ways to minimize them are as follows:

- *the climber/remover falling from the tree.* To minimize this risk the remover accesses and climbs through the tree in a manner in which he is fastened securely to one or more sturdy parts of the tree at all times. The point of attachment is such that it is sufficient to support his weight and arrest his fall, should a failure of the section on which he is positioned fails. His anchor point must be chosen such that it minimizes his amount of drop but also allows him to transfer sufficient weight to the anchor point, rather than the branch he may be leaning on. He wears a harness which is connected to the tree via ropes and karabiners. The equipment and fastenings are checked regularly.
- *the climber/remover dropping something from the tree on people or property* The drop zone should be cordoned off with signs and witches hats and people kept clear from the drop zone during the removal operation by the grounds men. Where there is a risk of falling branches damaging property, the branches can be lowered using a rope to the ground, or thrown clear of impediments where it is judged safe to do so by the climber. Both the climber and the grounds men must be alert at all times for people or vehicles nearby and strong and regular communication between the two must be in place and encouraged. Ensure the climber and grounds man are wearing hard hats

- *the climber and or grounds man being cut by a chainsaw*
Only climbers who are familiar with both climbing and using chainsaws can do both at the same time. Grounds men can only use chainsaws after adequate training in their safe use and are set tasks commensurate with their skill.
- *the remover falls the tree or log onto people or property*

Pruning from an elevated work platform (EVP)

The main risks of this method, and the ways to minimize them are as follows:

- *Operator poor judgement.* Employ an operator experienced in tree work and the use of his machine.
- *EVP failure* Use an EVP with appropriate ticketing. Set up the EVP on flat firm land.
- *Falling out of the Bucket* Stay attached to the bucket at all times with full body harness and lanyard.
- *Electrocution* Maintain the appropriate distances from naked live electrical conductors.

Signed (staff and sub-contractors to Galbraith and Associates)