



Department of Planning and Community Development

File: PL-HE/03/0291 [1-9], P10367

13 November 2008

Mr David A Pym
6 Wills St,
Kew, Vic 3101

Dear Mr Pym

Re: Temporary Sales Office, Kew Cottages site – Tree issues

I thank you for your email and attachments of 22 October 2008 in relation to the above matter.

I can confirm that the site was inspected by Walker's arborist Galbraith & Associates, prior to the preparation of the brief report, which assessed that the siting of the Sales office was having no impact on the adjacent trees.

You are correct that one of the trees, an Algerian Oak (Tree No. 20) west of the Sales Office is not in good condition. The tree was inspected on Tuesday 28 October 2008 by Galbraith's, and Heritage Victoria's horticulturalist. All conclude that the health of the tree is unrelated to the siting of the Sales office, which is 11 m from the tree and well outside the 6 m root protection zone for the tree. It was noted that trees closer to the Sales Office are in good condition.

Records from early January 2006, which pre-date the construction of the Sales Office, indicated that this tree was in relatively poor health, under stress, due to drought conditions, and in decline. In March 2006 some dead wood was removed from the tree.

The tree has continued to die back, suggesting it is still in decline. Treatments to minimise the decline have been included in the Arboricultural Management Plan for Stage 2 of the development. These include irrigation, which I understand has commenced, spraying the grass around the tree, mulching, and possum control. Other works will be reviewed in due course.

If you wish to discuss this matter, do not hesitate to contact Ray Osborne, Director, Operations on 9637 9495 or ray.osborne@dpcd.vic.gov.au

Yours sincerely

Ray Tonkin
Executive Director

Level 7
8 Nicholson street
East Melbourne Victoria 3002
Telephone: 9637-9475
Facsimile: 9637-9503
www.heritage.vic.gov.au