



John Fulbrook MP

MEMBER FOR PLAYFORD

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Submission from John Fulbrook MP: Tree Canopy

Eucalyptus Sideroxylon (Black Ironbark, Ironbark, Mugga Ironbark, Red Ironbark, Red Flowering Ironbark) was readily planted within the City of Salisbury during the 1980s and 90s. It originates from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria and has thrived along Council verges and parks. Today, there are many local examples of specimens classified as either being *regulated* or *significant* trees.

While recognised the species was planted locally with the best of intentions, it appears this was done without consideration of the long-term consequences. Its success as a species has led to problematic outcomes within suburbs such as Salisbury Downs, Paralowie and Parafield Gardens.

As a quick growing species, it can reach heights of 25-35 metres with an 8-metre spread in streetscapes. Trees are tolerant to a wide range of soil conditions including drought and can be attributed to the following local problems:

- Damage to roads, kerbing and footpaths
- Structural damage to privately owned driveways, houses and sheds
- Destruction of stormwater pipes, water and sewerage mains
- Large falling tree limbs
- Inability to establish lawns and other smaller plant species

By nature it is a very thirsty species, making it difficult to establish lawns and gardens in areas overlapping its root structure. Subsequently, there are many examples within the City of Salisbury where residents are limited in their ability to establish front gardens.



Its root structure is considered aggressive, which has plagued the City of Salisbury, utility providers and homeowners in damage caused to driveways, houses and underground pipes. Understandably, many residents are aggrieved at the high cost to repair damage to their property from trees growing on Council land, with the problem exacerbated by existing rules that prevent removal of a problematic tree.

Given the large size of the species, the risk of falling limbs is heightened, particularly during warmer months. This presents a significant risk on both a safety front and is also a threat to private investments such as fences, sheds and houses. The adverse effects cannot be understated emotionally, but also economically in context to higher insurance costs and replacement for damage caused by falling debris.

While its ability to provide meaningful tree canopy cannot be disputed, it is not a native species to the Adelaide Plains region. Given this and the destruction the species is causing, it is inappropriate to have blanket protections against removal based only on size.

Residents within the City of Salisbury are by and large in support of having a healthy, vibrant tree canopy that provides both shelter and attracts wildlife. Unfortunately, *Eucalyptus Sideroxylon* is an example of the wrong type of tree species growing in the wrong place.

In recognition of the value of tree canopy to the City of Salisbury, it is proposed that when a *Eucalyptus Sideroxylon* specimen:

- Presents a danger to either to the public or private citizens, **or**
- is causing substantial damage to either public infrastructure or household property,
 - **Then**, approval may be granted for its removal, on condition that:
 - It be replaced with an appropriate tree species near to where the removed tree once stood, **and**
 - (If removed from Council land) an additional tree be planted within a separate public land holding.

While it is recognised this proposal presents a short to medium term loss of canopy, over the longer term it will lead to an overall increase, while eliminating the issues caused by the species.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Fulbrook', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

John Fulbrook MP
Member for Playford