

DTI:Planning Review

From: Denise Benz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2022 8:10 AM
To: DTI:Planning Review
Subject: Planning Review - Tree Submission Within the City of Salisbury

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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I strongly support the push to remove Ironbark trees from our public lands.

Approximate ten years during a brief but fierce storm a small tornado hit our street. My husband watched it race diagonally across the road to our property, ripping out an establish 1800mm high shrub, going over our home & removing many tiles off the house behind ours.

As the storm ended, he and our then teenage daughter went out to survey the damage. Walking on the footpath outside our next door neighbours home he heard a loud "crack" & grabbed our daughter's hand & ran.

A large limb from the Ironbark tree landed centimetres behind them.

Had they not ran my husband has little doubt they both would have been injured, or worse.

He called the Council the following morning to advise them of the incident & close call.

To our knowledge no action was taken.

Imagine if that call was the catalyst to remove the Ironbark trees in our community, & replace them with more appropriate trees.

They would now be a number of years old & well established.

Also, we are aware of a recent incident where an Ironbark tree, during a storm caused significant damage to a home & fence in Shirley Avenue Parafield Gardens.

Over the past 26 years residing in our current home, on our regular walks throughout our neighbourhood we often notice fallen limbs from Ironbark trees. We often have our two year old grandsons with us on these walks, & we are petrified as to what could happen if one of these tress fail whilst walking near one.

In support of my submission I also include the following details...

Eucalyptus Sideroxylon was widely planted within the City of Salisbury during the 1980s and 90s. Native to eastern Australia, the species has thrived locally, with many specimens now classified as either being *regulated* or *significanttrees*.

As a relatively quick grower capable of reaching 30 metres in height, it can cause:

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

It's a very thirsty tree, making it difficult to establish lawns and gardens in areas overlapping its root structure. There are many examples within the City of Salisbury where residents are unable to establish front gardens.

Its root structure is considered aggressive. Local trees have caused damage to driveways, houses and underground pipes. Many residents have paid high costs to repair damage to their property from trees growing on Council land – but existing rules often prevent removal of the tree.

Given the large size of the species, the risk of falling limbs is increased, particularly during warmer months. This threatens personal safety and risks damage to fences, sheds and houses. Insurance can be expensive to obtain, and the costs of damage can be high.

Given the destruction *Eucalyptus Sideroxylon* is causing, especially as a non-native species, it is not appropriate to have automatic protections against its removal based purely on its size.

Residents within the City of Salisbury want a healthy, vibrant tree canopy that provides shade and supports wildlife. Unfortunately, *Eucalyptus Sideroxylon* is an example of the wrong tree species growing in the wrong place.

I call for change to reflect that when a *Eucalyptus Sideroxylon* specimen:

- Presents a danger either to the public or to private citizens, or
- is causing substantial damage to either public infrastructure or private 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 this may create a short to medium term loss of canopy, over the long term it could increase canopy, as well as improve public safety and tree quality.

Kind regards

Denise Benz

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]