

Bottle Tree, Main Street, Alstonville



**13.1 Notice of Motion - Bottle Tree Removal.DOC**



## 13.1 Notice of Motion - Bottle Tree Removal.DOC

Prepared by Integral Tree Care for Ballina Shire Council

### Arborist report on Brachychiton rupestris for Ballina Shire Council 16th of December 2017

#### Introduction:

Integral Tree Care was requested by Ballina Shire Council (BSC) to provide an Arborist report on a Brachychiton rupestris (Queensland bottle tree) located in the nature strip beside Ballina Rd, Alstonville. A site visit and tree inspection were carried out on the 7/12/2017 by Consulting Arborist Mark Gistitin over a period of about 30 minutes. This inspection was prompted by concerns of the tree's structural stability and health. The weather was fine with light winds.

#### Methodology:

Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was made from ground level which was used to determine vigour, condition and structural integrity. VTA observes such things as Pathogens/Rots, Mechanical damage, Deadwood, Structural issues, Twig Dieback, Leaf size and colour. The inspection was limited to non-invasive methods and all observations were made from the ground. Distances are all approximations.

#### Observations:

Location – Located between Ballina Road and the adjacent footpath.

Roots – Recent work to footpath has cut roots and undermined tree on southern side of tree. The northern side of the roots are heaving the ground. Normal ground level mark on trunk now about 50 mm above ground level. (See Photo 1)

Trunk/s – On 15 % lean. (See Photo 2)

Crown/Branches – Moderate. Dieback through southern part of crown. (See Photo 2)

Leaves – Density lower than normal.

Dimensions	Tree #
Height	7 m
Canopy spread	7 m
DBH	1200 mm
Age range	Mature
Aspect	North

Table 1.

#### QTRA inputs.

Tree #	Target/s	Size	Probability of failure
1	(2) Pedestrian – 72/hr – 8/hr	(1) >450 mm	(1)1/1 – 1/10

Table 2.

#### Conclusions:

The QTRA Risk of harm is 0.04 (High) due to a combination of the partial failure in the root crown, its lean over the foot path and the usage of the foot path. The footpath is a regular route used daily by children to and from school.

The damage to the trees' root crown was affecting its' structural stability so severely that it led to the primary failure of the tree. Once tree failure like in this case is initiated complete failure is typically seen in the near future with the risk of contact with a target being intolerable to the tree owner.

#### Recommendations:

Remove tree.

## 13.1 Notice of Motion - Bottle Tree Removal.DOC

Prepared by Integral Tree Care for Ballina Shire Council

### References:

- Mattheck, C. & Breloer, H. (1994). *The Body Language of Trees: A Handbook for Failure Analysis*. The Stationary Office, London.

- *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management*. D. Lonsdale. 1999

### Disclaimer:

It must be acknowledged that trees are biodynamic organisms that constantly change throughout their existence, increasing in size, complexity and ecological importance as they age. They can be adversely affected by pests, extreme weather conditions or the activity of humans: Regular inspections should be undertaken in order to monitor trees health, and to make suitable management proposals in order to ensure maintenance of a continued healthy urban forest.

While I take all care in preparing this report, I can take no responsibility for the continuing vitality of the trees that are assessed, or for any damage that they might cause in the future. I cannot be held responsible if damage occurs, or if tree health deteriorates as a result of a failure to implement the recommended protective measures, or from poor management practices that might occur in the future.



Photo 1

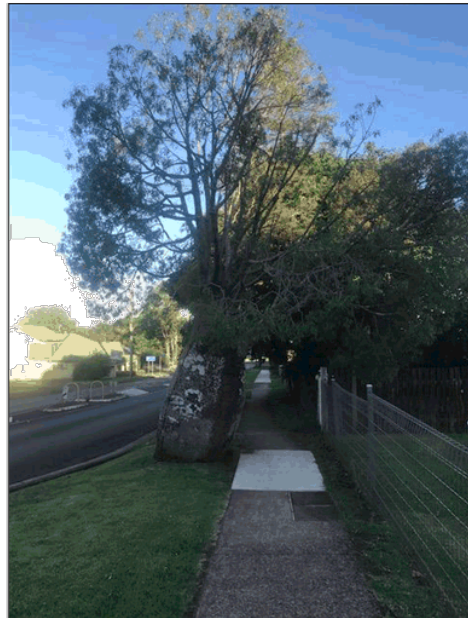


Photo 2

Project Arborist:  
Mark Gistitin Dip. Arb