

5.1 Notice of Motion - Castle Drive - Fig Tree.DOC

29 April 2018

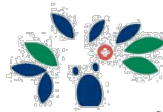
Councillor David Wright
Mayor
Ballina Shire Council
Cherry St
Ballina NSW 2478

THE TREE DOCTOR

8 GOODENIA STREET
EVERTON HILLS 4022
QLD AUSTRALIA

TELEPHONE
07 3855 2855

EMAIL
TREES@THETREEDOCTOR.COM
BON 22 423 758 331



L#1766

Dear Sir,

re: Request from Friends of the Tree

I have been requested by the "Friends of the Tree" to provide my thoughts on the effects of the tree on the adjacent dwelling on Castle Drive.

They are as follows:

1. The tree pre-dates the dwelling by many decades
2. The presence of the tree should have been considered during design of the dwelling but obviously wasn't.
3. The dwelling is built on a "cut and fill" platform with the front/street side of the dwelling being constructed on fill.
4. The corner of the dwelling located, adjacent to the tree, exhibits obvious damage to the structure
5. The damage is consistent with that caused by subsidence or slumping of the fill under the structure. Subsidence is not a result of root presence. Subsidence is a result of poor engineering, design and or construction.
6. Figs have a robust root system and would be expected to be present under and around the dwelling due to its proximity to the tree.
7. The presence of roots which may cause damage is a result of the failure to maintain the property under the common law "Right of Abatement".
8. The presence of roots in drains and sewers is a result of poor design and maintenance. Roots can only enter pipes where the pipes leak, usually a result of poor installation.

At this time the primary cause of the damage is poor design, engineering and construction which to a point has been exaggerated by the tree. Removal of the tree will not solve the issues of poor design and engineering.

Likewise, removal of the tree will not compound the damage as the roots present do not rot to form voids, roots decay to form a high organic content soil

At this time, I am of the opinion that the tree should be retained and root control measures implemented under the supervision of a qualified arborist.



5.1 **Notice of Motion - Castle Drive - Fig Tree.DOC**

The removal of a significant, community and urban asset cannot be justified on the basis of poor design and substandard maintenance practices.

Should you have any queries, or if we can be of further assistance, please contact our office by phoning *3855 2855* or via email at *trees@thetreedoc.com*

Yours faithfully
The Tree Doctor



Adam Tom BSc Grad Dip Hort Sc Dip Arb MISA MAA
Principal Consultant
ISA Certified Arborist AU-0101A
Licensed QTRA Assessor #846
ISA TRAQ Certified