

**Sandra Bailey**

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**From:** Councillor David Wright  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 April 2018 7:37 AM  
**To:** Paul Hickey  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ficus tree

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Damian Jones <damian@airwalktreeservices.com.au>  
**Date:** 25 April 2018 at 6:33:23 pm AEST  
**To:** <david.wright@ballina.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Ficus tree

Good Morning David,

Was good to communicate via text messaging on the weekend regarding the *Ficus macrophylla* at 7 Castle Drive Lennox Head.

I spoke to a Ballina Council representative today about the impending removal and technical details of the alleged damage.

I commend council for not permitting future development close to the other Ficus trees in the shire.

Tree roots do not have enough turgid cell pressure to lift a house nor will they grow into concrete, the cell pressure is 125 psi. The roots will occupy spaces with air and water, the tree roots have grown into the cracks which occur when houses move due to soil movements or poor construction. Really, the residents will benefit from council fixing their house under council's insurance.

I urge you to delay the scheduled removal of this tree and explore further installing a root barrier control system within the resident's property with annual inspections performed to ensure the roots are contained. I am confident I could install an appropriate system at council's request and given permission from the residents. In addition, apply treatments to the soil to inhibit root growth near the barrier.

The installation of the barrier and scheduled inspections for 10 years would cost less than the amount to remove the tree.

The subject tree is a significant mature tree which is probably and approximately 150 years old. The ecosystem services provided are numerous, as well as supporting wildlife on a coastal strip with heavy development. These trees help to link coastal vegetation to the hinterland vegetation and are valuable to wildlife.

Historically we have planned poorly our urban developments, not leaving room for trees and urban forests. People are happier and healthier close to trees. Our health and happiness is of primary importance. We must plan our developments so we can coexist with trees and nature, we are starting to and recognising the importance of being close to nature.

This tree is important to the local community and environment, it would be a shame to lose it when we need the opposite, we need more trees.

I would be more than happy to meet with council and the resident to resolve this issue. Sometimes it just takes the right person to resolve matters like this. I'm sure they are frustrated and want the matter finalised with a positive result.



Kind Regards

Damian Jones

Managing Arborist (AQF level 5 dip hort/arb)

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