

REVISED TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Re-assessment of *Araucaria columnaris* (Cook Island Pine)

Located at: 62-64 Beachcrest Rd WELLINGTON POINT QLD 4160



Prepared for Redland City Council

By

**Ken Folkes
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7 May 2013

Reference Number VPO3

Property Number 8267

Introduction

Since the original tree assessment carried out on 27 March 2013, an inquiry was forwarded to Council by a concerned resident asking what all the red clay was that had been spread around the base of the Cook Island Pine.

This was investigated on 3 May 2013. A site meeting was had with the new property owner and the status of the tree was discussed. When asked where the red dirt spread around the base of the tree had come from, the property owner advised that Council had come in and dug a 'huge' trench on his property alongside the tree for the purpose of a sewer connection or alignment. When asked how deep the trench was, the property owner said he could stand in it and his head was about level with the ground. The red clay over spoil was littered with ripped pieces of root, indicating damage had been done to the root zone. When asked where the trench was located, it was shown by the property owner to be approximately 4.5 metres from the trunk of the tree and equally as long. The property owner did not know who spread the stockpiled spoil but believed it was the previous owner next door.

Conclusion

The previous tree assessment did not include this type of irreversible and potentially structurally weakening root damage.

As the trench has been dug within the root zone and close to the structural root zone, and filled in, it is difficult to assess the impact and extent of damage done to the primary and secondary roots of this tree.

There is also evidence that work has been done by others around the base of the tree as the brick edging has been removed and piled elsewhere. It is possible that excavation has occurred at this location that would also account for the roots.

Without accurate information, it is impossible to determine the extent of root damage and whether it was caused by the trenching, or by the removal of the brick edging. At this stage it can only be assumed that damage to both primary and secondary roots has occurred, rendering the tree potentially unstable and at risk of failure, or at least with declining health. Even with minor root damage, these trees can become unstable due to their intolerance to root interference.

It is not within the scope of this tree assessment report to recommend the retention of a tree with this type of uncertainty. Further investigation is required to determine the origins of the root pieces visible in the spread soil and the extent of the root damage caused.

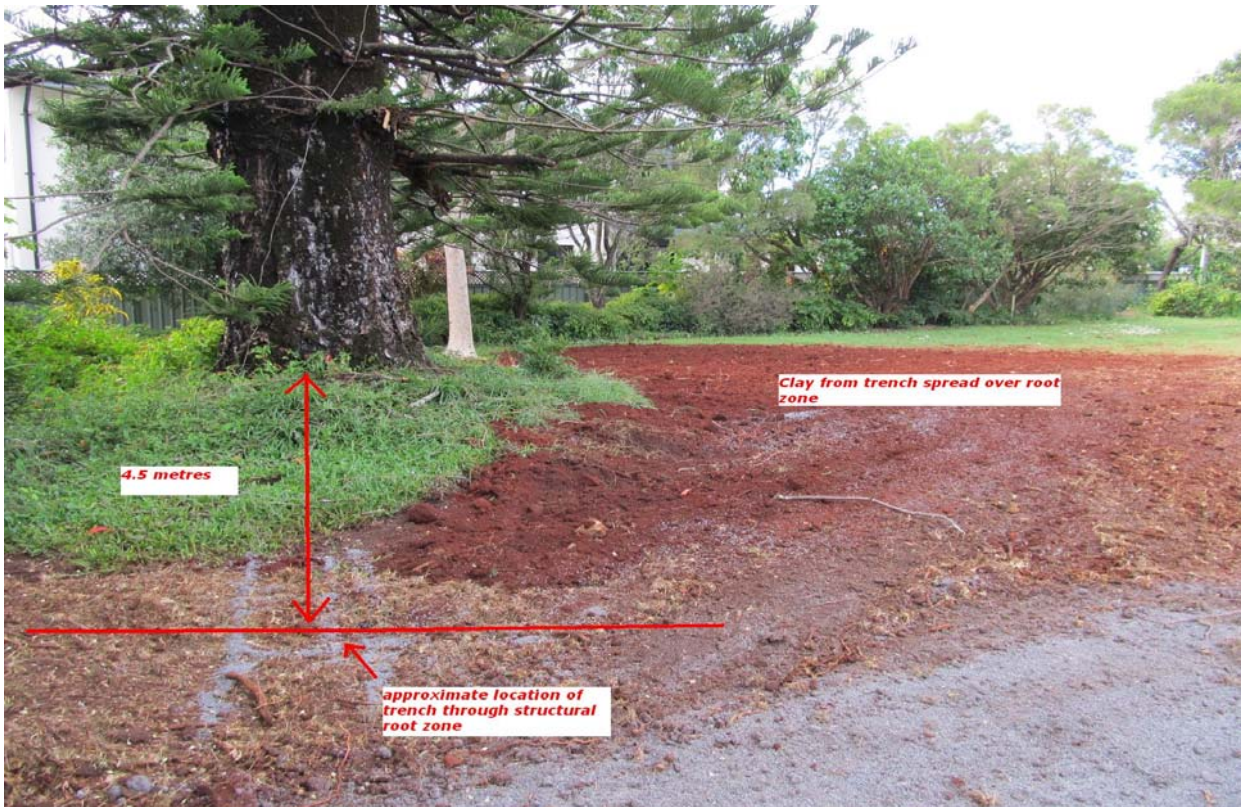
Recommendations:

- **Further investigation is carried out to determine extent of root damage; and**
- **The property owner, engage an independent Arborist to undertake an assessment of the tree and root zone.**

Appendix A – photographs



Photograph 1 showing clay over spoil from trench spread around base of tree



Photograph 2 (location of trench as suggested by property owner)