

Stephen Jakubiw
Project Manager, Toga Group
Level 5, 45 Jones Street
ULTIMO NSW 2007

28 June, 2012

Dear Mr. Jakubiw,

**Excavation impacts on trees – Building B, 120 – 128 Herring Road,
Macquarie Park.**



**TREE MANAGEMENT
CONSULTING ARBORICULTURISTS
HORTICULTURISTS
LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS**

I refer to the recent removal of three (3) trees identified for retention at 120-128 Herring Road, Macquarie Park.

The trees are all *Eucalyptus punctata* (Grey Gum) identified as Trees 21, 22 and 23 ("the trees") in the development application documentation and subsequent development consent LDA2011/0626, dated 16 January 2012, issued by City of Ryde Council.

On 28 May, 2012 I attended the site to supervise works to determine the presence of woody anchor roots within the approved excavation footprint adjacent to the trees. I recommended this root mapping as it was clear from the approved excavation footprint that the actual excavation (for safe construction access) would extend at least another 2 – 3m towards the trees.

Excavation was approximately 2m adjacent to the trees and extending parallel to the trees for approximately 10m. The excavation was generally around 300mm deep, increasing to 1m depth where roots were identified. At least two (2) roots of between 50 – 100mm diameters and six (6) roots of 30 – 45mm diameters per tree were encountered (Plate 1).

As discussed with you, I had concerns regarding the stability of these trees (and their vigour) as these roots would be cut for the approved excavation. My advice at that time was to proceed with the approved excavation under my supervision and, depending on whether more woody roots were encountered we could determine their retention status.

14 June, 2012 I attended the site to supervise the excavation for the approved building, adjacent to the trees.

As noted, I had concerns after the preliminary root mapping that these trees would be severely affected by the approved excavation.

The majority of woody roots between 30 – 100mm diameters were found in the first 1m depth, although two or three were noted at around 1.4m. Another four (4) roots of approximately 100 – 120mm diameters were encountered, along with a large number of roots between 30 – 80mm diameters. I stopped counting after reaching one hundred (100) of these smaller woody roots.

This root cutting, combined with the recent approved removal of many trees to the west (which would have buffered winds and afforded some protection to the subject trees) has, in my opinion, significantly affected the stability of the trees, and the risk of tree failure as a consequence is too great to ignore.

Taking into account the site will be occupied for eighteen months or more while construction of the approved building and landscaping is undertaken, the safety of the site workers and visitors is the major priority.

It was my considered decision to recommend the trees be removed in their entirety as soon as possible to ensure the work site was safe to continue the approved works.

Should you require further assistance with this matter, or require my liaison with Council officers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Catriona Mackenzie

Consulting arboriculturist, horticulturist and landscape designer.

Certificate of Horticulture *Honours*

Diploma of Horticulture (Arboriculture) *Distinction*

Associate Diploma of Applied Science (Landscape) *Distinction*

Member of the Australian Institute of Horticulture

Member of the International Society of Arboriculture

Founding Member of the Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists ACM0052003

Accredited member of
**INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIAN
I A C A**
CONSULTING ARBORICULTURISTS

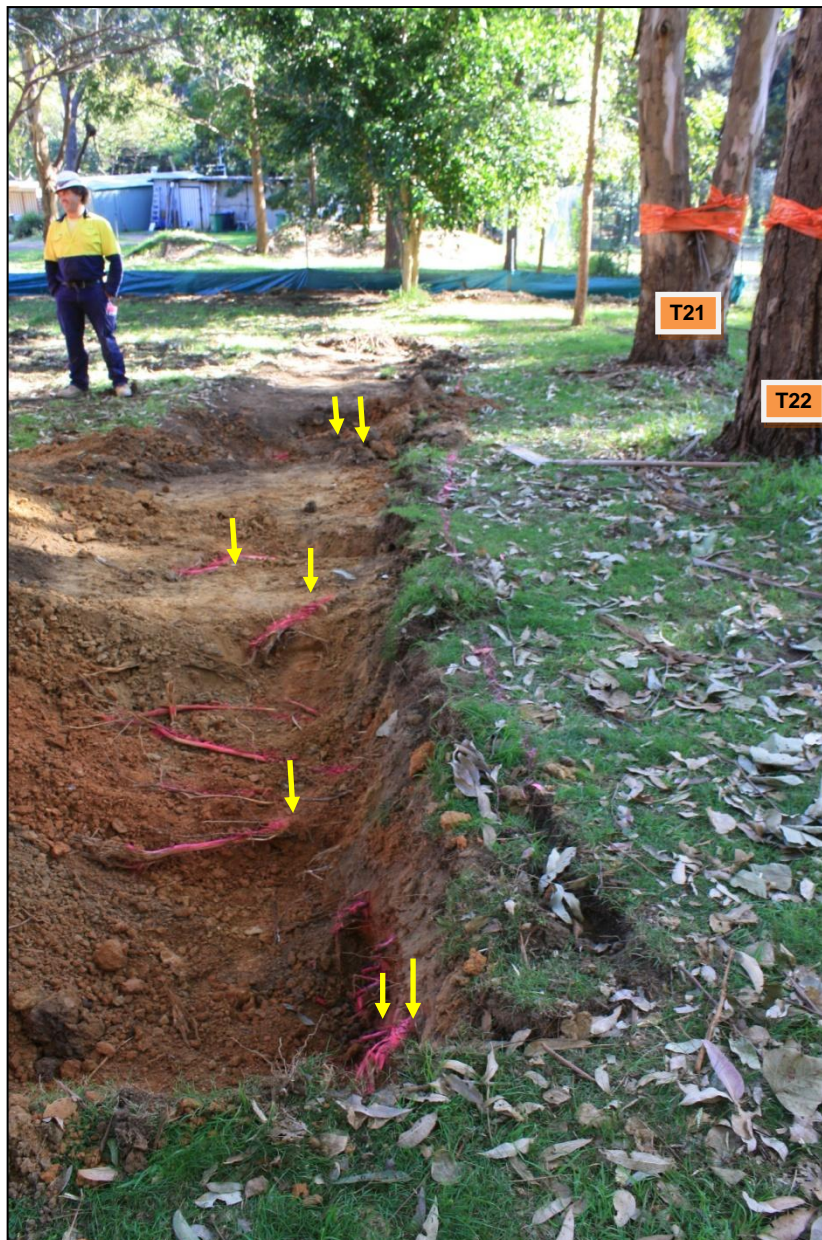


Plate 1 (left)

Shows the root mapping undertaken on 25/05/12 to expose roots of 50 – 100mm diameters (arrowed). The excavations were approximately 2m opposite each tree. Trench depth varies (depending on where roots were encountered), between 0.4 – 1m depths. (T23 out of frame to right)

Plate 2 (below)

Topsoil (A1 horizon) variable, approx. 100 – 200mm depth.

Clay loam (A2 horizon) variable, approx. 200 – 400mm depth.

B1 horizon medium to heavy clay tending to plastic, impermeable at bottom of trench (about 0.9 – 1m depth).

Note roots from T23 (arrowed) of approx. 70mm diameters and several smaller woody roots to left, approx. 30mm diameters.

