

1 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE - Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roy Maggio**File Number:** CLM/15/1/4/10 - BP15/211

In answering the following question posed at the Council Meeting (10 February 2015):-

What are the key contributing factors that prompted the need to totally rewrite the Tree Preservation (Section 9.5) of the Development Control Plan?,

It was noted that the following response was provided:-

“the re-write of the document gave Council an opportunity to address issues raised by the community as well as administrative issues around inconsistencies within the document, unnecessary paperwork and lengthy and complicated assessment process”.

Question 1:

What were the specific issues raised by the community that informed the rewrite?

Answer 1:

As outlined in the report to Council at its meeting of 28 February 2012, the following issues were raised by the community:

- The planning document was hard to read and did not provide clear direction to the community on how to manage trees on their land
- The community was asked to apply for removal of any tree and deadwood pruning, even those on exempted species list
- The time it took to process tree applications was excessive (over 12 weeks).

Question 2:

What were the identified administrative issues around inconsistencies within the document?

Answer 2:

- Clarity around trees on heritage listed properties or on significant trees register
- Clarity around exempt species list and process
- Clarity and consistency around review process
- Clarity around Australian Standards and how they apply to tree management

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE 1 (continued)Question 3:

What was the extent of the unnecessary paperwork and lengthy and complicated assessment process?

Answer 3:

- At the time, the average tree applications processing time was well in excess of 12 weeks. As a result of the revised DCP, the tree application processing time has been reduced to 4 – 6 weeks.
- The requirement for residents to lodge the Notice of Intent for exempt species was the key contributor to unnecessary paperwork and complicated assessment process. The removal of this process enabled staff time to focus on this processing of tree applications for other trees that require assessment (those not on the exempt species list).
- In addition, the requirement for residents to lodge the Notice of Intent for deadwood pruning was removed.