

Wednesday 1 July 2015

## **HIGH PRICE OF TREE VANDALISM**

Over the weekend (June 27-28), five newly planted trees and ten tree guards along Abuklea Road, Marsfield, between Herring Road and Kingsford Street, were vandalised.

The Banksia and Eucalyptus trees that were planted as part of the Council's ongoing Street Tree Planting Program were severely damaged, making them unfit for replanting.

City of Ryde Mayor, Cllr Bill Pickering, said it was disappointing to see the wilful destruction of the environment. "Tree vandalism imposes a significant financial burden on local ratepayers and impacts our natural environment.

"In this instance, the loss to Council funds in tree stock alone is in excess of \$3000 and unfortunately there are no available funds to replace the vandalised trees.

"Council will do everything to identify the perpetrators of the crime," he said.

Residents of Abuklea Street have been notified by mail informing them of the vandalism and requesting any information that may assist in prosecuting the person or persons carrying out these illegal activities.

Two weeks ago, trees in Acacia Avenue, Putney, were destroyed in a similar attack by vandals. The total damage bill is estimated at \$1000.

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