

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

**REPORT TITLE:** HEYWOOD PARK TREE RISK MANAGEMENT  
**ITEM NUMBER:** 3  
**DATE OF MEETING:** 24 NOVEMBER 2014  
**AUTHOR:** TREVOR STEIN  
**JOB TITLE:** SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE SPECIALIST  
**RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:** JOHN DEVINE  
**JOB TITLE:** GENERAL MANAGER ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE  
**COMMUNITY GOAL:** 4.3 - Functional open-green space throughout the City of Unley.  
**REPRESENTOR/S:** Nil  
**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. HEYWOOD PARK – RECOMMENDED TREE REMOVAL SUMMARY
2. HEYWOOD PARK – PROPOSED REGULATED & SIGNIFICANT TREE REMOVALS
3. HEYWOOD PARK – LOCATION PLAN – PROPOSED REGULATED & SIGNIFICANT TREE REMOVALS

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## **PURPOSE**

To provide Council with advance notice on impending maintenance pruning and tree removal in Heywood Park as part of the Tree Risk Remediation Implementation Project.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**MOVED:**  
**SECONDED:**

That:

1. The report be received.
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## **BACKGROUND**

Heywood Park (Addiscombe Place, Unley Park) is a significant park within the City of Unley. The park offers a wide range of play activities for all ages, the opportunity for passive recreation and regularly hosts high profile events. The park is one of the few natural settings within the Council area and home to the last remaining Grey Box trees (*Eucalyptus microcarpa*) on the Adelaide Plains. Many of the trees in the park are remnant and pre-date European settlement.

In the past few years there have been some significant tree failures within the park which have raised concerns within the Administration as to the overall health and condition of the trees and the associated risk for park users. Council has a duty of care to ensure parks within the City are as safe as reasonably possible for users.

The frequency and significance of some of these failures has prompted Council to undertake a detailed risk assessment of the trees within the park as a precursor to developing a tree management plan. The risk assessment has identified a number of trees which require some reasonably urgent attention.

In response to a New Initiative request during the 2014/15 budget process, Council allocated \$50 000 to undertake a Tree Risk Remediation Implementation Program within Heywood Park. The Administration has sought and been provided with detailed independent arborist advice which recommends the removal of numerous trees within the park including some which are Regulated and Significant (in accordance with the *Development Act 1993*).

This report is intended to provide forewarning to Council that works will shortly commence on this programmed risk remediation program.

## **DISCUSSION**

The independent arborist report has identified forty (40) trees for removal from within the park (Attachment 1 to Item 3/14). While some of the reasons given for removal are related to health and condition, many are associated with current and potential risk issues in the future. A full copy of the independent report including individual tree assessments will be available in the Elected Members Room.

*Attachment 1*

A further comprehensive tree audit and subsequent report has identified trees for maintenance pruning. It is Council's intension to undertake pruning works as part of this project.

While most of the trees recommended for removal are reasonably insignificant and will have minimal impact to the park, there are nine (9) trees which are either Regulated or Significant (in accordance with the *Development Act 1993*).

The definition of a Regulated Tree is:

*Any tree in metropolitan Adelaide and/or townships in the Adelaide Hills Council or parts of the Mount Barker Council with a trunk circumference of 2.0m or more measured at a point 1.0m above natural ground level (in the case of trees with multiple trunks, it is those with trunks with a total circumference of 2.0m or more and an average circumference of 625mm or more measured at a point 1.0m above natural ground level).*

A Significant Tree is the same as a Regulated Tree apart from the fact that the circumference is 3.0m or more measured at a point 1.0m above natural ground level (in the case of trees with multiple trunks, it is those with trunks with a total circumference of 3.0m or more and an average circumference of 625mm or more measured at a point 1.0m above natural ground level).

It is the intended removal of these nine Regulated and Significant Trees (5 - Regulated & 4 - Significant) which is likely to have the largest impact on the amenity of the park and cause the most concern from neighbouring residents, property owners and park users (Attachments 2 and 3 to Item 3/14). In particular the three Eucalyptus leucoxylon (SA Blue Gum) near the Grove Street and Addiscombe Place junction (Tree #s 42, 45 & 46) will leave a significant gap within the park once they are removed. These three trees present with significant structural defects.

*Attachments 2 & 3*

Initial concerns identified that one of these trees (Tree # 45) if retained would require the relocation of play equipment nearby. A major limb from this tree was within the fall zone of the playground. Detailed diagnostic works identified the need for removal of the tree, thus eliminating any risk to playground users.

It is possible that the removal of the larger trees in the park will offer opportunities to establish natural fauna nesting sites. The Administration intends to look for these opportunities at the time of removal and if necessary seek specialised zoological advice to assist in determining appropriate fauna outcomes.

Regulated and Significant tree removals require either delegated Planning (Regulated Trees) or Development Assessment Panel (DAP) (Significant Trees) approval. It is the Administration's intention to lodge applications for removal before the end of the current calendar year. The Development Act requires neighbouring affected properties to be notified of the impending removals of Significant and Regulated trees.

Apart from the formalised requirements for tree removal notifications it is the Administration's intention that a wider mail out to properties near Heywood Park occur providing a detailed outline of works to be undertaken and specify impending tree removals. Notice boards within the park will be utilised to keep park users updated on the project.

As part of the outcomes of this project, the Administration will consider the removal of the tree protection fencing near the centre of the park. This fencing currently controls park user access to three remnant *Eucalyptus microcarpa* (Grey Box). The fencing was previously established some years ago to prevent foot traffic and compaction near these quite rare trees. Following extensive mulching and the installation of sub-surface irrigation, conditions beneath the trees have improved significantly over the years. Understory plants are now establishing under and near the perimeter of the trees. The removal of the fence would allow limited public access and free up open space within the park.

To complete this project, a comprehensive park tree succession replacement program will be scheduled to occur in May/June 2015. This 'next generation' planting program will aim to identify opportunities to incorporate trees with the potential to reach significance at maturity and to complement existing developed themes of pre-European remnant species within the park.

## **SUMMARY**

Council has provided significant funding to undertake tree risk remediation works within Heywood Park during the 2014/15 financial year. Detailed independent arborist reports have identified maintenance pruning requirements and the potential removal of up to forty (40) trees within the reserve. Some of the trees scheduled for removal are of a size and stature that could see community angst regarding their impending removal. Risk management of tree assets in Council's parks and open spaces is an issue that requires careful consideration and support to ensure park safety for users.

Council are advised that following appropriate tree removal approval processes, tree risk mitigation works will occur in Heywood Park early in the new calendar year.

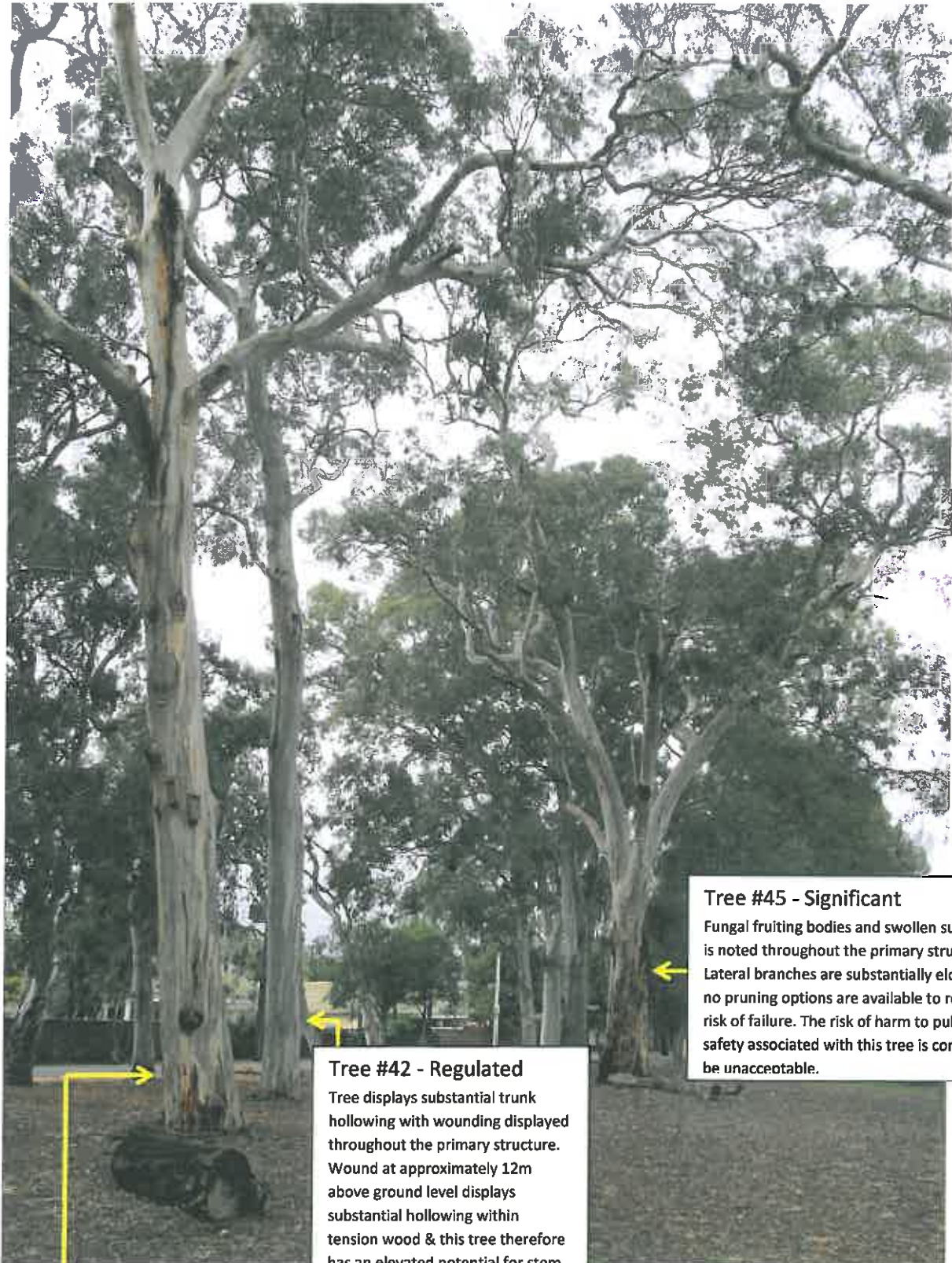
# Heywood Park - Recommended Tree Removal Summary

#	Tree #	Genus species	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Health	Structure	Age	Circ. @ 1m (m)	Non Regulated	Regulated	Significant
1	45	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	SA Blue Gum	23	22	Fair	Poor	Mature	4.09			Yes
2	46	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	SA Blue Gum	25	20	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	3.34			Yes
3	106	<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	Willow Myrtle	5	6	Fair-Poor	Fair	Mature	>3			Yes
4	154	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	12	12	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	3.52			Yes
5	19	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	16	12	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	2.38		Yes	
6	36	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	16	15	Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	2.48		Yes	
7	42	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	SA Blue Gum	17	14	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	2.68		Yes	
8	155	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	18	10	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	2.22		Yes	
9	160	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	River Red Gum	12	12	Fair-Poor	Fair	Mature	2.19		Yes	
10	28	<i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i>	Swamp Mallet	11	13	Fair-Poor	Fair-Poor	Mature	1.11	Yes		
11	33	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	17	9	Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	1.98	Yes		
12	38	<i>Schinus areira</i>	Peppercorn	9	12	Good-Fair	Fair	Mature	1.42	Yes		
13	64	<i>Callitris preissii</i>	Aus. Native Pine	6	5	Fair-Poor	Fair	Senescent	<2	Yes		
14	67	<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i>	Grey Box	4	3	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Young	<2	Yes		
15	75	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	5	5	Poor	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
16	76	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	6	4	Poor	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
17	80	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak	6	5	Good-Fair	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
18	82	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	4	3	Good	Good-Fair	Immature	<2	Yes		
19	83	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	4	3	Good	Good-Fair	Immature	<2	Yes		
20	85	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Desert Ash	4	3	Good	Good-Fair	Immature	<2	Yes		
21	86	<i>Grevillea robusta</i>	Silky Oak	10	7	Fair-Poor	Fair-Poor	Mature	<2	Yes		
22	88	<i>Brachychiton populneus</i>	Kurrajong	5	4	Fair	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
23	92	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	8	7	Poor	Fair	Senescent	<2	Yes		
24	97	<i>Callitris preissii</i>	Aus. Native Pine	5	4	Fair-Poor	Fair-Poor	Mature	<2	Yes		
25	98	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	6	5	Fair	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
26	105	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Sweet Pittosporum	4	6	Fair-Poor	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
27	140	<i>Schinus areira</i>	Peppercorn	6	6	Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
28	144	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	SA Blue Gum	6	6	Fair-Poor	Fair	Senescent	<2	Yes		
29	146	<i>Schinus areira</i>	Peppercorn	4	5	Good-Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
30	148	<i>Schinus areira</i>	Peppercorn	5	7	Good-Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
31	149	<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad Leafed Paperbark	5	5	Good-Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		

#	Tree #	Genus species	Common Name	Height (m)	Spread (m)	Health	Structure	Age	Circ. @ 1m (m)	Non Regulated	Regulated	Significant
32	171	Callitris preissii	Aus. Native Pine	6	5	Good-Fair	Fair-Poor	Mature	<2	Yes		
33	175	Melaleuca armillaris	Bracelet Honey Myrtle	4	6	Fair-Poor	Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
34	180	Eucalyptus microcarpa	Grey Box	7	3	Fair-Poor	Good-Fair	Young	<2	Yes		
35	GA47	Eucalyptus camaldulensis	River Red Gum	12	8	Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
36	GA51	Casuarina cunninghamiana	River She Oak	4	3	Poor	Fair-Poor	Immature	<2	Yes		
37	GA52	Pittosporum undulatum	Sweet Pittosporum	8	6	Fair	Good-Fair	Mature	<2	Yes		
38	GA58	Eucalyptus leucoxydon	SA Blue Gum	6	4	Poor	Poor	Senescent	<2	Yes		
39	GA61	Eucalyptus microcarpa	Grey Box	3	1	Fair-Poor	Good-Fair	Young	<2	Yes		
40	GA62	Eucalyptus microcarpa	Grey Box	5	3	Good-Fair	Good-Fair	Young	<2	Yes		
<b>TOTAL PROPOSED TREE REMOVALS</b>										<b>31</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

Age Summary	
Mature	28
Immature	4
Young	4
Senescent	4

## Heywood Park – Proposed Regulated & Significant Tree Removals

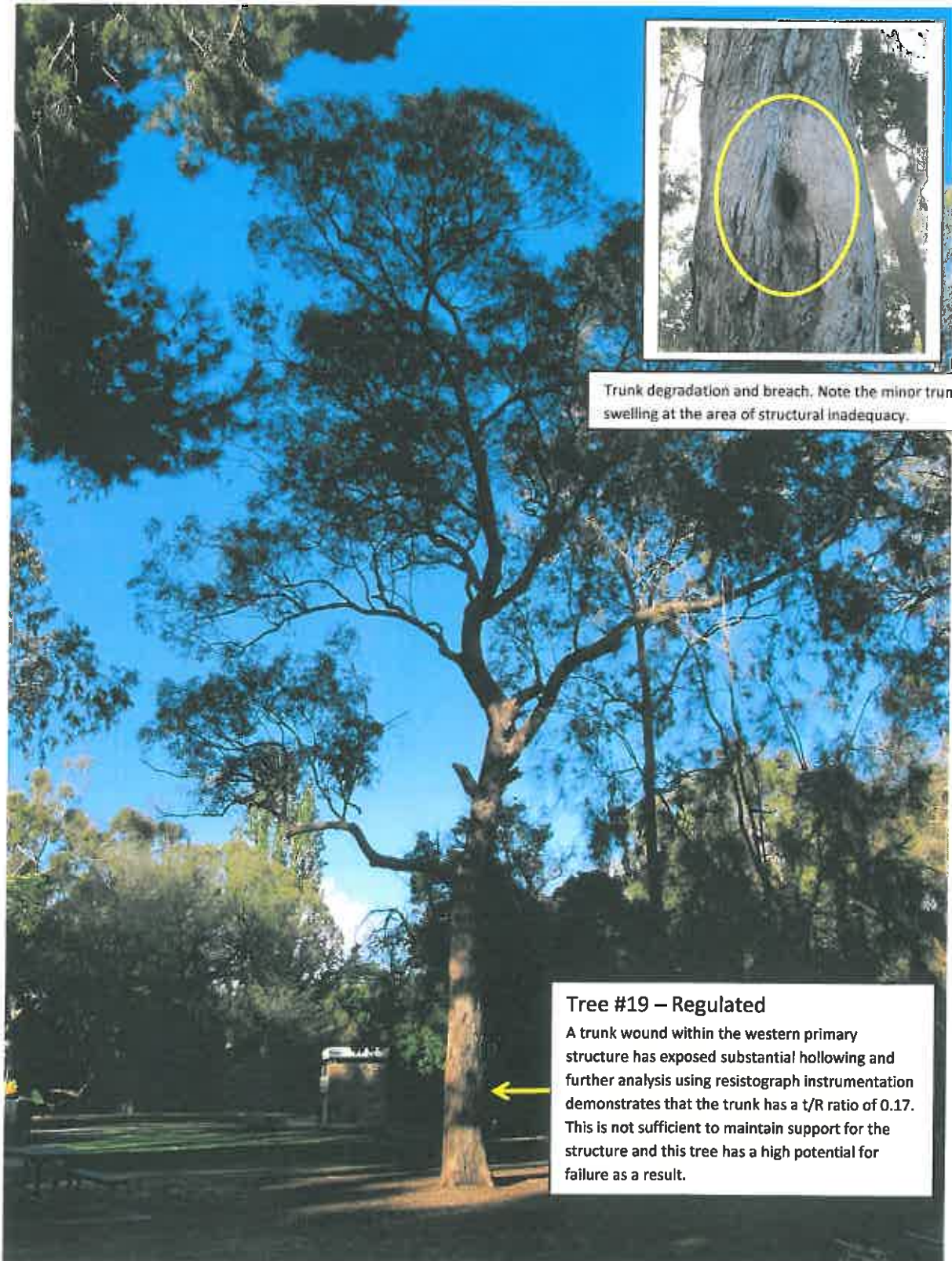


**Tree #45 - Significant**  
Fungal fruiting bodies and swollen support timber is noted throughout the primary structure. Lateral branches are substantially elongated and no pruning options are available to reduce the risk of failure. The risk of harm to public & private safety associated with this tree is considered to be unacceptable.

**Tree #42 - Regulated**  
Tree displays substantial trunk hollowing with wounding displayed throughout the primary structure. Wound at approximately 12m above ground level displays substantial hollowing within tension wood & this tree therefore has an elevated potential for stem failure.

**Tree # 46 - Significant**  
This tree displays a substantial history of limb failure. Fungal fruiting bodies noted at ground level have been identified as *Omphalotus nidiformis* & this fungal development is linked to White Rot in many genus including Eucalyptus. The potential for tree failure is therefore elevated as timber fibres become flaccid. Information gathered during a climbing assessment of this tree indicated that the primary structure at 10m above ground level does not have sufficient integrity to support the upper 15m of crown due to hollowing as well as damage from previous large diameter branch failure.





Trunk degradation and breach. Note the minor trunk swelling at the area of structural inadequacy.

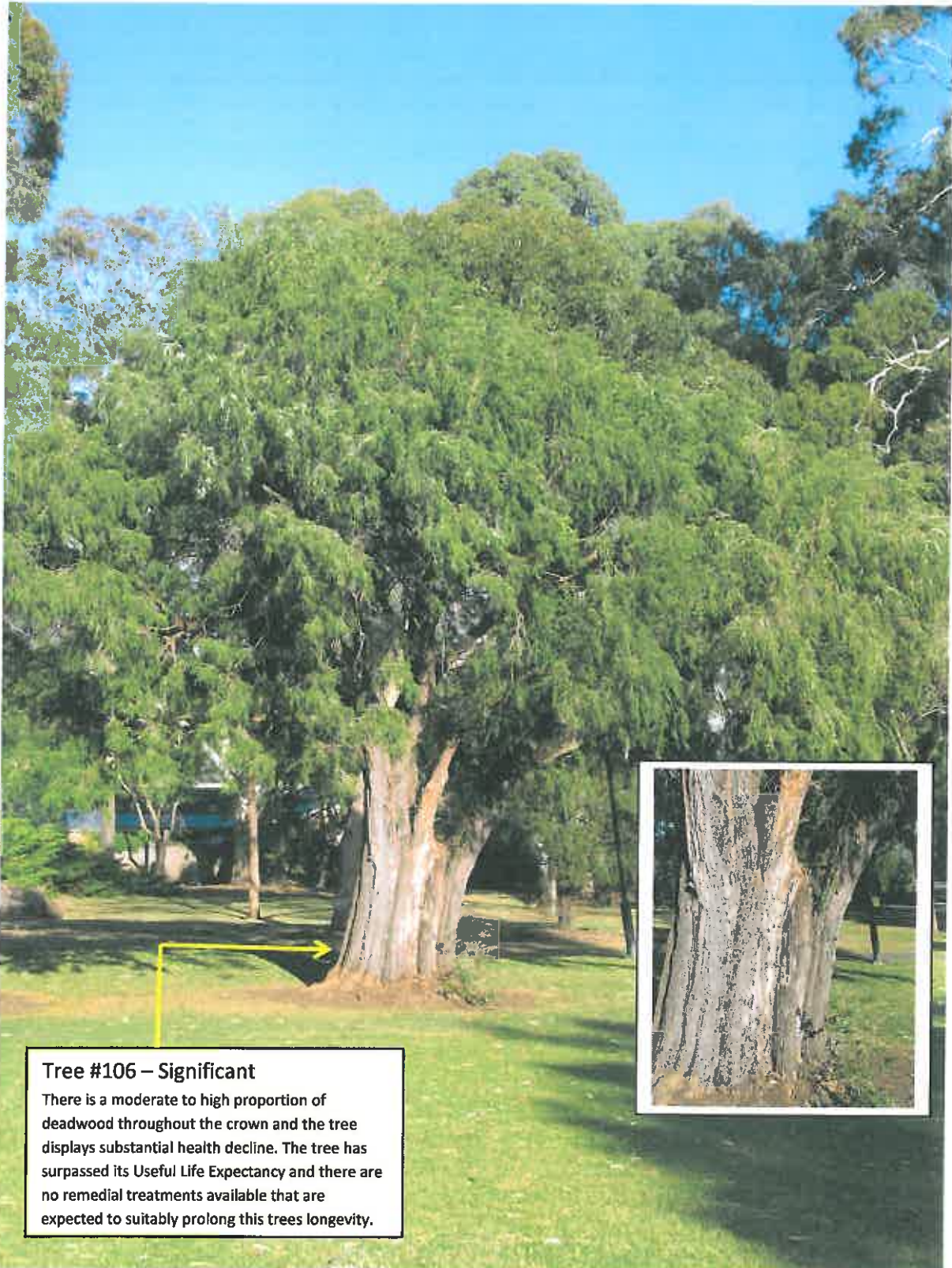
**Tree #19 – Regulated**  
A trunk wound within the western primary structure has exposed substantial hollowing and further analysis using resistograph instrumentation demonstrates that the trunk has a t/R ratio of 0.17. This is not sufficient to maintain support for the structure and this tree has a high potential for failure as a result.





**Tree #36 – Regulated**  
There is a substantial history of large diameter branch failure from within this tree. The series of large stubs from these past failures are producing epicormic development. This tree is deformed due to the competition of the larger *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) adjacent to it.





**Tree #106 – Significant**

There is a moderate to high proportion of deadwood throughout the crown and the tree displays substantial health decline. The tree has surpassed its Useful Life Expectancy and there are no remedial treatments available that are expected to suitably prolong this trees longevity.

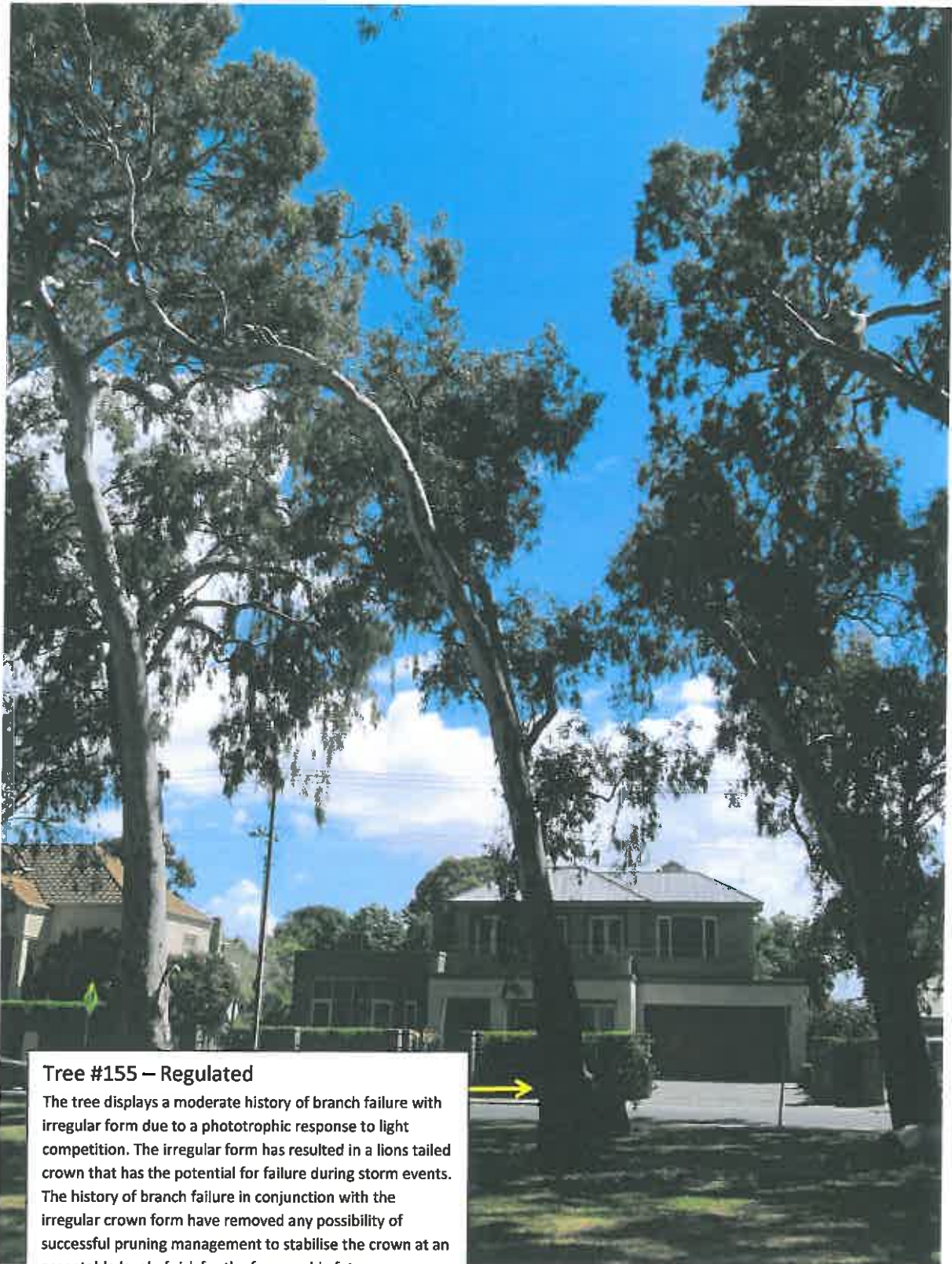




**Tree #154 – Significant**

The tree has been damaged substantially by the failure of the adjacent tree falling onto it. This has caused a series of large diameter branch failures. There are limited pruning options available to rectify the structural deficiencies and prolong the trees Useful Life Expectancy. The proportion of crown loss due to the branch failures will result in health decline and has resulted in an irregular crown form.





**Tree #155 – Regulated**

The tree displays a moderate history of branch failure with irregular form due to a phototropic response to light competition. The irregular form has resulted in a lions tailed crown that has the potential for failure during storm events. The history of branch failure in conjunction with the irregular crown form have removed any possibility of successful pruning management to stabilise the crown at an acceptable level of risk for the foreseeable future.

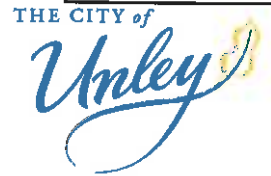




**Tree #160 – Regulated**

There is a moderate proportion of deadwood throughout the crown as well as notable health decline. The tree displays significant health decline and remedial treatments to prolong its life expectancy are considered futile given the current growing environment.





# PROPOSED REGULATED & SIGNIFICANT TREE REMOVALS – HEYWOOD PARK

Location Plan – Not To Scale

City of Unley 2014  
Unit 6

