ENSPEC

ENVIRONMENT AND RISK

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INTERIM INSPECTION.

COMPLETED FOR

YARRA SHIRE COUNCIL

25TH NOVEMBER 2004

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PREPARED FOR: **SHIRE OF YARRA RANGES**

SITE ADDRESS: **MONBULK ROAD SILVAN**

PREPARED BY: **ENSPEC Environment and Risk**

DATE: **18th June 2005**

PROJECT: **PROPPING OF *Corymbia ficifolia***

INTRODUCTION

As part of the ongoing management of the installed prop, ENSPEC Pty Ltd has conducted an interim inspection to ensure the system installed had not moved after the recent high rainfalls and winds, which have occurred after a long dry period on minimal rain.

METHODOLOGY OF THE PROPPING SYSTEM

The propping system designed by Enspec needed to be able to withstand the majority of the weight of this tree. By using data from "Wood in Australia" we calculated the weight of the tree at dry weight. Additional factures were then added to account for moisture weight loading and wind loading.

The design of the propping system also included:

Fig 2 Propping system pre assembly.

Floating base plate.

Adjustable main shaft.

Lockable pinning system.

Cradle to support the large trunk.

Wooden inserts to protect the trunk from damage by the prop.

Ability to inspect and adjust the system as required.

The system was required to support up to 5 tonne of weight with a safety factor of 1 tonne.

TECHNICAL DATA

The propping system was engineered and made by

AGM Engineering Pty Ltd

Specifications of prop

Main uprights	RHS 125mm x 125mm x 6mm wall thickness
Cradle (head stock)	200mm x 25mm flat bar.
Base plate	1mtr x 1mtr x 12mm.
Pin	20mm high tensile.
Weight rating.	6 tonne.
Bolts	4 x High Tensile bolts for cradle head stock

INTERIM INSPECTION OF PROPPING SYSTEM

The interim inspection noted the following observations

1. There has been no movement in the props base plate since the installation.

2. When the installation of the prop occurred there was no weight on the prop, the adjustment pin could be easily turned. At this interim inspection it is noted that the pin cannot be turned and from a visual observation it is evident that the tree. The prop is now supporting the trees.

3. The headstock currently does not require adjustment; this will require adjustment in November 05. This will ensure no movement occurs when the fruit matures and increase the overall weight of the tree.

4. The marker post has been installed to ensure the grader cannot hit the submerged base plate.

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPPING SYSTEM OF *CORYMBIA FICIFOLIA*

1. An annual inspection in November of each year shall be organised by the Council for ENSPEC staff to inspect and make any adjustments to the propping system.

2. Keys to the adjustable locking system are to be held by the council.

3. If any disturbance of the propping system is noted then ENSPEC are to be notified as soon as possible to assess the tree and propping system.

4. Council's arborist should undertake an annual Visual Tree Assessment of the tree in October of each year.

CONCLUSION

By installing this propping system it is now evident that the prop has saved the tree from failing.

Only minimal maintenance is now required to maintain this significant tree.

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

ENSPEC Pty Ltd and their employees are tree specialists who use their qualifications, education, knowledge, training, diagnostic tools and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of this assessment and report.

ENSPEC Pty Ltd and their employees cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways the arboriculture industry does not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Unless otherwise stated observations have been visually assessed from ground level. ENSPEC Pty Ltd cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of ENSPEC's Pty Ltd services, such as property boundaries and ownership, disputes between neighbours, sight lines, landlord-tenant matters, and related incidents. ENSPEC Pty Ltd cannot take such issues into account unless complete and accurate information is given prior or at the time of the site inspection. Likewise ENSPEC Pty Ltd cannot accept responsibility for the authorisation or non-authorisation of any recommended treatment or remedial measures undertaken.

In the event that ENSPEC recommends retesting or inspection of trees at stated intervals or installs any cable/s, bracing systems and support systems ENSPEC must inspect the system installed at intervals not great than 12 months unless other wise specified in written reports. It is the client's responsibility to make arrangements with ENSPEC to conduct the re- inspection.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live or work near a tree involves a degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risks associated with a tree is to eliminate the tree.

All written reports must be read in there entirety, at no time shall part of the written assessment be referred to unless taken in full context of the whole written report.

If this written report is to be used in a court of law or any legal situation ENSPEC must be advised in writing prior to the written assessment being presented in any form to any other party.