

10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - CR JOSHUA TOPELBERG – INFORMATION REGARDING VERGE TREE REMOVAL

TRIM Ref: D17/169081

Attachments: Nil

That Council:

- 1. REQUESTS Administration, from February 2018, to include in the monthly Information Bulletin presented to Council a summary of all requests received and decisions made regarding removal of verge trees in the City of Vincent; and**
- 2. NOTES that Policy No. 2.1.2 – Street Trees is overdue for review and will be reviewed in 2018.**

REASON:

Verge trees are highly regarded by our community for the significant contribution they make to the local streetscape, amenity and environment. For this reason, decisions to remove (or not remove) street trees can attract a high degree of community interest, depending on the location, maturity and type of tree(s) involved.

From time to time, the City also itself removes verge trees and investigates incidents of unauthorised verge tree removal.

The monthly summary report on verge tree decisions should ideally include the following:

- Source of the request (minus personal identifying information)
- Reason for the request
- Administration's assessment and decision on the request
- Any unauthorised verge tree removal or damage
- Any City-initiated decision to remove a verge tree, including the reason
- Details of any verge trees planted in place of removed verge trees

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT:

Administration supports the proposed Motion.

Administration already maintains databases of the information referenced in the dot-points above and can readily include a summary of these matters in the monthly Information Bulletin presented to Council.

Requests from residents to remove verge trees are assessed and determined by Administration in accordance with Council Policy No. 2.1.2 – Street Trees. Reasons cited by residents for removal of a street tree typically relate to the tree's health, structural integrity, size, location or type.

Policy No. 2.1.2 is overdue for review and is intended to be reviewed in 2018 in light of the review of the City's Greening Plan (Corporate Business Plan Item 1.6) and development of a Street Tree Matrix. Provision of the requested information to Council on a monthly basis will increase Council Member and public awareness of requests and reasons for street tree removal, which will be beneficial for the review of Policy No. 2.1.2.