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ROBERTS CONSULTING

December 1, 2021

RE: Application for removal of significant tree T499

Caleb Park
City Planning
Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Dunedin 9058

Dear Caleb,

As per your November 26, email request, I have conducted a site visit to number 110 Gladstone Road North, Mosgiel, to inspect the schedule tree T499, which is described in the 2GP tree list (Appendix A1.3) as a Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*).

I have previously assessed this tree in May 2021 for planning application LUC-2021-213. The application was from Downer NZ Ltd as part of routine kerb and channel replacement works (consent for works under the dripline of a scheduled tree).

I have also met with the applicants (Frank and Valerie Wesseling) on two occasions, June 9, 2021, and September 27, 2021. The purposes of those meetings were to discuss the health of the tree and identity DCC dripline setbacks.

In conjunction with your request, I conducted a site visit on December 1,

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Comments in relation to my May 4, 2021, report regarding LUC-2021-213

I was in support of that application based on the condition of the tree, the location of the works, and the available rooting area. In that report, I noted under Condition Assessment and Observations [that] '*In general, at the time of the visit the tree looked to be in average health and had slightly reduced vigour and vitality compared to what would be normally expected for trees of this species and age'*.

T499 is at the western end of a row of four Wellingtonia (T493, T501, T500 and T499 – image one). All four trees appear to have been planted at about the same time and in comparison, to those trees T499 is not as evenly foliated or as vigorous.

In the May 4, 2021, report I noted that 'the very tip of the tree had reduced foliage and appeared to be in decline. There was no obvious improvement in overall tree heath and/or tip growth when viewed on December 1, 2021 (image two).

Additional observations as of the December site visit;

a) That majority of the trees and shrubbery under the tree and along the front boundary line of 110 Gladstone Road North have been removed, *and*
b) There was some spring growth visible in the lower canopy

Tree dimensions and rooting area

c) The tree is approximately 41.5m tall which would create a Dunedin City Council (2GP) dripline of 20.75m
d) The 'natural' dripline of the tree (the outer edge of the canopy) extends approximately 9m from the tree, creating an 18m dripline.

e) The trunk has a diameter of approximately 1.9m which would generate a 'standardised' radial Tree Protection Zone of 22.8m.
f) The standardised' Structural Root Zone of the tree would extend radially for approximately 6m from the tree.
g) According to internationally accepted standards* no works shall take place inside the Structural Root Zone and an incursion of more that 10% of the Tree Protection Zone is considered more than minor.

* *NZ does not have its own standards for tree protection, the New Zealand Arboricultural Association supports and recommends the use of any of the following international standards; Australian Standard: AS 4970 - 2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites, the British Standard: BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition, and construction. Recommendations and/or the American National Standard: ANSI A300 (Part 5)-2012: Management of Trees and Shrubs During Site Planning, Site Development, and Construction*

The size of the 'zones' is based a ratio of trunk diameter and is calculated the same in all three standards.

You have requested that I provide comment on the removal of the tree in terms of the activity as described in Section 7. Scheduled trees, in the Proposed District Plan *and* Section 15 Trees, under the Operative District Plan.

I can confirm that the proposed work/activity;

i. is not required as emergency work to safeguard life or property (15.5.1 of the Operative District Plan),
ii. is not required because the tree is dead or in terminal decline (proposed District Plan - Policy 7.2.1.1)
iii. is not required because the tree poses significant risk to personal/public safety or property (proposed District Plan - Policy 7.2.1.2)

iv. will lead to the death or terminal decline of a scheduled tree (proposed District Plan - Rule 7.3.2.3)

You have also requested that I offer comment on whether the tree would cause any concerns to the Council's infrastructure.

v. there is no reason why this tree is of greater concern or has a greater chance of interfering with council's infrastructure in comparison to other Council or privately owned trees in Dunedin

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I am unable to recommend support of application LUC-2021-665 on arboricultural grounds or based health and safety concerns.

As per your request, I have provided a relatively concise report. If you require an explanation of any of the recommendations provided, or documentary evidence to support any of the content in this report please do not hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely

Mark Roberts
Roberts Consulting Ltd

Image one: Image showing the row of 4 DCC Scheduled Wellingtonia trees on Gladstone Road North

Image two: image taken 01/12/2021 showing an 'expanded' view (area circled in red) of the top of T499 to highlight the extent of 'tip' decline