

Good afternoon, Commissioner **Rob Van Voorthuysen** (Chairperson), Councillors **Sophie Barker** and Councillors **Jim O'Malley**

My Name is Kylie Robinson; I'm a resident at 99 Bedford St in Saint Clair. Thank you all for your time to allow me to talk to my submission.

My submission is to correct a location **change error of scheduled trees G104**, made by the council. The located of G014 is on the council owned berm land between the property of 89 Bedford St and the street.

I would also like to **add to this submission** as to how and why the error may have happened and request a solution to **unscheduled the council owned assets as part of the "Tree2"** section for a better resolution moving forward.

I have four images.... All images are orientated north and show Bedford Street as the horizontal street.

Image 1 shows the original location data of a group of Oak trees, clearly located on the berm of the street outside 89 Bedford St.

Image 2 shows the GPS measured position by the parks officer as they gathered more information on the council owned assets. To better define a "group" into what the actual assets are. This data also shows the trees on the berm.

Image 3 shows all the trees on the berm with their street tree IDs. These trees include the oak trees that are scheduled in G014.

Last image shows the 2GP map with the location changed to place these Oak trees in G014 onto the boundary with 89 Bedford St. **Now making the property of 89 Bedford St a part owner.**

There are a few reasons why correcting the error is important.

First, my day job for the last few years... is to work with the team who build GPS hardware. I work with the supplied GPS data to help make informed decisions on key situations.

The integrity of this data is key... if we were every show to change or move any data then all fairness and trust is lost. Not just the data we change but all data.

As my job is to ensure data integrity, when I saw the error in the positions, I was sure the council would want to be made aware so that the error can be fixed to ensure the integrity and trust of all the council data is maintained.

The next reason is as a resident living at 99 Bedford St.

Access to my property and my neighbours is up steep driveways under one of the Oaks in G012. In autumn each year the oak trees drop acorns and leaves on the driveways making them dangerous to walk on.

As we have already had **falls on the driveway** and footpaths, I started to investigate who owned the trees to have them trimmed to solve this safety problem and I fell down a rabbit hole of trying to understand who owns the trees and why these trees were never maintained by council.

Talking to the owner of 89 Bedford, they would **request a trim. But only part of the job was ever done...** The scrub along the footpath was trimmed and nothing more the oaks were never touched.

When you **request maintenance the roading team** turn up to maintain the footpath to a maximum of 4m about the footpath and road. They don't touch the canopy, such as the leaves and acorns. The Oaks are now very large and much higher than 4m.

The full berm is maintained by the **Parks and Reserves team...** but this berm is considered a very low priority park, it's not used by the public, so budgets are better spent elsewhere. Which I totally agree with.

There is **budget for street trees**, and as you saw in image number 3, these oak trees are street trees.... But because these two oak trees are on the schedule tree register the street tree team haven't maintained them for apparently over 20 years.

To maintain a schedule tree, you need a consent, and the council haven't given themselves a consent.

As residents we tried to put in a consent to trim the tree for the council, but then the council requests that we pay for the work to be done on their own street trees.

As residents we put in a consent, were told we would need to pay, but the oaks are now apparently on a list for maintenance, so we can remove our consent as they are going to be trimmed.... Nothing happened. Just the Elder was trimmed and not the Oak over the driveways.

So now after **more than 20 years we have 2x very large council owned assets that haven't been maintained**. And any unmaintained asset will become a liability.

And when you have a liability, it is good to make it someone else's problem... like moving the location of the "liability" onto the boundary with private property.

The simple, **pragmatic, solution** for council is to remove these trees from the scheduled tree register. They are already street trees and have that protection. Then the council can maintain their own assets with the budget that is set aside for these assets as "Street trees".

Under the "Tree 2" change, there is scope to remove trees that pose a risk to people's safety from the scheduled tree register. I would like to request if not both trees are removed, the tree over the driveways be removed for safety.

And lastly I know it is a big request to what looks like on the surface remove protection from an asset... but there is a comparison tree to show the health of the trees would be better if this is done and the residents would have safer access to their properties.

There **is a third oak tree**, on the berm outside 79 Bedford street. This tree is also one of the Oak street trees, but was never put on the schedule and has been maintained as the street tree it is for the last 20 years.

The residents of 79 say the council has turned up every 4 to 5 years and maintained the tree. The council were there 4 months ago looking after this tree.

The residents **of 99, 97, 95, 93 and 91 Bedford street** have been requesting the oak over the driveway outside 89 Bedford be maintained and trimmed off the drive for safety, for several years now and still nothing has been done due to the complexity of a council owned asset being on the schedule tree register.

So in summary..

My submission was to request the data error of the location of these two trees be corrected.

My second request in change section "Tree2" is to remove these Oaks from the register. I'm hoping that talking to you all we can have a pragmatic solution of the real reason the GPS data error was made and look to correct the core issue. That 2x council owned street trees should not be on the scheduled tree register as they are already protected by council. The trees would be a nicer amenity to the community rather than the overgrown misshapen oaks, and foot access to properties would be safer.

Image 1

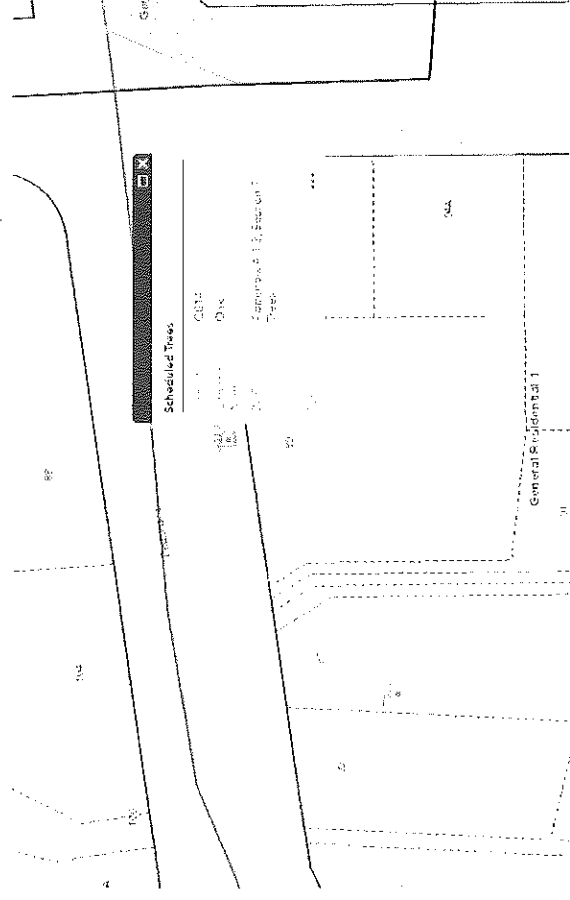


Image 2

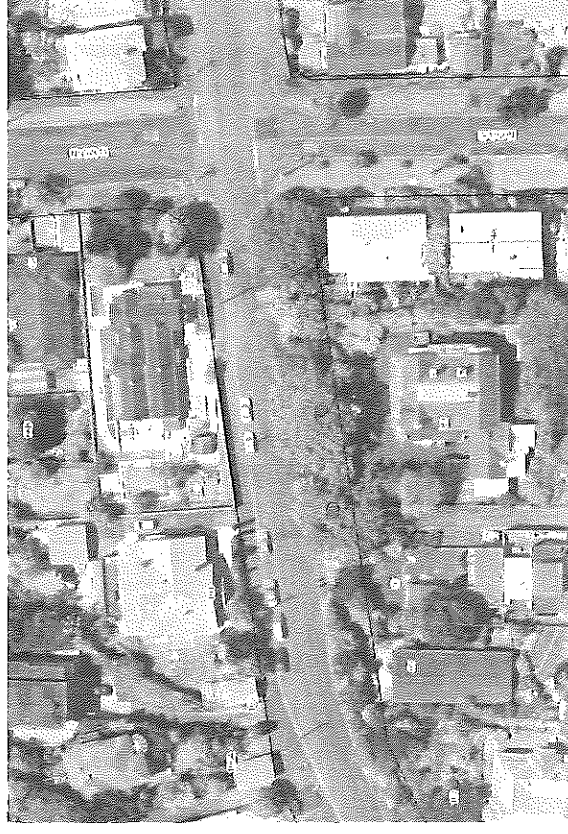


Image 3

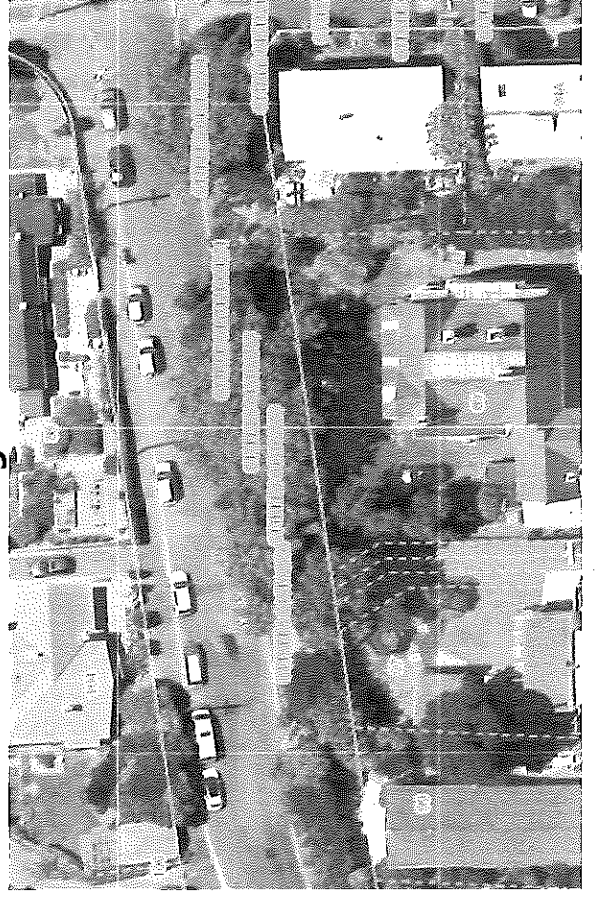


Image 4

