

Tree Survey for Peart St Leongatha

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 June 2019, a petition was received from Leongatha residents concerned about the street trees along Peart Street, Leongatha. The petition contained 81 signatures in total, with 70 of those signatures from directly affected Peart Street residents. The signatories believe that the street trees are a hazard and ideally would like to see the Queensland Brush Box (*Lephostemon confertus*) removed from the streetscape.

At its Meeting Council resolved to undertake a formal survey of the Peart Street residents before making a final decision about the trees.

Council's Operations Manager, Fred Huitema was conscious that Council should not rush to make a decision about the 50-year-old trees.

"Council managed trees are a significant asset that are of a high value to the community. They contribute greatly to the amenity of the built environment, providing a sense of place and improved neighbourhood character across the Shire. We are aware though that on occasion these values conflict with the community's expectations in regards to safety and nuisance.

"We are generally reluctant to remove healthy trees from our urban landscapes, however if there is a widespread view that these particular trees pose a risk to people's wellbeing then they may have to be replaced. Ultimately, that will be a decision for the Council," said Mr Huitema.

All residents along Peart Street will be formally surveyed to seek their preference on whether to retain the Queensland Brush Box trees or to replace them with a more suitable street tree such as the *Prunus blireana*. The survey results will be presented at the next appropriate Council Meeting.

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