



Northern Tree Care

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16th February, 2018.

Byron Shire Council
Station St
Mullumbimby.
NSW 2482.

Re: Inspection of trees at Tyagarah Airport

Mr Andy Erskine, Technical Officer, Open Spaces and Reserves, Byron Shire Council requested trees at the eastern end of the runway of Tyagarah Airport be inspected and an opinion given on their condition.

The trees were inspected during a site inspection carried out on 15th February, 2018. Mr Erskine from Byron Shire Council and Peter Gray from Northern Tree Care attended the site inspection.

Several trees were identified that had been cut down in the open area to the east of the main runway at Tyagarah Airport. One of the trees is a mature aged Hard Quandong *Elaeocarpus obovatus* [see Photo 1] and the other trees are Casuarina species [see Photo 2]; (Harden et al 2004). The Hard Quandong has a decurrent form with 3 main stems arising from the ground between 200 and 350 mm in diameter. The tree had been lopped at approximately 1.5 m from the ground. The pruning cuts are consistent with having been cut with a chainsaw [see Photo 3]. The tree has produced a large number of epicormic shoots and from their growing extension and size it is estimated that the tree was lopped 3 or 4 years ago. The new growth is in good condition and the tree is expected to survive and grow into the future.

A further 3 trees were observed a few metres to the east of the Hard Quandong. They have also been lopped. The trees have died. The bark is consistent with them being Casuarina species. The condition of the stumps and deterioration of the bark is consistent with the trees having been lopped at the same time as the Hard Quandong. That is around 3 to 4 years ago.

There were also a number of other trees between the Hard Quandong and the air strip that had been lopped and had died. Most of them were relatively small trees. The way in which they were lopped and the condition of the bark was consistent with them having been cut at the same time, around 3 to 4 years ago [see photo 6]. There were approximately 6 of these trees.

The pruning cuts were assessed to determine whether they are likely to have been carried out by professional contractors. Several of the cuts were made without a scarf and back cut as recommended by *Chainsaw Operator's Manual* (Kessel 2001);[see Photo 4]. Professional arborists employed by Council are required to be qualified to at least AQF 3 in Arboriculture and a knowledge of pruning cuts and felling procedures is a requirement of that qualification. It is considered to be very unlikely that the lopping carried out to cut down the Hard Quondong and Casuarina tree was carried out by qualified contractors.

The information contained in the report is true and accurate to the best knowledge of the author. However the author of this report is not responsible for any action which might be taken or not taken in reliance on it. This report remains the property of the author and Byron Shire Council. It may not be used or reprinted without their express permission.

This report was compiled by Peter Gray, of Northern Tree Care. The author is an arborist who has been providing Arborist Assessment Reports for Local Government, State Government and private clients for over 15 years. His qualifications include:

- Diploma of Arboriculture
- Diploma of Horticulture (Arboriculture)
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)
- Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (ISA).

Peter Gray is an (AQF) level 5 Consulting Arborist registered association No. 2344 with Arboriculture Australia. He is a trained and registered practitioner of Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) Registered User number 980.

I declare that I have compiled this report impartially using best professional judgement. I have no financial interest in the outcome of the report.

Signed Peter Gray, Northern Tree Care
16th February, 2018.



References:

Harden G. MacDonald W. Williams J. 2009. *Rainforest Trees and Shrubs*. Gwen Harden Publishing. Nambucca Heads.

Kestel B. 2001. *Chainsaw Operator's Manual*. Landlinks Press. NSW.



Photo 1.
Hard Quondong Tree.



Photo 2.
Casuarina tree that has been cut down.



Photo 3.
Hard Quondong has clearly been cut with a saw.



Photo 4.
Hard Quondong. Pruning cuts not in accordance with industry best practice.



Photo 5.
Casuarina tree. Pruning cuts not in accordance with industry best practice.



Photo 6.
One of the small trees that had also been lopped and died.