

# AGENDA

## Conservation Advisory Committee

### MEETING OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO BE HELD ON

MEETING DATE

**WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2008**

commencing at 6.00 pm

in Conference Room 2  
JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE,  
BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP

**Note:**

Clause 77 of the City's Standing Orders Local Law 2005 states:

"Unless otherwise provided in this local law, the provisions of this local law shall apply to meetings of committees with the exception of:

- (a) clause 29 (Members seating;) and
- (b) clause 54 (Limitation on members speaking.)"

**GARRY HUNT**  
Chief Executive Officer  
15 August 2008

[www.joondalup.wa.gov.au](http://www.joondalup.wa.gov.au)

## CITY OF JOONDALUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will be held in Conference Room 2, Joondalup Civic Centre, Boas Avenue, Joondalup on **Wednesday, 27 August 2008** commencing at **6.00 p.m.**

GARRY HUNT  
Chief Executive Officer  
15 August 2008

Joondalup  
Western Australia

### AGENDA

#### Committee Members

Cr Mike Norman	Presiding Person
Cr Sue Hart	Deputy Presiding Person
Cr Fiona Diaz	
Cr Marie Macdonald	
Mr John Chester	Community Representative
Mrs Marilyn Zakrevsky	Community Representative
Ms Suzi Greenway	Community Representative
Mr Barry Fitzsimmons	Community Representative
Ms Phyllis Robertson	Community Representative
Dr Marjorie Apthorpe	Community Representative
Mr Tim Argus	Community Representative
Mr Steve Magyar	Community Representative
Mr Gary Tate	Community Representative
Ms Dorothy Lullfitz	Community Representative

#### *Terms of Reference*

- To make recommendations to Council for the conservation of the City of Joondalup's natural biodiversity.
- To provide strategic input and when requested advice on issues relating to the conservation and management of the City's natural biodiversity.
- To promote partnerships between Council and the community to protect the City of Joondalup's natural biodiversity as contained within its various natural areas (bushland, wetlands and coastal environment).

#### DECLARATION OF OPENING

#### APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Ms Dorothy Lullfitz

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****MINUTES OF THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD 25 JUNE 2008****RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Conservation Advisory Committee held on 25 June 2008 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION****DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS****PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS****REPORTS**

In light of Council's resolution in relation to the reports requested by the Sustainability Advisory Committee (which was that reports should go to Council in the first instance) only one report will be presented at this meeting. Item 1 was referred to the Conservation Advisory Committee by Council.

<b>Item 1</b>	<b>Assessment of Sheoaks within the City's Parks - [41676]</b>	<b>Page 4</b>
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**MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN****REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION****CLOSURE**

**ITEM 1                    ASSESSMENT OF SHEOAKS WITHIN THE CITY'S  
PARKS CJ199-09/07 – [41676]****WARD:**                    All**RESPONSIBLE  
DIRECTOR:**                Mr Martyn Glover  
   Infrastructure Services

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**PURPOSE**

To present the report entitled Assessment of Sheoaks within the City's Parks (CJ199-09/07) to the Conservation Advisory Committee for comment.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Report CJ199-09/07 was presented to the Ordinary Council Meeting of 25 September 2007. It was resolved that Council:

- “1        *AGREES to implementing a six (6) year rolling program that progressively removes Sheoaks within 10 metres of play equipment within the public open spaces, and replants with a suitable native species;*
- 2        *NOTES that Sheoaks will no longer be planted within close proximity to play equipment.*
- 3        *REFERS this Report to the Conservation Advisory Committee for comment.”*

*It is recommended that the Conservation Advisory Committee notes the content of Report CJ199-09/07.*

**BACKGROUND**

The report CJ199-09/07 was written in response to a petition that was received by Council. The petitioner raised concerns that the seed pods of the native sheoak trees had the potential to injure children playing within City playgrounds that had this tree species in close proximity.

**DETAILS**

In line with Council's decision of 25 September 2007 Report CJ199-09/07 is submitted for noting by the Conservation Advisory Committee. Attachment 1 refers.

**Legislation – Statutory Provisions:**

Refer to Report CJ199-09/07.

**Policy implications:**

Not Applicable.

**Regional Significance:**

Not Applicable.

**Sustainability implications:**

Not Applicable.

**Consultation:**

Not Applicable.

**COMMENT**

Not Applicable.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1            Report CJ199-09/07 – Assessment of Sheoaks within the City's Parks

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple majority.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Conservation Advisory Committee NOTES the content of Report CJ199-09/07.**



**APPENDICES FOR AGENDA OF  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ITEM	TITLE	APPENDIX	PAGE
Item 1	Assessment of Sheoaks within the City's Parks – [41676]	1	1

**CJ199-09/07      ASSESSMENT OF SHEOAKS WITHIN THE CITY'S  
PARKS - [41676]**

**WARD:** All

**RESPONSIBLE  
DIRECTOR:** Mr David Djulbic  
Infrastructure Services

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**PURPOSE**

Council has requested a report identifying locations where Sheoaks are in close proximity to children's playground areas, costs associated with their removal and alternative native trees to replace the Sheoaks.

**BACKGROUND**

At the Council Meeting held on 27 March 2007, it was resolved that a report be prepared that:

- 1 Identifies locations within the City of Joondalup where Sheoaks are located in close proximity to children's playground equipment.
- 2 Recommends an alternative native tree suitable for planting adjacent to children's playground equipment.
- 3 Provides cost estimates to remove all Sheoaks located in close proximity to children's playground equipment and replace them with a suitable native tree.
- 4 Seek comment from the Conservation Advisory Committee on 1, 2 and 3 above prior to the presentation of the report to Council.

The basis of the concerns appear to be that the seed cones that are produced on Sheoaks can cause discomfort and possible injury to the bare feet of children that come into contact with them.

*It is recommended that Council:*

- 1 *DOES NOT SUPPORT the removal of Sheoaks on the basis that they present a low risk in accordance with the Department of Environment and Conservation's guidelines.*
- 2 *REFERS this report to the Conservation Advisory Committee for comment.*

## DETAILS

Sheoak seed capsules are spiky in nature and can often be found in large numbers below the trees from which they have been shed. (Attachment 1 refers). It is noted that the term “Sheoak” includes all members of the casuarina and Allo casuarina botanical families.

Sheoaks have been planted extensively within the City’s Parks for the following reasons:

- Sheoaks have a compact growth habit
- Visually attractive
- They do not shed limbs
- They provide good shade
- They are easily grown and purchased
- Rapid growth
- Their seeds provide an available food source for native birds
- Are tolerant of coastal conditions

As Council has requested that the report identifies Sheoaks within close proximity to playground areas, an arbitrary 10 metres has been chosen on the basis that the tree canopy would unlikely exceed this diameter, therefore have little impact beyond this distance.

Currently twenty-four of the City’s Parks have Sheoaks within ten metres of play equipment and, in total, seventy-eight Sheoaks are located within close proximity to play equipment. In these circumstances the Sheoaks have been planted to give shade to the children using the play equipment and are listed below:

<b>Park</b>	<b>Suburb</b>	<b>Number of Trees</b>
Lysander	Heathridge	2
Faversham	Heathridge	6
Picnic Cove	Edgewater	1
Trigg Point	Ocean Reef	1
Gunida	Mullaloo	1
MacDonald	Padbury	2
Flinders	Hillarys	7
Pinnaroo Pt	Hillarys	12
Whitford Nodes	Hillarys	3
Tom Simpson	Mullaloo	2
Korella	Mullaloo	1
Triton	Mullaloo	1
Aristride	Kallaroo	1
Montague	Kallaroo	7
Gradient	Beldon	1
Hilton	Duncraig	2
Galston	Duncraig	2
Finney	Marmion	2
Braden	Marmion	5
Byrne Park	Kallaroo	3
Hillarys Park	Hillarys	9
Wentworth Park	Padbury	2
Springvale Park	Warwick	4
Anemone Park	Mullaloo	1





The cost to remove all the Sheoaks within the vicinity of play equipment inclusive of felling, removal of tree material and grinding out of the remaining tree stumps would be approximately \$31,000.

There is a range of native trees that could be planted to replace the Sheoaks should Council consider removal as the appropriate course of action, and contained in the following table is a list which consists of native species. All have a low water requirement and their seeds do not have the same characteristics as the Sheoaks.

<b>Botanical Name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>
Agonis flexuosa	WA Peppermint
Banksia grandis	Bull banksia
Eucalyptus decipiens	Limestone Marlock
Eucalyptus nichollii	Narrow Leaved Peppermint
Eucalyptus gomphocephala	Tuart
Eucalyptus sideroxylon	Red Ironbark
Melaleuca preissiana	Moonah
Eucalyptus tottiana	Prickly Bark
Eucalyptus leucoxylon	Yellow Gum
Eucalyptus marginata	Jarrah
Corymbia ficifolia	Red Flowering Gum
Grevillea robusta	Silky Oak
Eucalyptus forrestiana	Fuschia Gum

#### **Issues and options considered:**

The options available to Council are as follows:

- 1 Do nothing;
- 2 Remove Sheoaks and replant with suitable native species;
- 3 Progressively replant suitable species and remove Sheoaks at a later suitable time;
- 4 Remove only all Sheoaks.

#### **Link to Strategic Plan:**

Strategies

1.3.1 Provide leisure and recreational activities aligned to community expectations, incorporating innovative opportunities for today's environment.

1.4.2 Contribute to the protection of human health.

#### **Legislation – Statutory Provisions:**

Not Applicable.

#### **Risk Management considerations:**

The risks associated with the presence of Sheoaks in close proximity to play ground equipment have been assessed using the Department of Environment and Conservation's (DEC) Individual Hazard Risk Assessment Matrix. This methodology has been developed by DEC to determine visitor risk when using DEC managed parks.

The DEC Matrix is a tool that is used to determine risk levels, and examines a range of risk factors, including accident event probability, exposure frequency and the possible consequences of an accident event. The risk score obtained using the Matrix is used to determine whether a risk level is acceptable or not. Using this method, City Officers determined that the risk of injury to children when using play equipment in the vicinity of Sheoaks in the City's Reserves is considered low. A search of the City's records has not revealed any incidents relating to Sheoak trees.

**Financial/Budget Implications:**

There is an estimated cost of \$31,000 to remove seventy-eight Sheoaks located adjacent to play ground equipment. This cost includes the provision to grind out remaining tree stumps. The cost to purchase plant and maintain replacement trees for a period of two years is \$450 per tree or \$35,100 for the seventy-eight trees. The total budget required to replace the Sheoaks would be \$66,100. The budget for this work would come from the maintenance budgets of the affected parks.

**Policy Implications:**

Not Applicable.

**Regional Significance:**

Not Applicable.

**Sustainability Implications:**

The removal of seventy-eight Sheoaks from twenty-four of the City's reserves would remove a valuable food source for the native parrots that use the trees seeds for this purpose.

**Consultation:**

In considering this matter, it is important for Council to take a position with the Advisory Committee then commenting on that position.

**COMMENT**

It is considered that the risk to children's health from injury caused by the seed capsules from Sheoaks is low, based on the DEC Visitor Risk Management assessment methodology. It was also considered that the practice of not wearing shoes in a public park is not advisable as a safety precaution.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1            Photograph of a Sheoak seed capsule

**VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple majority

**OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION:** That Council:

- 1 DOES NOT SUPPORT the removal of Sheoaks on the basis that they present a low risk in accordance with the Department of Environment and Conservation's guidelines;
- 1 REFERS this Report to the Conservation Advisory Committee for comment.

**MOVED Cr Macdonald, SECONDED Cr John that Council:**

- 1 **AGREES to implementing a six (6) year rolling program that progressively removes Sheoaks within 10 metres of play equipment within the public open spaces, and replants with a suitable native species;**
- 2 **NOTES that Sheoaks will no longer be planted within close proximity to play equipment.**
- 3 **REFERS this Report to the Conservation Advisory Committee for comment.**

Discussion ensued.

**The Motion was Put and**

**CARRIED (9/0)**

**In favour of the Motion:** Mayor Pickard, Crs Currie, Corr, Fishwick, Hollywood, John, Magyar, Macdonald and McLean

As this Motion was a significant departure from the Officer's Recommendation, the following reason was recorded:

"The Council had concerns in relation to the amenity and potential impact of the Sheoak nuts on children."

*Appendix 10 refers*

To access this attachment on electronic document, click here: [Attach10brf180907.pdf](#)

Attachment 1



**Sheoak Seed Cones**