

Report from Meeting with Philip Tulk , Manager Parks and Vegetation
Thursday 28th September

We met at the corner of Dean Streets and Murphy Grove. I pointed out and Philip agreed that the avenue looking up the Dean Street rise did look magnificent. Looking in the other direction he could see how the avenue of Melaleucas had been cut into. He had no idea who had planted the bottlebrush in front of the new house near the corner where we were standing but indicated he would follow up on that issue.

He stuck to the story of the need to remove the big tree on the corner because it had developed a split and according to the tree remover had around 6 months before it became dangerous. Via phone, permission was given to take it out. This story varies from what I was told previously when I questioned if a council officer had sighted/checked the tree before permission to remove the tree was given. I was assured a qualified arborist had assessed the tree. Turns out the qualified arborist and the tree chopper are one and the same.

In answer to my request to pin/brace the trees instead of cutting them down I was told no because pinning rots them out and there are 80 thousand trees in Darebin. I said I am not asking for all the trees to be pinned but think that there are some stand out examples that should be preserved for as long as possible. Still no!

In an earlier email I was told that Darebin 'extensively surveys' residents before deciding which trees to plant in the street. When asked what 'extensively surveys' actually means I was first told the whole street was survey and then that was amended to the block of the street. This doesn't sound extensive. I was also consistently told that I would not be happy if the folk round the corner decided what tree was planted in front of my house. My reply was that they decide who my local council representative is. Really the heritage and amenity value of this species and these old trees is a much bigger issue than what the street wants.

Philip Tulk did promise to follow up on why the 3 trees were removed in Murphy Grove.

Again, I asked for an appeal process to be added so that residents could appeal against a decision to remove a tree and not just against a decision not to remove a tree. Didn't get an answer on that one, read no!

Finally, there is no succession planting planned so that when the trees are removed and if they last this may be 30 years away, it will take at least 15 years for the canopy to be replaced. This is not good enough.

Where do we go from here? If you have ideas please let me know.

Cheers, Maria