



Tree Condition Assessment

Site Address: Chinese Temple. 2/76 Raglan Street, South Melbourne. 3205
Date of Inspection: 09/11/24
Client: Open Air Events Pty Ltd
Client Contact: Jeremy Crowe
Attending Arborist: Joel Sharp

Scope of Assessment:

A tree health and structure assessment of two trees; a *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum) tree (herein referred to as Tree 1) and a *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane) tree (herein referred to as Tree 2). A non-invasive, ground-based health and structure assessment was undertaken on 09/11/2024.

Statutory Controls:

Both trees are protected under the Port Phillip Local Law via Significant Tree Permits and under the Heritage Act 2017 - Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) via Heritage Overlay HO236 (VHR reference H0219).

Tree 1.

Botanical Name: *Liquidambar styraciflua* **Common Name:** Sweetgum
Tree Height: 13m **Crown spread:** 10m **Trunk diameter:** 51cm @ 1.4metres above grade.
Age Class: Dead

Tree Description:

Tree 1. A deceased tree located at the northeast corner of the garden. English Ivy covers the central trunk of the tree.

A large broken branch was observed on the ground northeast of the tree.

The tree will require a City of Port Phillip Significant Tree Permit to remove or prune.

Under clause 9.6 of the Heritage Act 2017 General Permit Exemptions 2024, tree removal requires the tree to have been assessed in a written report prepared by a qualified arborist as being dead, dangerous or beyond curative repair, prior to the tree removal works or activities commencing. During tree removal works, the following conditions must be met as well:

1. Must be supervised by a qualified arborist.
2. The **Executive Director** must be notified within 5 business days of works occurring, upon which tree replacement may be required.
3. There must be no ground disturbance works associated with tree removal in areas where the land contains historical archaeological remains associated with the registered place. In such cases, tree removal must cease at ground level.

Tree Condition:

The tree is dead. No evidence of live foliage was observed. Significant necrosis and associated bark delamination was observed at the base of the tree. English Ivy was observed growing on the main trunk of the tree.

Tree structure is poor. Desiccation associated with tree death has impacted wood integrity resulting in multiple observed branch failures.

Discussion:

The tree is dead and should be removed with 12 months.

Recommendations:

1. Within 12 months, remove the tree.

Tree 1 Photographs:



Top left: View from west illustrating overall tree condition.
Top right: View from south illustrating necrosis and bark delamination at the base of the tree.

Tree 2.

Botanical Name: *Platanus x acerifolia*

Common Name: London Plane Tree

Tree Height: 15m

Crown spread: 12m

Trunk diameter: 57cm @ 1.4metres above grade.

Age Class: Mature

Tree Description:

Tree 2. An established specimen growing near the centre of the garden. The tree has a single trunk supporting an open and rounded crown formed by spreading branches.

Removal of the large ascending branch which grows from the lower east trunk face with diameter of approx.. 200mm (pictured below) has been requested for removal by the client to allow for the installation of a temporary space of worship.

The tree will require a City of Port Phillip Significant Tree Permit to remove or prune.

Under clause 9.4 of the Heritage Act 2017 General Permit Exemptions 2024, the requested tree pruning will not require a permit but must adhere to the following conditions:

1. Pruning of vegetation must not exceed 20% of the tree canopy within one calendar year, regardless of regrowth.
2. Pruning activities must not adversely affect the health of the tree and must be in accordance with Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees 4373-2007.

Tree Condition

Tree health is good. The tree displayed reasonable vigour with a full canopy of normal shaped, sized, and coloured foliage. A small amount of internal deadwood was present with approximately 5 dead branches measuring 50mmØ or smaller were observed throughout the canopy. No evidence of pest or disease was observed.

Tree structure is fair with no significant defects observed.

Discussion:

The health and structure are within nominal ranges.

A large dead branch (50mmØ) exists in the lower southeast canopy and should be removed.

The requested live branch removal is not expected to have a significant impact on the tree's health or structure due to the species' high tolerance to pruning and current good health. To help lessen impact, additional irrigation is recommended during the summer months (Dec. | Jan. | Feb.). The branch removal will remove approx.. 10% of the tree's live foliage which lies within the acceptable limits of the Heritage exemptions. Tree cutting must be performed by a minimum AQF Level 3 Certified Arborist to ensure that the pruning cuts adhere to the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees 4373-2007.

Recommendations:

1. Within 12 months, remove all deadwood greater than 30mm basal diameter.
2. Undertake requested branch removal following obtainment of City of Port Phillip Significant Tree Permit.
3. Supply additional irrigation during the summer months (Dec.| Jan. |Feb.).

Signature: *Joel Sharp*

Date: Saturday, 9th November 2024.

Name: Joel Sharp

Tree 2 Photograph:



Top left: View from south illustrating requested branch removal and tree condition.