
To: Chris Dawson **Cc:** Brad Ward, Wayne Allen

From: Chris Brockelbank

Date: 20 March 2019 **File Ref:** 070-01-45/3

Subject: STEM peer review - PC2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this Memo is to provide details of the STEM peer review undertaken on two protected trees as part of the submissions review for PC2.

Submissions were received regarding the STEM scores of the golden elm at 30A Hamilton Rd and the black walnut at 18 Le Quesnoy Pl. In the PC2 Submissions report received from Craig Webb (Consultant Arborist) on 25th February 2019 he suggested a review of his STEM scores could be undertaken.

As a result of the submissions on these trees and considering their scores were within range of key indicators in the STEM scoring system, Brad Ward (Community Facilities Team Leader) and myself have STEM peer reviewed these two protected trees. Both trees were reviewed on 27th February 2019.

30A Hamilton Rd – golden elm tree – original STEM score 117 points

Considering the late stage in the season when this tree was peer reviewed (at the end of summer) this tree had a healthy canopy; it was thickly covered with leaves and looked lush. Many other trees at this time were showing signs of stress following the hot dry summer; with wilting leaves, leaf loss and thinning canopies on trees around Cambridge. Therefore, it was agreed the vigour and vitality of this tree was very good.

A change in Vigour and Vitality from Good (15 points) to Very good (21 points) under STEM changes the score for this tree from 117 to 123.

18 Le Quesnoy Pl – black walnut tree – original STEM score 144 points

When this tree was STEM assessed by Craig Webb he considered the site as it is now, i.e. an undeveloped section. However, this is a residential site with the intention that a dwelling be constructed here. Therefore, we reviewed the STEM score for this tree with consideration of it as an occupied site with a dwelling. Due to the relatively small size of this site, this tree will be close to the house and the tree will cover much of the unbuilt portion of the site. Because of this the occupants could be considered to be significantly impacted by this tree. A large volume of walnuts fall from a tree this size; walnuts are big, heavy fruit which are attractive to rats and can produce a mould which is toxic to animals. Walnut trees are also allelopathic. Allelopathy can have an

adverse effect in the garden, resulting in reduced seed germination and plant growth, limiting the ability to grow other plants on this property.

With this review, the Function of the tree on this site drops from Useful to Minor (Function is the STEM criteria where both positive and negative impacts should be considered).

A change in Function from Useful (9 points) to Minor (3 points) under STEM changes the score for this tree from 144 to 138.

Summary

I have liaised with Craig Webb regarding these proposed changes as part of this peer review process and he agreed with the reviewed score of the Vigour and Vitality of the golden elm at 30A Hamilton Rd and with the reviewed score of the Function for the black walnut at 18 Le Quesnoy Pl due to the consideration of it as a residential site with a future residential dwelling and occupants.

Please let me know if you need any more details.



Chris Brockelbank
ARBORIST