

Deputation regarding the verge trees at 44 and 44A Polglass Way Ardross

My neighbour at 44A and myself (44) have the following strong objections to the verge trees in front of our residences.

We are requesting permission from council to remove these at our expense and to replace with a Jacaranda or other appropriate verge decoration, also at our expense.

We have always had verge trees where we have lived but none have been as onerous as this one and it has happened at the wrong time of our life when our ability to or interest in the hard work has waned considerably with the years. The problem is the type of tree, namely the Queensland Box.

When we moved to Ardross, we downsized and desired less garden as my wife just could not do it any more despite her passion for the garden. Initially and for a couple of years she used to pick up the leaves, nuts and bark and small branches in an attempt to keep our frontage neat but that has ceased now because of the deterioration of her health and the continual and relentless shedding from the tree. She has not really been able to do this now since 2018.

The amount of leaf litter that clogs our gutters have required me to attend to cleaning at least 3 times a year. I have recently had a knee replacement and ladders are getting more dangerous for me now. We live on a modest superannuation pension so money for outsourcing work is a matter of significance.

1. The major concern is a safety issue due to nut load that is continually deposited on our lawns and driveways. The nuts impregnate our lawns and fall on our driveways. This creates a definite slip or roll hazard to my wife and our elderly neighbour Lesley. Then when the lawn is mowed the nuts (which despite regular and vigorous raking and sweeping we cannot get rid of) are ejected against our front windows and is causing pitting and will eventually result in window replacements.
2. The nuts on our driveway constitute significant concern for my wife who has severe rheumatoid arthritis (two knee replacements and a hip plus surgery to her left foot and spine) She is very unstable when walking and has had a fall inside the house due to this instability and suffered a distal radius fracture of her right forearm. She has come close to rolling on the nuts on the driveway and a fall was only averted by her grabbing the letter box which she was near.

3. My neighbour is more elderly at age 83 and suffers from vertigo and has had serious cancer issues. She has experienced similar (to my wife) near falls on her driveway and has significant concern for the same reason. I was present at one of these incidents and if I had not been there to support her, she would have taken a bad tumble. My neighbour has also experienced a sticky secretion from her tree which soils her driveway and leaves a stain similar to a snail track. This sticky secretion also gets on her shoes and makes a mess of them. She has had people from council try to remedy this but it is temporary relief at the best.

Lesley has lived here for 20 years but she was younger then and is tired now of the constant battle to maintain her frontage and has developed fears for her safety now.

Due to unchecked growth these trees have grown to a size where they are no longer appropriate to their location. They would constitute a threat to our homes in the event of storm and the limbs which fall from our tree pose a significant risk of harm if they land on us. There have been 3 such incidents where limbs have landed alongside my wife while she was walking under the tree. She does not possess the agility to dodge these limbs. Broad daylight and no wind it just came down with no warning. The size of the tree is such that it does not drop small limbs. She was lucky that time. Very near misses from significant sized limbs are a concern for us both. We started to think that pruning might make it safer and present less nut burden but advice from council informed us about epicormic growth which I then researched and discovered that pruning was not going to solve our problems.

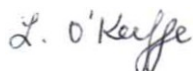
4. Another issue which occurs periodically is the massive shedding of bark. When experienced, it was almost unbelievable how much of the lawn it covered. I took pictures of this and sent them to our ward councillor Margaret Sandford. My neighbour also had the identical problem. The load of maintenance is just staggering and suggests a lack of research prior to installing these trees in the first place, especially in front of villas classified as 55 plus retirement units.
5. Another neighbour (also in their 80's on the corner of Glencoe Stand Polglass Way suffers from constantly clogged gutters with nuts, leaves, bark and fine feathery flowers from these trees. Their lawn is also heavily loaded with these nuts. They make the point that the nuts themselves are a major slipping hazard and many councils across the state are now realising this and removing them.

6. My neighbour at 44A has had told me of her neighbour's experience with the age friendly group and how she had been very dissatisfied with the outcome.
We have received the forms for application to aged care but a conversation with a contact person when I rang the aged care number informed me that it would take weeks to process our application with assessment included. It would be work carried out for the purpose of safety only. This does not meet all our needs. Also the regularity with which maintenance would be required for safety issues is very onerous and unreasonable.
7. Thus, it is with these concerns and a belief that our safety is most important and at serious risk here that we have lodged the request to remove these particular trees at 44 and 44A Polglass Way in Ardross .
8. It is our safety and we have to live with our verge tree so the wider community may express their opinions but we are of the definite opinion that we should have the greater say and our case should hold first importance. Our nearest neighbours suffer the fallout from these trees even though it is not on their verge but they are still adversely impacted to the point where they support our case. I can see that this tree may be fine on a park or around an oval but it is not now in its present state appropriate for our aged residential verge.

Sincerely

Robert J Higgins
44 Polglass Way Ardross 6153
phone 0409299731

lesley Okeefe
44A Polglass Way



Phone 93151937

Chorus group Quote from Vanessa Stewart.

We have applied to Chorus group for assistance with the mess created by our verge tree at 44 Polglass Way in Ardross.

The response we have received is that after we applied Vanessa contacted us and said we comply with all the requirements and criteria for a once a year allowance of \$500. Vanessa received quotes for gutter cleaning, provided the litter was deemed to have come from the verge trees and said that after this was allowed for we would have about \$160 left to deal with the nuts issue. While the gutter cleaning will be accessed we are still left short due to the nuts cleaning requiring more than the remainder left out of the \$500. This is evidenced from the quote received for nut cleaning. Mark, referred to in e mail below, quoted me \$40 per clean and we would require one clean per week. This would cover only 4 weeks of the year thus leaving the major problem of nuts still not dealt with and still a safety issue.

I have copied in two e mails from Vanessa Stewart from Chorus supporting my above statement.

Hi Vanessa,

Mark has just been and discussed our situation. He will contact you but he has said that to do the work required by us he would charge \$40 per visit. Our need would be at least every 2 weeks and that would only cover us (after gutter cleaning twice a year) for 8 weeks of the year. This is what our counsellor needs to hear from you so that we have evidence to support our application for tree removal. But if we are not successful we would need the gutter service please.

Thankyou.

Robert

Good Morning Robert,

Thank you for taking the time talk with me today.

I have filled out the application form with you over the phone including your pension card number.

I will email SOS Enterprise for a quote for your gutters to be cleaned, I will ask for 2 quotes one for 3 monthly clean and one 4 monthly clean (year), if they state the gutters are full due to council trees (as you explained) the 10% contribution fee will be waived, if the cost is over \$500 this will be out of pocket expense to yourself if you decide to proceed with it.

I have attached a brochure regarding the funding.

I will contact you when I receive the quote back from SOS to discuss the cost and the next process.

Have a great day 😊

Many Thanks

Vanessa Stewart

Admin Support Assistant

4 Civic Blvd Rockingham **m** 0435 044 054

WA 6168 **t** 08 9550 7916

chorus.org.au

For Attention: Cr Margaret Sandford

Dear Councillor,

We write in support of our neighbours at 44 and 44A Polglass Way, Ardross in their quest for approval to remove two mature Queensland Box trees from their front verge.

With the installation of Underground Power many years ago, which abrogated the need for Utility Providers to manage trees to provide for safe clearance of overhead supply wires, these trees have grown to a size where they are no longer appropriate to their location.

The continual shedding of leaves, nuts and bark from these trees presents an ongoing physical challenge to our elderly neighbours in trying to maintain the appearance and safety of their front yards and the adjacent streetscape.

Your assistance is sought in gaining full Council approval for the removal of the subject trees, at the owners expense, and replacement with more appropriately sized trees or other verge decoration.

Yours sincerely,

CJ & HM Dawson
42A Polglass Way, Ardross WA

To the Council of the City of Melville.

Re Verge Queensland Box Tree

I have owned my 44A Polglass Way Ardross residence for 20 years. This was purchased as a newly erected Retirement Villa.

Since then I have maintained the grounds surrounding said tree, by keeping the lawns etc. as neat as I can. This includes forever raking, mainly, the copious amounts of nuts which continually deposit on my lawn and driveway. The nuts on my driveway constitute an ongoing worry for me as they predispose me to falls from rolling on the nuts.

As I am now 20 years older, I find the never-ending raking, sweeping most tiring. I even used to sweep my street gutter.

Your Mayor George Gear and Ms Margaret Sandford and Ms Katy Mair have all been very accommodating and supportive to both my neighbour, Robert Higgins, and myself regarding the above situation being remedied. I want to feel safe in my abode and feel more relaxed when moving about my residence. I do not want to be in fear of my life when I walk down my driveway.

I feel hopeful that this request is received compassionately and looked upon favourably.

Lesley O'Keeffe

44A Polglass Way Ardross.

Dear Robert,

Thanks for your letter asking for support to remove the Queensland Box trees from your front verge.

I am writing this letter on behalf of my parents Ricardo and Maria Cacho from 26 Glencoe Rd as English is their second language and they do not have access to technology.

They are both in full support of the removal of these trees.

The nuts, leaves and flower wattle from these trees is a concern for my parents (both of whom are in their 80's) and for the lawn mowing contractor who maintains their lawn.

My parents gutters are constantly clogged with nuts, leaves, bark and fine feathery flowers from these trees and so too is their lawn.

The nuts themselves are a major slipping hazard and many councils across the state are now realising this and removing them.

These trees don't provide shade and don't actually help native wildlife need removing.

Both my parents support them being replaced with a Jacaranda or a tree without nuts and fine feathery wattle!

Many thanks for all of your efforts Robert.

Kind Regards

Marisa

Marisa

Marisa Phoebe

Deputy Principal

Woodlands Primary School

T: 9446 3363

E: marisa.phoebe@education.wa.edu.au

Hi Robert,

We fully support the removal of the box trees from 44 and 44A Polglass Way Ardross.

The leaves, bark, and nuts they drop are a constant burden of having to be cleaned up everyday.

Due to the prevailing winds all the leaves end up on the West side of the street.

Our neighbour has a box tree and it is a constant battle cleaning up bark, nuts and leaves.

If there is anything we can do to support you in this action just let us know.

Regards,

John and Yvonne Godley

38b Polglass Way

Ardross

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10







Riverside Lawn Mowing Perth.

Quote

Mark Harding : 0403 188 086

24/05/2020

153a Waddell Rd, Bicton 6157

Email: riversidemowing@optusnet.com.au

ABN : 94702806154

Account To :

Vanessa Stewart

c/- Chorus

Item: Rob Higgins

44 Polglass Way Ardross

4 x weekly visits for garden services as requested. @ \$40 per visit.

Grand total - \$160.00 inc gst.

Payment by Direct Credit:

BSB : 036 048

ACCOUNT : 390874

NAME: Riverside Lawn Mowing Perth

Please quote Inv No.

Net 14 days.



QUOTE

Chorus - AFMAF
Attention: AFMAF Coordinator
PO Box 711
ROCKINGHAM WA 6968

Date
13 May 2020

Expiry
12 Jun 2020

Quote Number
QU-1336

Reference
GC Robert Higgins 44
Polglass way Ardross

SOS Enterprises Pty Ltd
PO Box 207
North Fremantle
WA 6159
P: 08 9433 1077

ABN 79 117 409 604

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount AUD
Address of site: Robert Higgins 44 Polglass way Ardross wa 6153 0409 299 731	1.00	0.00		0.00
*Gutters appear to be full from the council trees				
Carry out a Gutter Clean service, check all downpipes and remove debris from site.				
Price is per clean. Please confirm how many cleans you would like				
* Includes free basic roof inspection with report. * Please note additional charges may occur if down pipes are blocked or if tricky access between building gutter & patio structure (if applicable)	1.00	154.00	10%	154.00
* Please contact SOS if you would like a free quote on any defects found (if applicable)				
* Note: Our quote includes the use of safety harnesses if required, to ensure work is conducted in a safe manner.				
			Subtotal	154.00

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount AUD
			Total GST 10%	15.40
			TOTAL AUD	169.40

Terms

Note: By accepting this quotation, the customer hereby agrees to SOS Enterprises' Terms & Conditions of Trade. A copy of our Terms & Conditions can be provided upon request.

Bank Details for Deposit (if required)

Name: SOS Enterprises Pty Ltd

BSB: 306-048

Account Number: 0646272

Please use quote number as reference