



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 3 December, 2015

More than 80 trees for chop in Darlington upgrade

The State Government has signed an order allowing more than 80 trees to be felled to make way for the \$620 million Darlington road upgrade.

The decision ignores repeated appeals from Marion Council to spare a number of trees which form a gateway to the city and are of cultural and ecological significance.

Marion Council was notified this week that Planning Minister John Rau had signed the development order.

Under the decision:

- 63 regulated trees and 23 significant trees in Marion and Mitcham councils are earmarked for removal.
- 13 regulated and two significant trees may be pruned.

Many of the trees which Council is opposed to being felled are located along Sturt Rd and around Laffer Drive at Clovelly and Bedford Park.

Mayor Kris Hanna said he was disappointed at the decision.

“I’m very disappointed the State Government has ignored our calls to save these landmark trees when they could have been retained by adjusting the road design,” Mr Hanna said.

“Cutting down these beautiful trees, which enhance our local environment and provide a home for wildlife, will be a great loss to our community.

“Many of the trees earmarked for removal are not in the direct line of infrastructure work and are of ecological and cultural significance.”

In Marion, 26 healthy trees are earmarked to be felled with Council directly appealing for 11 of them to be saved.

“Marion Council has always recognised that some significant trees will have to go as part of the upgrade but the potential scale and loss of so many significant trees will concern our community,” Mr Hanna said.

Council’s bid to save the trees dates back to May this year when it wrote to the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure about the Darlington upgrade and requesting that trees

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be retained wherever possible during the work.

Council wrote to the Development Assessment Commission in August requesting it spare 11 trees and urged the retention where possible of a further eight trees.

In October, Council appeared before the DAC to argue its case.

Regulated trees have a trunk circumference of 2m or more while significant trees have a trunk circumference of 3m.

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