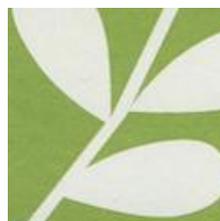


02 November 2015



**Beaumaris Conservation  
Society Inc.**

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Mr Adrian Robb  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bayside City Council  
PO Box 27  
SANDRINGHAM VIC 3191

**Need for augmentative tree planting on Council land in Holding Street, Beaumaris**

Dear Mr Robb,

Bayside City Council rejected [a proposal in May 2004](#) to sell a strip of treed Council land on the southern side of Holding Street, Beaumaris, just east of High Street, to the abutting owners of 31-35 Reid Street, as a line of remnant indigenous trees grew on that land, and it made up an important part of the tree cover in Beaumaris the Bayside Planning Scheme's Vegetation Protection Overlay [Schedule 3](#) protects.

As photos below of that site in 2004 and 2015 show, of the three impressive Coast Manna Gum trees (*Eucalyptus pryoriana*) that appear in Photo 1, only the central one still remains, as Photo 2 sadly shows. Panning on the latest [Google street view, of March 2013](#), shows all three Manna Gums were intact then.

That remaining central tree - which now appears to be close to death - is shown in the Photo 4 below, in 2015, which includes the large diameter stump, **freshly** sawn off nearly flush to the ground, that is all that remains of the westernmost Manna Gum. It might be that all three Gums did survive the recent decade-long drought, but if Council is able to inform BCS Inc. about any other possible reason for the sawn-off condition of all but the central Gum, it would be greatly appreciated, please. Was the sawing lawful?

The [latest Google satellite view](#) still shows the easternmost tree to be intact, so its sawing-off - fairly high up - must be recent, and it shows that the northern boundaries of 34 Holding St and 35 Reid St each has a concrete vehicle crossing to the land. The former is to a new garage built opposite the **freshly** sawn-down Manna Gum before it was sawn down. The easternmost of the three live Manna Gums in 2004 is now a tall stump with a few leaves sprouting at the base. It is obscured by a Coastal Tea Tree in Photo 3.

Photo 3 shows that a significant non-permeable area of red pavers has been constructed on Council land here abutting the Holding Street rear boundary of 35 Reid Street. That paved area is deleterious to tree growth on this land owing to its non-permeability unduly restricting transport of rainfall to the tree roots.

As it is possible that the placing there of pavers and the adjacent timber retaining walls were each undertaken without permission of the Council, BCS Inc. asks Council whether it ever granted permission for those changes to its land, and if it had not, whether it would require them to be removed, please.

BCS Inc. asks Council whether it would agree to plant at least three new Coast Manna Gums near the dead and dying specimens in order to maintain the continuity of this distinctive strip of indigenous treed roadside in Beaumaris, and it would appreciate Council's response to the requests in this letter, please.

Yours faithfully,

Adrian Cerbasi  
President, Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

cc: Bayside City councillors; Ms Jo Hurse, CityWide



Photo 1: View of south-east corner of Holding and High Streets, Beaumaris, in 2004



Photo 2: View of south-east corner of Holding and High Streets, Beaumaris, in 2015



Photo 3: The easternmost Manna Gum's tall sawn-off trunk is obscured by a Coastal Tea Tree.



Photo 4: The dying central Gum is at left, and the freshly-sawn stump of the westernmost Gum is at right.