

8 October 2007

Mr Michael Top
Group Manager Sustainability
Bayside City Council
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Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

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Dear Mr Top,

Request for Council response to BCS Inc. Review of 2007 Vegetation Protection decisions

Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. (BCS Inc.) has reviewed the [determined planning applications](#) published on the Bayside City Council website. The results of the review cause BCS Inc. great concern about the very high percentage of approvals by Council for vegetation removal – each of which grants full exemption from the ostensible Vegetation Protection Overlay.

A summary of our review in Table 1 shows the following results of Council determinations,

- A total of 65 individual planning applications were lodged in Beaumaris for the removal of a total of 111 trees.
- Of the 65 applications, 51 were granted, and 11 were refused (3 applications, for the removal of 3 trees, were withdrawn).
- The 51 approved applications were for the removal of 94 trees - an average of 1.8 trees per application.
- The 11 refused applications were for the removal of 14 trees – an average of 1.3 trees per application.

Table 1: Vegetation Removal Permit Outcomes in Beaumaris – January to October 2007

Outcome of Determined Applications	Number of Determined Applications	Total number of trees where determination was made	Percentage of total number of trees determined
Approved	51	94	87%
Refused	11	14	13%
Total	62	108	100%

BCS Inc. and its members are deeply concerned about the considerable number of trees in Beaumaris that have been approved for removal since the beginning of 2007. Our review supports the anecdotal evidence of our members that the leafy and bushy character of Beaumaris is being destroyed at an alarming rate through the removal of large and mature trees. The native and indigenous trees are intrinsic to the character of Beaumaris, and are all specifically protected by [Schedule 3](#) to the Bayside Vegetation Protection Overlay, but the major and conspicuous weakness of this 'protection' is proving to be the very high rate of exemptions that the Council is permitting.

In response to the above results, BCS Inc. requests that Council prepare a formal response to our review of the number of trees being approved for removal in Beaumaris. The purpose of the response would be to respond to our concern that the rate of tree removal in Beaumaris is inconsistent with the following objectives prescribed in the Vegetation Protection Overlay,

- to prevent the loss of native and particularly indigenous vegetation incurred by development.
- to retain the amenity, aesthetic character and habitat value of Australian native vegetation and indigenous vegetation in particular within the Beaumaris and Black Rock area, and
- to promote the regeneration and replanting of indigenous species in the Beaumaris and Black Rock area.
- BCS Inc. asks that the response categorise the reasons why the removal of the trees was approved. Possible categories could include
 - tree posed a danger to property or persons,
 - tree was either over-mature or in poor condition with short life expectancy,
 - tree was young with serious faults, or
 - tree was exotic, to be replaced with an appropriate indigenous species or genus.

The protection of the indigenous vegetation in Beaumaris is one of the key objectives of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. and we look forward to receiving your response on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi
President