

Residents fired up as the last Cadaghi tree in Arcadia Ave meets the chainsaw

Council's unkindest cut of all?

By NATASHA CHRISTIAN

ARCADIA Ave residents woke to the not-too-soothing sound of chainsaws on Wednesday morning.

The sound was a realisation their council had ignored their pleas to save the last Cadaghi tree in the street.

The beautiful tree (Corymbia Torelliana) was considered an icon for the people of Woorim, a strong leafy statement for those who drive through the area.

Nine-year-old Ruby Grant, was devastated as she watched council workers start to take down branches.

Tears streamed down her face as she watched from her home across the road. She had been told the tree would be safe.

She had grown up with the tree across the road and adored it.

Other residents said they had asked the workers if they had the required permits to do the job. They were ignored.

It was believed the tree was being removed due to leaf litter complaints, however this has been dismissed by council.

Ruby's mum Carly Grant lives in the home most affected by the leaves. She said at most they were a "mild inconvenience".

"Saving the tree is more important to me," she said.

Woorim resident David Percival said Moreton Bay Regional Council had not followed due process when it came to actioning the tree's removal.

"The council's own policy states not to remove them because of leaf litter," he said.

As stated in council policy 217/06 Removal of Urban Trees in Council Controlled Areas, "Leaf and tree litter, on their own, will not be considered sufficient reason to substantiate the removal of urban trees."

Bribie Island Environmental Protection Association spokeswoman Diane Oxenford said another issue

 Council's own policy:

Leaf and tree litter, on their own, will not be considered sufficient reason to substantiate the removal of urban trees.

with the removal was the fact there was a bird's nest in the tree. She believed the council was in breach of the Nature Conservation Act to interfere with the breeding site.

A Moreton Bay Regional Council spokesman said the council had confirmed with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection that a permit was not required as an inspection of the tree revealed a crow's nest which was believed to be disused.

What do you think? Email cabnewsed@scnews.com.au or phone 5490 1421.



PROTEST IN VAIN: Richard Proudfoot and Fiona McGill protest against the removal of the last Cadaghi gum on Arcadia Ave. PHOTO: NATASHA CHRISTIAN

'Mistakes from past'

INAPPROPRIATE planting has been listed as Moreton Bay Regional Council's reasoning for the removal of Cadaghi trees on Bribie Island since 2007.

Division one Councillor Gary Parsons said the planting of Cadaghi trees on Avon Ave, Banksia Beach and Arcadia Ave, Woorim were "mistakes of the past."

Cr Parsons rubbished claims the removal of the last Cadaghi tree at Arcadia Ave on Wednesday was due to leaf litter complaints.

A Moreton Bay Regional Council spokesperson said although native to the rainforests of North Queensland, the Cadaghi Gum was considered an invasive environmental weed species in south east Queensland.

"Cadaghi Gums can aggravate allergies in some sufferers and produce a resin which can devastate native stingless bees by clogging their hive," the spokesperson said.

The trees will be replaced with Kauri Pine Trees which will eventually deliver a habitat corridor and colourful scenery.

BEFORE:

THE last Cadaghi tree in Arcadia Ave before the chainsaws moved in this week.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



AFTER:

THIS is all that remains to show where Arcadia Ave's last Cadaghi tree stood.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED