

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill of good health for iconic pines

Torquay's iconic Norfolk Pines have been declared "alive and recovering" by an arborist, who officially assessed the trees this week.

Stephen Bayley, Consulting Arborist for and Manager of Lorne's Tree Watch reported green shoots are appearing at the tops of the trees.

"The trees are recovering, and with reduced water restrictions and higher rainfall their health is expected to continue improving," he said.

The Great Ocean Road Coast Committee has been monitoring the trees since 2008 following observations of a general decline in their health.

A report commissioned by the Committee in October 2008 found the trees had experienced stress due to water restrictions, low rainfall and high numbers of corellas feeding on the new shoots and seed pods.

The Committee's Coastal Reserves Manager, Rod Goring, said the experts at Tree Watch were engaged to assess the health of the trees and to ensure any dead limbs did not pose a danger to the public.

"We have not only inspected the trees, but also removed any remaining dead wood as a precautionary measure.

"The removal of the limbs, while necessary to minimise risk, will give some of the trees an irregular shape however it is anticipated that where dead wood has been removed, new growth will eventually appear" he said.

Mr Bayley said the shape of the trees came secondary to their health.

"Removal of the limbs ensures we are doing everything possible to preserve the health of the trees for the future" he said.

Mr Goring said while lack of water was the major risk to the trees, corellas may still pose a threat to the trees should they return to Torquay in large number.

"If the corellas do return the Committee will engage in discussions with the Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Surf Coast Shire to discuss a solution, and will continue to keep the community informed," he said.

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Caring for the coast and community

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