

Register Your Interest.

Douglas Shire Council has awarded a contract to infrastructure and environmental services company Cardno for the design and documentation of the upgrade of Warner Street between Grant and Owen Streets. The design will cover the roadway, streetscape, street lighting, landscaping, shared pathways, cycle lanes, vehicle parking and drainage infrastructure.

Need for the Upgrade

The need to upgrade Warner Street between Owen and Grant is required for several reasons:

- Without re-engineering to accommodate the root system of the existing trees, their health will suffer;
- Damage to public infrastructure including the road and drains caused by roots will continue if nothing is done, adding to maintenance costs;
- Residents and business operators in Warner Street experience issues with water not draining away leaving pools of stagnant, smelly water and gutters and drains filling with leaves; and
- Surface roots create trip hazards which is a safety and accessibility issue.

Tree Health

The Rosewood trees were planted by a local resident. The avenue of 66 trees forms a picturesque canopy over the road. The trees, which are native to South East Asia, are fast growing, deciduous trees which grow 30m high with shallow, prominent surface roots. Most of the trees were planted in the immediate proximity to the roadside and/or street-side parking which does not allow for root development. This will eventually lead to a progressive decrease in tree vigour, along with a heightened potential for disease. Unless rectified by re-engineering the current surrounds, the health of the trees will suffer. Further information is available in the *Pre-planning Tree Health and Condition Report* available on Council's Have Your Say Page, Warner Street Upgrade Project.

Level of Service

In recent years, despite significantly increasing the frequency of street cleaning and the removal of tonnes of leaves fortnightly, Warner Street residents and business operators have suffered with issues of water not draining away, pools of stagnant water, gutters and drains filling with leaves and roots causing trip hazards. The issues are:

- Significant damage to paved areas throughout Warner Street. Surface roots have caused surfaces to be lifted both within parking areas and the main roadway.
- Surface roots impacting upon driveway and walkway access.
- Surface roots growing in immediate proximity to services access.
- Frequent requirement for street cleaning requiring the removal of tonnes of leaves [required fortnightly during the four months leaves fall]
- The need to hire specialised drain clearing equipment to cut out the roots blocking underground drains. The drainage issue is exacerbated by the fact that Warner Street water levels are influenced by spring tides and storm surges.

The last two points result in maintenance costs associated with Warner Street being significantly higher than all other areas in Port Douglas – which is a cost to all ratepayers.

Feedback

Cardno will be preparing design options which will be put out for public comment in April. If you are interested in having input, please email your preferred contact details to Gaye Scott on gaye.scott@douglas.qld.gov.au.