

ITEM C

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - TREE VANDALISM - REWARD MECHANISM FOR INFORMATION

The recent vandalism of two coastal tea trees at Belmore Basin has caused outrage in our community. This kind of vandalism unfortunately occurs across our LGA, impacting the amenity and liveability of our City.

One objective of Council's Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Policy is to promote and guide broader community involvement in the prevention of vandalism, and in Council's response to vandalism incidents. Council's ability to successfully investigate vandalism and help prosecute those responsible is heavily reliant on receiving information from the community. Introducing an incentive to provide information may assist in successful enforcement outcomes and reduce the incidence of tree/vegetation vandalism.

RECOMMENDATION

Wollongong City Council review the Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Policy to address continuing instances of vandalism across the LGA and explore further opportunities to deter tree and vegetation vandalism.

The review should include the feasibility of a reward mechanism to encourage a person or persons to provide information to Council or Police that leads to the successful prosecution of offenders responsible for tree and/or vegetation vandalism.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.