



**Arboricultural Impact Statement for a *Phoenix canariensis* palm at 5 Help Street,  
Chatswood, New South Wales**

by

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## 1.0. Introduction

During 28 February 2019 I made a detailed inspection of a mature *Phoenix canariensis* (Arecaceae) palm tree growing on the grounds of 5 Help Street, Chatswood, NSW (Fig. 1).

The subject tree was inspected during fine hot weather with no wind.

## 2.0. Observations

The tree is over 50 years old and has been growing in a less than ideal situation because of the lack of soil. This lack of soil has resulted in the palm tree producing numerous roots and causing the tree to grow upwards because of its failure to secure a rooting medium in any soil. The older roots as well as the new roots have got most nutrients from rain water, the palm tree appears to be growing on concrete. The palm tree may have been dispersed there as a seed from a bird spreading the seed. The tree has infestations of somewhat parasitic *Ficus rubiginosa* (Moraceae) at least three plants as well as a hanger on plant of *Pittosporum undulatum* (Pittosporaceae). The tree base is weakened by the aerial roots and the tree is weakened by the parasitic plants especially the *Ficus*. The tree has many dead fronds and has just started to flower. I believe the tree is rather stressed to say the least.

## 3.0. Recommendations

The tree is definitely stressed with declining health and cannot survive under the present growing conditions. My recommendations are that it needs urgent removal to a better growing environment as it is dying in this present location. The tree can be transplanted but great care needs to be undertaken. (see references below for more information). Firstly the dead fronds and the strangling fig *Ficus* (Moraceae) plants and the *Pittosporum undulatum* (Pittosporaceae) need to be removed from the tree. Before removal, the fronds need to be protected by being folded and tied up. The tree requires careful extraction by a large bobcat or similar machine to lift it from position onto awaiting truck. The roots require watering before the tree is removed. Removal has to be during warm weather but not during hot or cold weather. The tree should be removed to an arboretum or a botanical reserve or a suitable property where other palms are growing. There should be in readiness a suitable planting hole where the palm can be placed immediately after being removed from the truck. [ see e.g., youtube video on how the palm should be translocated. [\[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BaJDgk4280\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BaJDgk4280).] Once the palm tree has been relocated in the new ground (preferably with good drainage), it should be watered regularly and nutrients such as potassium and magnesium added as fertiliser.

## 4.0. References

- Broschat, T.K. (2009). *Transplanting palms in the landscape*. University of Florida, IFAS Extension Brochure, 1-8.
- Hodel, D.R., Pittenger, D.R. Downer, A.J. (2005a). Palm Root growth and implications for transplanting. *Journal of Arboriculture*, 31: 171-181.
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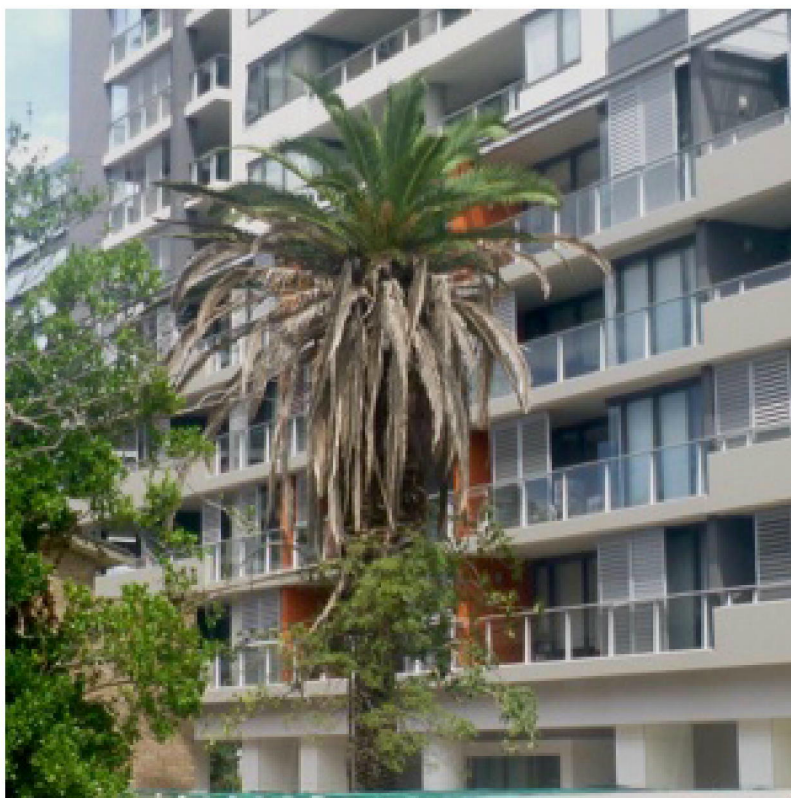


Fig. 1. The *Phoenix canariensis* (Arecaceae) tree on the subject property. (Photo: T.J. Hawkeswood).



Fig. 2. Base of the palm tree. (Photo: T.J. Hawkeswood).



Fig. 3. View of tree side on showing parasitic plants on the trunk. See also Fig. 4 below. (Photo: T.J. Hawkeswood).



Fig. 4. View looking up into the canopy showing *Ficus rubiginosa* (Moraceae) and *Pittosporum undulatum* (Pittosporaceae) growing on the tree. (Photo: T.J. Hawkeswood).



## 5.0. Qualifications of the Author

I have undertaken flora and fauna and arborist reports in the Sydney Bioregion since 1997 with over 2100 reports having been completed. I have been written over 500 tree reports as stand alone documents or as part of flora and fauna reports or vegetation management plans (VMP). Over 22,000 trees have been assessed in these reports. In addition another 50,000 + trees have been examined during the course of flora and fauna studies etc. These reports in the main have been accepted without much fuss and ado by the following Councils: Cooma, Parramatta, Holroyd, Bankstown, Camden, Hornsby, Penrith, Hawkesbury, Liverpool, Blacktown, Blue Mountains and The Hills. I have also represented clients successfully against Councils in the Land & Environment Court, where my qualifications and experience have been recognized.

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Hawkeswood, T.J. (2015). *Tree report and 7-part Test of Significance for Blue Gum High Forest (BGHF) for Lot 18, DP 206702, 39 Cornwall Avenue, Turrumurra, New South Wales*: 1-16.

List of selected and recent tree reports and utilising tree data undertaken by Dr TJ Hawkeswood approved by Councils:

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Hawkeswood, T.J. (2015). Arborist report for one Norfolk Island pine tree (*Araucaria excelsa*, Araucariaceae) at 19 Northcott Street, South Wentworthville, NSW.

Hawkeswood, T.J. (2015). SULE (Arborist) report for 5 trees at/associated with Lot 78, 171 Cox's Road, North Ryde, New South Wales.

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A further selection of my tree/environmental reports can be found at [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Trevor\\_Hawkeswood](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Trevor_Hawkeswood)