



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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## **NORFOLK PINE TREATMENT**

The Shire of Esperance completed works this week to treat Norfolk Island Pine trees infected with a fungal disease.

Previous testing confirmed the presence of a pathogen called *Neofusicoccum parvum* after some of the trees had been showing signs of decline from the tops of the trees downward. Soil, leaf and wood samples were sent to a laboratory for analysis and recommendations from consultation with the laboratory and a qualified Arborist were to remove the infected part of the tree and applying nutrients to the soil.

Recommendations were to remove the infected part of the tree one metre below the infected site. As a result of this eight trees were pruned back to remove the infected areas, and five trees needed to be removed entirely as the infection had progressed all the way down the tree. Two trees identified as potentially needing treatment were found to not be infected by the disease.

CEO Matthew Scott said, "This disease had progressed further on some trees which is why some of the trees had to be cut further down than others. It is unfortunate we had to remove some trees, but it is important that we do everything in our control to prevent this disease from spreading and infecting further trees. The decay had spread rapidly on some trees and was worse than we initially thought."

The work was completed by Shire Parks and Reserves staff, under the supervision of an Arborist. The trees will be continually monitored to check the disease has been eradicated and has not spread to other trees. Our annual replanting program is underway and we will look at replacing some of the iconic Norfolk Island Pines that were lost over the next few months.

**Ends**

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CC: Picture one: The black colouring shows the presence of the pathogen *Neofusicoccum parvum* which had reached the base of the tree.  
Picture two: The black colouring shows the presence of the pathogen *Neofusicoccum parvum* part way up the tree.

