



INFORMATION SHEET

Root Mapping Report

1. What is a Root Mapping Report?

A Root Mapping Report provides information on the roots that are located along a particular line of excavation. This information is used to determine whether the siting of a proposed building or structure is appropriate. It is used to help calculate the level of root severance that would result from the proposed works and therefore the impact the proposed works may have on the structural stability of the tree and its likely capacity to survive such works.

Generally, this information is obtained by hand excavating a trench, down to a specified depth, along the line of proposed excavations. Any roots that transect that trench are then noted and details of their position along the trench, the depth at which they are found and their diameter is recorded.

2. Who should prepare a Root Mapping Report?

This document is to be prepared by an Arborist with a minimum qualification of Australian Qualification Framework Level 4. All reports are to include the name of the Arborist who actually undertook the site inspection and carried out the assessment, their qualifications and contact details.

3. When is a Root Mapping Report required?

Following preliminary assessment of your application, Council may identify the necessity for the submission of a Root Mapping Report. If you have used the Pre DA process, the need for these documents will, in most cases, have been identified at that time

4. What should be included in a Root Mapping Report?

The location of excavation lines should be determined by the Arborist undertaking the works in consultation with Council. A general guide however, is that they should be located along the lines where excavation would be necessary to construct the proposed development.

The trench is to be excavated to a depth as indicated by Council or to the maximum depth at which tree roots are likely to grow given the soil type and site conditions. All excavation is to be carried out by hand and in a manner that will minimise root damage. Mattocks and crow bars are not to be used for excavation. Small hand tools or an air knife should be used to excavate the required area.

As a minimum requirement, Root Mapping Reports should include the following information;

- a) A plan showing the location of all excavation lines in relation to the existing site conditions.
- b) Photographs of the completed excavation lines. The photographs are to include points of reference so that their location and orientation can be determined.
- c) A schedule of findings for each individual excavation line. This schedule is to include;
 - i) the total linear distance of the excavation line,
 - ii) the linear distance along the excavation that the root was located,
 - iii) the depth at which the root was encountered and
 - iv) the diameter of the root.
- d) Any visual variations in roots observed are to be noted eg. highly visible lenticels.
- e) A section, with X (depth) and Y (Length) axis indicated, of the completed trench and all findings. All material found within the trench is to be included eg. roots, pipes etc.