

Response to unauthorised works at Kew Cottages.

Drew J Wilson (DELWP) <drew.wilson@delwp.vic.gov.au>
To: "admin@kew.org.au" <admin@kew.org.au>

25 February 2019 at 13:56

Attention: Brian Walsh.

Dear Brian,

Thanks for your phone call following up the reported breach of the *Heritage Act 2017* at the Kew Cottages.

The complaint consisted of two elements; tree trimming and boring of holes in the ground surface that were initially thought to be linked.

I have contacted DELWP both the contractor responsible and the principal permit holder and discussions have revealed that the activities were not linked.

The trimming of the trees was part of a maintenance agreement to remove dead sections of vegetation that pose an inherent risk to members of the public and does not constitute an offence under the Act.

The drilling of bore holes however, was a breach of the Act as no permit or permit exemption had been obtained from Heritage Victoria. Discussions with the principal and the contractor performing the works made this clear and as a result a warning letter was sent to the project manager to reinforce the seriousness of this issue, highlighting the need for a permit or permit exemption to be obtained prior to the commencement of any works within the heritage area.

All parties have been warned that there is significant public interest in the activities in this area and the likelihood of further breaches being reported should they occur is high and will result in further enforcement action being undertaken by Heritage Victoria.

I thank you for your interest in this matter and should any further activities occur on the site that appear to be unauthorised please do not hesitate to contact Heritage Victoria or myself.

Regards

Drew Wilson.

Drew Wilson | Principal - Investigations and Enforcement | Planning and Heritage

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