In 2018 Council engaged the services of an external arborist to assess trees located within Camp Reserve.

The key objectives of the report were to identify and record the dimensions of all trees located at Camp Reserve and provide an assessment of the trees with regard to:

- their health and structure; and
- the level of risk they present in the landscape.

The report also provided recommendations for long-term management of the trees. Works were recommended for 54 of the 77 trees at the reserve.

Council understands the importance of providing fit for purpose facilities for organised sport along with infrastructure that supports informal physical activities. It has developed a draft master plan for Camp Reserve which seeks to set the direction for improvements at this major sports and recreation facility for the next 10 years.

The draft master plan proposes the removal of two Eucalyptus trees to make way for a netball court and one multi-use community court.

During community consultation on the draft plan Council heard concerns from the community about the proposed removal of two trees.

The two trees, identified as trees 47 and 48 in the tree assessment report, were rated in fair and poor health respectively. The area beneath each tree was mulched in an effort to improve health of the trees and their micro environment.

As part of Council’s ongoing tree management, inspections are undertaken annually at Camp Reserve to manage the trees in the landscape and any associated risks.

A recent assessment of all trees in the reserve by Council’s arborist found the larger of the two Eucalyptus trees in question is in decline, despite efforts to improve the health of the trees.

The tree (48) has a Useful Life Expectancy (ULE) of up to five years. The ULE is an estimate of how long a tree can be retained safely and usefully in the landscape with an acceptable level of risk.

This means the tree is likely to be removed in the future. The removal of tree (48) would also require the removal of the second, smaller Eucalyptus tree as the structure of this tree has a significant lean. If the larger tree is removed this tree would be more susceptible to failure as it would be more open to wind elements.

Council has commissioned an independent assessment of the trees to further inform the ongoing management of the trees. At this stage, the trees do not pose a safety risk.