

# Warning on danger trees

## LIABILITY MAY BE AN ISSUE

Peter Bodkin

GIANT trees looming over residential properties are an “accident waiting to happen” and could leave rate-payers liable if the council refuses to let homeowners take action, one Manly councillor says.

During debate on a new tree management strategy endorsed this week, Cr Richard Morrison said there were 30m gum trees in Seaforth that could kill residents if they fell.

Cr Morrison said the huge trees were inappropriate for the area, but many residents had difficulty obtaining approval from the council to have the trees removed. “If it’s a native, you don’t get that permission ... these are trees that are dangerous to homes,” he said.

“I say this to people all the time – if you want to see a tree, go to a forest. We should be planting mondo grass and azalea bushes.”

Major storms have brought down several large



A fallen tree in Yatama St, Seaforth, on July 22.


gums on houses and cars in the area, including in July this year, when a huge tree fell across the street and pathways near Seaforth Public School shortly after class had begun for the day.

Residents wanting to re-

move more than 10 per cent of a tree’s foliage require consent under the council’s Tree Preservation Order, with approval considered if a tree is growing within 3m of a structure or if it is at risk of causing damage to

people or buildings. Manly Council general manager Henry Wong said property owners had to put a good case forward if they believed a tree was dangerous. He said the council would not be legally liable if it

refused a tree-removal application as residents were expected to seek independent advice from arborists.

 Do you have a problem tree in your area?  
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