

Chris and Robin Lowry

0427 668 700 aquadoctor@gmail.com PO Box 176 Lennox Head, NSW, Australia

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Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

Dear Mr Hickey,

I am pleased to see that the structural engineers and forensic engineers' reports have now been placed on the Council website. These expert reports provide facts to balance the unsubstantiated comments made by the arborists as to the structure integrity of our home, and confirm the damage is due to the fig tree root system, not slab subsidence related to backfilling or change in soil moisture. I would like it noted that neither arborist made any more than cursory look at our property.

I note also that the Tree Doctor's report is preliminary. It discusses the (very high) costs and the method of tree relocation. It does not detail costings or methodology of this proposed root barrier system. How long must we wait for this report to be finalised?

We are not implacably opposed to a root barrier in principle, but we, and Ballina ratepayers, deserve to have these details and a guarantee of success. I imagine the Council insurers would require this as well. We have previously been advised by Council that such root barrier systems are largely unsuccessful for fig trees, especially so close to the tree's primary root structure.

Sincerely yours,

Chris and Robin