



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street: Huntleys Point Road
Suburb: Huntleys Point
Post Code: 2111
GPS: Co ordinates : Longitude 151.1480961 Latitude -33.83901862
Other: Located on road reserve outside of 49 Huntleys Point
Road



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Agathis robusta</i>	Queensland Kauri Pine

Public or Private Type: Public

Group or Individual: Individual

Date of Assessment/Inspection: 14.03.2016

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Agathis robusta* (Queensland Kauri Pine) makes a dramatic impact on landscape quality and scale (*aesthetic value*).

The isolated planting of the Queensland Kauri Pine is a curious botanical statement in the context of the suburban streetscape. Mature examples of the species are unusual for the Hunters Hill Local Government Area (*botanical/scientific value*).

The Agathis robusta (Queensland Kauri Pine) is considered to have local significance in terms of aesthetic and botanic value.

4. IMAGES





5. SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative Historic Botanical/Scientific Ecological Visual/Aesthetic

6. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

The *Agathis robusta* (Queensland Kauri Pine) is a Council-managed street tree located on the nature strip adjacent to 49 Huntley's Point Road, Huntley's Point.

Alfred Reynolds Huntley purchased several crown grants on the headland between the Parramatta River and Tarban Creek between 1847 and 1851. Huntley worked for the Australian Gas Light Company as an engineer between 1849 and 1853. By 1856 he had moved to a sandstone house, 'The Point', on the tip of what became known as Mr Huntley's Point. His son, surveyor Alfred Stafford Huntley, built another fine house, 'Ethelstane', on the high point of the land.¹

The estate was subdivided into fifty-one allotments in 1912, including the land on which the two houses, 'The Point' and 'Ethelstane' stood. The auctioneers advertised the Huntley's Point Estate as 'cleaner, nicer and cheaper' than other 'good-class localities' but sales were initially slow and a number of waterfront lots were passed in.²

Huntley's Point was decimated by the construction of the Gladesville and Tarban Creek Bridges between 1960 and 1964. Many houses were demolished to make way for the bridge approaches and expressway junction, bisecting the suburb. Among the properties destroyed was 'Ethelstone'.

Agathis robusta (Queensland Kauri Pine) is a coniferous indigenous tree occurring in two localities, a southern population on Fraser Island and around Maryborough, and a northern population on the Atherton Tableland west of Cairns. It is a large evergreen, slow growing tree with attractive smooth, scaly bark. The species may attain heights of between 30–50 metres.

The Queensland Kauri Pine was a prized and valued component of mid to late 19th century gardens and parklands. It was often planted with other Australian rainforest pines, such as the *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine), *Araucaria cunninghamii* (Hoop Pine) and *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Pine).

The Queensland Kauri Pine is located on the opposite side of the road to 'The Point' at 34 Huntley's Point Road. Aerial images from 1943 show a small tree in the location of the Queensland Kauri Pine, commensurate with this species slow growth and a planting between 1900 and 1930.

The history and exact reason behind planting the tree; its origins and any associations with the area are unknown. The isolated planting of the species is a curious botanical statement in the context of the suburban streetscape. Mature examples of the species are unusual for the Hunters Hill Local Government Area. It is possible the specimen was planted around the time of the subdivision of the estate c.1912.

The Queensland Kauri Pine makes a dramatic impact on landscape quality and scale.

References:

¹ Emery Linda, 2011, *Pictorial History of Hunters Hill*, Kingsclear Books, Pg 46

² Emery Linda, 2011, *Pictorial History of Hunters Hill*, Kingsclear Books, Pg 46