



## Recognition of Ancient, Veteran & Notable Trees –

### **R A V E N**

#### **Step One—Size Assessment**

##### **Tree has very large girth for species**

*Note—pollarding & senescence reduce stem increment: girth may be deceptive – assess stem girth relationship with life-stage accordingly*

Refer to *Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management* (Lonsdale, ATF 2013) at Fig. 1.3: *Chart of girth in relation to age and developmental classification of trees*

IF GIRTH NOT VERY LARGE FOR SPECIES, STOP HERE!

#### **Step Two—Additional Primary Features**

##### **At least one of the following should be present, or refer to Step Three**

- Extensive decay, especially brown rot or exposed stem heartwood in relevant species
- Extensive hollowing
- Crown senescence
- Retrenchment

#### **Step Three—Secondary Features**

##### **If no additional Primary Feature is present, tree should have at least four Secondary Features**

- Large quantity of dead wood in crown, especially where large-sized
- Major storm damage/ breakout wounds
- Habitat spaces: decay holes and/ or crevices/ branch splits sheltered from direct rainfall
- Aerial rooting
- Sap run/ slime flux
- Water pool
- Bark loss inc. due to lightning strike
- Fungi
- Other epiphytic plants, including significant presence of lichens

#### **Step Four – Identification Guide**

- ANCIENT**  
Veteran tree with extremely large girth: age likely > 50% of estimated species maximum  
*E.g. pedunculate oak, 2m stem dia, average site: ca. 460 years old, ca. 50% of species max*
- VETERAN**  
Very large girth for species and qualifies under either Step Two or Step Three
- NOTABLE**  
Very large girth for species but does not qualify under either Step Two or Step Three

IF A TARGET IS PRESENT, ASSESS RISK USING *THREATS*