Dear Mr Harper,

My name is Jim Mcardle and I am enquiring on behalf of my peak body as the Secretary of the Tree Contractors Association Australia (TCAA).
Currently there are three peak bodies, however the Institute of Australian Consulting Arboriculturists (IACA) states that they are not allowing people who cut trees to be consultants in their Tree management guide for schools.
Can you be a consultant and also trim trees? Yes as the TCAA members are and Arboriculture Australia (AA) members are.
It is not a conflict of interest as we are qualified to make suitable determinations on behalf of our clients.
My issue is that recently a Tree management Guideline drafted by the panel of IACA members and AA members has not allowed for tree contracting consultants who are climbing trees and consulting in DEC schools.
This effectively cuts the TCAA from consulting in this market. It is not constitutional that we are to sign declarations of non pecuniary interests.
Do doctors consult and carry out an operation?. Do plumbers consult and complete work on drains?. Yes. This issue is against fair competition. What can I do?

Regards
Jim McArdle