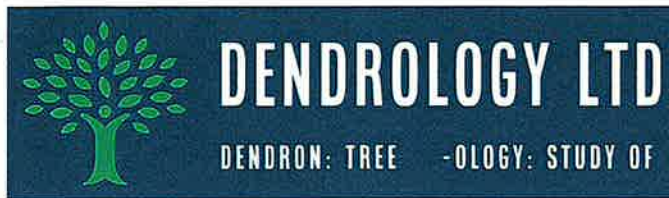


Red Oak - No. 43 Taupahi Road



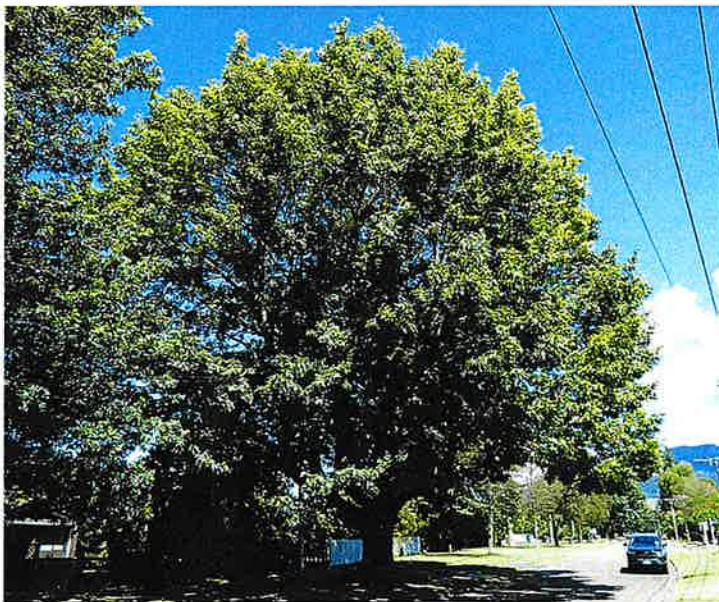
Dendrology Limited
Tel: 027 5858587
Email: admin@dendrology.co.nz

To: Greg Hadley (Taupō District Council)
CC: Andrew Moor (Taupō district Council)
From: Adrian Lamont (Arb-Eco Limited)
Subject: Red oak outside no.43 Taupahi Road, Turangi

27 November 2024

Dear Greg,

1. This memo is provided in response to your request for comment on a the condition of a red oak (*Quercus rubra*) located in the road reserve outside nos. 43 – 47 Taupahi Road, Turangi, following recent work on the tree by Council's contractor. This is protected Amenity Tree (ref. AT24) within the Taupō District Plan.
2. In response to a service request by the owner of No. 43 Taupahi Road (ref. 2411252), in response to which I provided comment, Council's contractor was requested by Parks Operation staff to carry out pruning of the tree to reduce encroachment over the customer's boundary. However the contractor undertook to remove the tree. Before ceasing work they had removed the entire branch structure, with only the central-most stem and bole¹ remaining. This is consistent with the usual method of dismantling a tree, with the arborist using a high, central point in the tree to rope into and provide access to the rest of the tree. The central stem is then removed in sections from the top down.



Prior to tree works (Feb 2024)



Following tree works (22 Nov 2024)

¹ The section of the trunk from the base of the tree to the first major branches.

Red Oak - No. 43 Taupahi Road

3. This memo does not address the reasons for the works being undertaken as described, but provides comment on the tree's current condition and possible future management options.

Assessment

4. Unfortunately, work continued on the tree until the entire scaffold branch structure had been removed, leaving the tree with only a tiny fraction of its original foliar cover. Furthermore, the works were carried out without regard to minimising damage (as would be expected while removing a tree). As a result saw cuts were not made in accordance with accepted pruning techniques, causing branch tears and flush cuts which have damaged wood fibres within the remaining stem.



Branch tear



Flush cuts

5. Prior to the partial felling of the tree it was in good health, with full, lush foliar cover. There will be a significant amount of stored energy in the remaining stem and roots and, at least in the short term, there is very likely to be a flush of dense new epicormic growth² arising from the wound sites.
6. There are three potential options available to manage the tree; leave it as is; remove the remaining stem down to the bole (at approximately 3m above ground level); or remove it entirely and replace it.

Leave it as is:

7. In its current state the tree has lost all its aesthetic appeal and has minimal remaining value as a landscape feature or specimen tree. The species is known for its full, broadly spreading canopy and this specimen has been reduced to a single narrow, vertical stem with minimal foliage remaining. Furthermore, any new growth is likely to be held close the main stem and the tree will continue to have a highly unnatural appearance for decades to come.
8. In addition, in the short term, the remaining stem is at increased risk of failure due to the radical change in shelter and crown balance and the loss of any damping effect from lateral branches and foliage, and will

² New shoots arising from dormant buds, triggered by a hormonal response to damage, stress or increased light exposure.

Red Oak - No. 43 Taupahi Road

not be well adapted to being left totally exposed. In the longer term there is very likely to be significant decay ingress via the numerous large wounds that have been created all up the stem. Combined with dense new epicormic growth and the additional weight and wind drag, this with further increase the risk of stem failure.

Reduce down to the bole:

9. A possible option is to reduce the stem down to the point in originates from the bole at about 3m above ground level to encourage regrowth from this height. This will provide a somewhat more balanced overall shape and eliminate the risk of failure of the remaining vertical stem. Superficially, the tree could be trained to resemble a pollard, although true pollarding entails training the tree from a young age to avoid excessively large pruning cuts and establishing a framework of short permanent branches to be pruned back to annually. However in this case the tree is a mature specimen, has been subject to very large ($\approx 500\text{mm}$ diameter) cuts, has suffered damage to the bole and almost complete removal of any branch framework.



Structure of a typical pollarded tree.



Remaining structure of the subject tree (after removal of remaining stem).

10. For these reasons, in my opinion this is not likely to be successful or worthwhile, as the tree lacks sufficient remaining branch structure. Even with many years of careful annual pruning to re-establish a reduced branch framework there would be no realistic prospect of then allowing the tree to grow on to anything like its original stature. The bole and remaining stubs are very likely to be extensively decayed by that time and unable to safely support an extensive crown. Accordingly the tree would need to be maintained indefinitely to restrict its growth, weight and wind drag.

Red Oak - No. 43 Taupahi Road

Removal and replacement

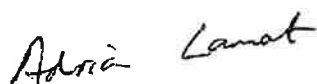
11. For the reasons provided above, in my opinion neither of the two options for tree retention are appropriate or likely to be cost effective or practical. This leaves full tree removal as the most viable option. Replacement planting of a large grade, good quality specimen of this species in the same location, as well as appropriate aftercare, will be the most cost effective means of mitigating the loss of amenity and is likely to be most beneficial on the long run as it will provide for a good quality tree capable of being retained in a safe condition for the long term.

Conclusion:

12. The tree could in theory be retained and managed in a much reduced form (requiring careful annual pruning), however it is not likely to ever recover anything approaching its original stature. If the tree had any particular individual cultural or historic value this may be worth considering, however the tree has been included in the Amenity Tree Register for its botanic and amenity value only, which has now largely been lost.
13. In my opinion the most pragmatic option is to complete the removal of the tree and, at a minimum, plant a large grade replacement of the same species in this location in order to promote the long-term integrity of the avenue of along Taupahi Road of which it is part. There are further locations available along the road where other trees from the avenue have been lost which are also suitable for infill / replacement planting. This would provide additional mitigation and help restore and maintain the avenue.
14. I would also recommend carrying out a STEM evaluation of a sample of the remaining trees of this species, age and stature along Taupahi Road to ascertain whether any of those specimens, or the avenue as a whole, are worthy of inclusion in the Amenity Tree Register.

If you have any queries about the content of this memo please do not hesitate to contact me at adrian@dendrology.co.nz or tel.: 027 5858 587.

Regards



Adrian Lamont (Dip. Arb.)
Dendrology Limited

Taupo District Council

72 Lake Terrace, Taupo
Private Bag 2005, Taupo
Telephone (07) 376 0899
Facsimile (07) 378 0118

Request: 2411252
To: District Parks Operations
Attn: PKV Treeworx
Priority: 5:Medium-3 Weeks
Deadline: 31/01/25 - 17.07

Caller Information

Name Sheila Rhymer
Address 15 Venice Street, Martinborough 5711
Phone (Mob) 0273172336
Email dsrhymer@xtra.co.nz

Request

District Turangi
Received by Turangi Visitor Centre Staff
Recd date/time 03/07/24 - 11.57
How received In Person
Incident date/time 03/07/24 - 11.58
Action required Enquiry
Type Trees - Health or Safety Risk
Details C. would like a call back in reference to the tree on the berm outside 43 Taupahi Road Turangi. They have recently purchased the property and are concerned about the damage the tree would cause to the property should it fall.

Issue/Service Restored

Date & Time :

Location

Street Taupahi Road, Turangi
Details 43

Actions

Status Enquiry - Parks Service Requests - Completed: 03/07/24 - 12.40
Details Assigned to KM.

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 03/07/24 - 15.18
Details Gave customer a call, informed that we'd have a look at it. Will call again when I have some more information.

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 22/07/24 - 09.50
Details Extending, just waiting on arborist report.

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 30/08/24 - 12.54
Details Extending. Still waiting on arborist report.

Actions cont..

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 10/09/24 - 15.44

Details AL's Comments: relates to a mature red oak in the berm outside no. 43 / 47 Taupahi Road, the customer is concerned the tree would damage their property if it fell over. This is a protected tree - Amenity Tree ref. AT24. As it happens I have been keeping an eye on this tree over the last few years for the transport team. This was a compliance requirement after they had repaired the footpath under the tree without a consent. FYI I have attached my original report from 2021. .

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 10/09/24 - 15.45

Details AL comments continued: I have not observed any adverse effect on the tree from the footpath works since the date of the report so the comments on the tree's condition and structure I made are still valid, i.e. that it is a healthy tree in good structural condition that is suitable for long-term retention. In my opinion there are no observable defects or conditions of concern that would indicate an elevated risk of failure.

Status Enquiry - Kowhai Moor - Completed: 10/09/24 - 15.46

Details Assigning to AM.

Status Enquiry - Andrew Moor - Arrived: 17/09/24 - 15.13 - Completed: 17/09/24 - 15.13

Details Sheila Rhymer came in for an update on this tree and if the Council were going to trim it back as it is hanging over their property. She has not heard anything for about 2 x months can someone please call her to advise 027 317 2336

Status Enquiry - Andrew Moor - Completed: 24/09/24 - 14.07

Details JG has emailed C today:

Kia ora Sheila

Firstly may I apologise for the delay in responding to your enquiry regarding the tree outside your property at 43 Taupahi Road in Turangi; I have been on leave for 6 weeks and can see that my colleagues have not gotten back to you.

Your concerns relate to a mature red oak in the berm outside no. 43 / 47 Taupahi Road. This is a protected tree in our District Plan - Amenity Tree ref. AT24.

As it happens our specialist arborist, Adrian Lamont, has been keeping an eye on this tree over the last few years for our Transport team. This was a compliance requirement after the footpath had been repaired under the tree without a consent. FYI I have attached Adrian's original report from 2021.

Adrian viewed the tree again earlier this month

Status Enquiry - Julie Gordon - Completed: 24/09/24 - 14.07

Details cont.:

reported back that he did not observe any adverse effect on the tree from the footpath works since the date of the report so the comments on the tree's condition and structure he made are still valid, i.e. that it is a healthy tree in good structural condition that is suitable for long-term retention. In his opinion there are no observable defects or conditions of concern that would indicate an elevated risk of failure. I trust that the above and attached meet with your approval.

Nga mihi

Julie

Actions cont..

Status Enquiry - Julie Gordon - Completed: 24/09/24 - 17.06

Details C emailed JG:

Hi Julie

Thank you for your reply and really appreciate your explanation.

I understand the protection of the tree is important. I hadn't expected for one minute that the tree be cut down, but i would appreciate a good tidy up of the large overhanging branches. They are well and truly over grown and hanging well over my fence and into the garden.

I feel it is okay to request that they be cut back and tidied up. As I am in the process of tidying up the fence line I would really appreciate your arborist cutting back these branches.

As you can see from my photos they are extremely messy and are in desperate need of attention.

As you can see my request is for a tidy up and not a removal.

Look forward to your update.

Status Enquiry - Julie Gordon - Completed: 24/09/24 - 17.07

Details JG responded:

Kia ora Sheila

Yes we have a resource consent that permits us to carry our maintenance on protected trees, I will get the work programmed with our contract arborists.

Nga mihi

Julie

JG to forward to PKV for programming

Status Enquiry - Julie Gordon - Completed: 24/09/24 - 17.33

Details JG has emailed PKV today, re-assigning

Hi guys

Another for programming please?

This is protected tree so I please will need to know when you are planning to do the work so that I can let our duty planner know.

Thanks

Jules

Status Enquiry - PKV Treeworx - Completed: 24/09/24 - 17.35

Details C has emailed JG back:

Thank you so much Julie I really, really appreciate your quick reply and action..... I am definitely a tree lover/hugger.

I'm sure the tree will appreciate a day at the beautician....

Kindest regards,

Sheila

JG responded at 5.47:

No problem at all, have a great evening.

g.

Actions cont..

Status Enquiry - PKV Treeworx - Completed: 16/10/24 - 12.22

Details C emailed JG:

Hi Julie,

I'm just checking on progress regarding the tidy up and trim for the tree outside 43 Taupahi Road, Turangi. We were in discussion about it mid September. I just wondered if there was an update.

Thanks Sheila

a

Status Enquiry - PKV Treeworx - Completed: 16/10/24 - 18.35

Details JG has spoken to Paul (PKV) he has been talking to the power company and lines will be dropped and he will have clearance for close approach, next step is to organise TMP.

JG has called C and informed her such, and will let her know when we have a date - C happy with call.

Status Enquiry - PKV Treeworx - Completed: 29/11/24 - 17.07

Details JG extending time to sign off as under investigation due to work carried out.

This Action

Arrived**Completed****Further action required?****Officer****Complainant advised?**