Media Release

GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

11 September 2014

Poisoned oak to come down

A large oak tree believed to have been poisoned in Secombe Park is being removed by Taupō District Council arborists.

The dead oak tree stands in front of Pokaka Crescent and will be removed in the next few weeks. It is about 40 years old and between 15m to 20m tall.

District manager of parks and public spaces John Ridd said the oak had been drilled and poisoned, presumably to improve views for a resident. “We will take action should anyone caught poisoning trees and a fine of up to $20,000 can be issued to those found responsible,” he said. “The majority of residents love trees and respect their place in our parks and reserves, so it’s a real shame this keeps happening.”

Mr Ridd said dead and dying trees were a safety hazard as they broke up and falling branches could injure people. The tree will be replaced early next year to maintain the level of vegetation in the park.

The incident was the latest in a long line of recent tree poisonings. In July last year a number of trees had to be removed from Marina Terrace Recreation Reserve in Kinloch after they were poisoned. The person responsible was caught by police and is now paying reparation.

Any information on the culprits can be passed on to the council on 07 376 0899.

END

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
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