TAYLOR

Arboriculture

ARBORIST REPORT
Tree Condition Assessment

Prepared For:

Marian College

Site Address:

304 Barkly Street, Ararat VIC

Date:

11/11/2022

Prepared By:

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope

This report is commissioned by Leonie McGuckian of Marian College Ararat, in regards to two large English Oaks. A tree condition report has been requested to ensure tree longevity and overall safety for students, teachers and visitors to the college.

1.2 Methodology

The trees were inspected using VTA from the ground on 7th November 2022, by Troy Taylor.

The tree was assessed for the following;

- **Species identification**
- **Origin**
- Approximate **age**
- Approximate **height** and **width**
- **Stem diameter** at 1.4metres above ground level
- **Health** and **structure, retention value** and **Useful Life Expectancy.**

Note: Tree descriptors are provided in the appendix.

Tree locations are logged as waypoints on a handheld Garmin GPSMAP 66st and imported into GIS software to produce the site map. The GPS has an accuracy of 2-3 metres.

Stem diameter was measured with a diameter tape. Health, structure, retention value and U.L.E were assessed using the descriptors provided in the appendix.

1.3 Site Description

The site is Marian College located in Ararat, the municipality of Ararat Rural City Council. The property is zoned General Residential Zone – Schedule 1 (GRZ1). There are Heritage Overlays HO48 and HO49

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2 TREE DATA

Tree No.	1	2
Tree ID	*Quercus robur* English Oak	*Quercus robur* English Oak
Origin	Exotic	Exotic
Age	Mature	Mature
Height (m)	14	12
D.B.H (cm)	90	90
D.A.G (cm)	95	95
Health	Good	Stressed
Structure	Good	Good
Retention	High	High
U.L.E	Long	Long
T.P.Z (m)	10.8	10.8
Comments	Minor deadwood. Construction works occurring near tree in near future. Must occur outside mulched area if possible. Maintain irrigation through warm/dry periods. Tree Protection Zone 10.8m from centre of tree. Structural Root Zone 3.24m from centre of tree.	Minor deadwood. Especially over tables. Maintain irrigation through warm/dry periods.

3 DISCUSSION

The two trees reassessed as part of this report were identified as *Quercus robur*, English Oak. Both trees have great significance to the site as they were planted by important members of the college. This is the third assessment of these trees.

These trees have showed similar health and structure to the last inspection. Tree 1 has better health with a fuller canopy with larger leaves compared to Tree 2. There is also less deadwood in Tree 1.

There is construction occurring in the near future close to Tree 1 that will possibly impact the health of the tree. The extent of impact is unknown without seeing the plans for construction. Tree 1 has a tree protection zone of 10.8m from the centre of the tree, however, it is surrounded on all sides by paved areas. Most of the root mass will be found inside the mulched area as it is a better environment for roots. Any construction would be preferred outside of this area.

Tree 2 has some larger pieces of deadwood overhanging the tables and areas of high traffic. These should be removed as the pose a threat to health if a person is struck. Deadwood larger than 25mm diameter should be removed. It is unsure if this tree has had any soil treatment. Boosting the soil health with Seasol can promote the health of the tree also.

While assessing the two Oak trees I noticed some minor storm damage in one of the London Plane trees (one closest to office). There is a hanging branch retained in the canopy that is unlikely to fall, however, the main stem it failed from needs to be reduced to below the failure point, as the remaining stem structure has been compromised. These works can be done at the same time as the Tree 2 deadwood removal.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

In regards to the two trees, it is recommended:

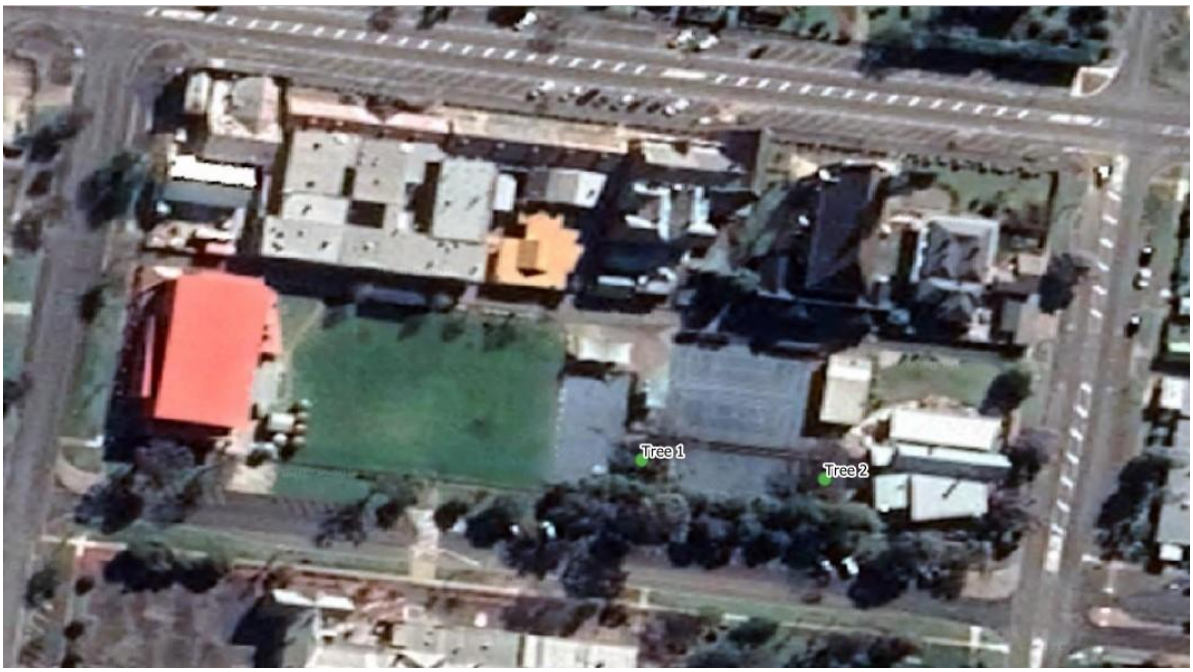
- Tree 2 – Remove deadwood larger than 25mm diameter throughout canopy.
- Promote soil health by doing a soil drench with Seasol to improve root health and help add organic matter back into the soil.
- Continue to maintain irrigation program during hotter months for both trees. Monitor soil moisture to ensure waterlogging doesn't occur.
- Remove hanging branch and reduce height of 1x London Plane tree (closest to office). Reduce height of damaged stem to below the failure point.

All work recommended in this report must be completed by a competent and appropriately qualified arborist.

5 APPENDIX

5.1 Site / Location

NORTH



NOTE: Numbers show approximate location and are to be used as a guide.

5.2 Pictures

Tree 1

Tree 2

5.3 Tree Descriptors

5.3.1 AGE

Young	Juvenile or recently planted approximately 1-7 years.
Semi Mature	Tree actively growing.
Mature	Tree has reached expected size in situation.
Senescent	Tree is over mature and has started to decline.

5.3.2 HEALTH

Good	Foliage of tree is entire, with good colour, very little sign of pathogens and of good density. Growth indicators are good i.e. Extension growth of twigs and wound wood development. Minimal or no canopy die back (deadwood).
Average	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms; < 25% dead wood, minor canopy die back, foliage generally with good colour though some imperfections may be present. Minor pathogen damage present, with growth indicators such as leaf size, canopy density and twig extension growth typical for the species in this location.
Poor	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms of tree decline; > 25% deadwood, canopy die back is observable, discoloured or distorted leaves. Pathogens present, stress symptoms are observable as reduced leaf size, extension growth and canopy density.
Dead	Tree is in severe decline; > 55% deadwood, very little foliage, possibly epicormic shoots, minimal extension growth.

5.3.3 STRUCTURE

Good	Trunk and scaffold branches show good taper and attachment with minor or no structural defects. Tree is a good example of the species with a well-developed form showing no obvious root problems or pests and diseases.
Average	Tree shows some minor structural defects or minor damage to trunk e.g. barks missing, there could be cavities present. Minimal damage to structural roots. Tree could be seen as typical for this species
Poor	There are major structural defects, damage to trunk or bark missing. Co-dominant stems could be present or poor structure with likely points of failure. Girdling or damaged roots obvious. Tree is structurally problematic.
Hazardous	Tree is an immediate hazard with potential to fail; this should be rectified as soon as possible.

5.3.4 Retention Value

Low	Trees that offer little in terms of contributing to the future landscape for the reasons of poor health or structural condition, species suitability in relation to unacceptable growth habit, noxious, poisonous or weed species or ULE, or a combination of these characteristics. Should be considered for removal.
Medium	Trees with some beneficial attributes that may benefit the site in relation to botanical, horticultural, historical or local significance but may be limited to some degree by their future growth potential at the site by maintenance requirements now or in the future. These trees could be considered for retention if possible within the development design; they may be modified to allow for construction. (E.g. pruning, etc ;)
High	Trees with the potential to positively contribute to the site due to their botanical, horticultural, historical or local significance in combination with good characteristics of structure, health and future development. Should be considered for inclusion within development plans.

5.3.5 U.L.E - Useful Life Expectancy

Long	Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for more than 40 years. Structurally sound trees located in positions that can accommodate future growth. Storm damaged or defective trees that could be made suitable for retention in the long term by remedial tree surgery. Trees of special significance for historical, commemorative or rarity reasons that would warrant extraordinary efforts to secure their long-term retention.
Medium	Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 15 to 40 years. Trees that may only live between 15 and 40 years. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons. Storm damage or defective trees that can be made suitable for retention in the medium term by remedial work.
Short	Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 5 to 15 years. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons. Storm damaged or defective trees that require substantial remedial work to make safe and are only suitable for retention in the short term.

5.4 Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

1. Any legal description provided to the author is assumed to be correct. Any titles and ownerships to any property are assumed to be correct. No responsibility is assumed for matters outside the consultant's control.
2. The author contracts with you on the basis that any property or project is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinances, statutes or other local, state or federal government regulations.
3. The author has taken responsible care to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data has been verified insofar as possible; however, the author can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by others.
4. The author shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of any additional fee for such services at the current rate for expert evidence.
5. Loss of this report or alteration of any part of this report not undertaken by the author invalidates the entire report.
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11. All instructions (verbal or written) that define the scope of the report have been included in the report and all documents and other materials that the consultant has been instructed to consider or to take into account in preparing this report have been included or listed within the report.
12. To the author's knowledge all facts, matter and assumptions upon which the report proceeds have been stated within the body of the report and all opinion contained within the report have been fully researched and referenced and any such opinion not duly researched is based upon the author's experience and observations.
13. The arrangement supersedes all prior discussion and representations between the author and the client on the subject, and as is the entire arrangement and understanding between the two parties.