



# Media Release

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## **SAFEGUARDING TENTERFIELD'S ICONIC PIN OAKS**

Tenterfield's iconic Pin Oaks are a defining feature of the town, contributing strongly to its character and appeal for locals and tourists.

Acknowledging the deep connection residents and visitors share with Tenterfield's historic trees, and in response to growing concerns regarding their health, safety and management, Tenterfield Shire Council engaged a qualified and experienced arborist to undertake a comprehensive assessment of 203 mature Pin Oaks throughout the township.

Every tree was independently inspected by a qualified Level 5 arborist, who has delivered their final report and recommendations to Council. This report is split into 10 detailed assessments, which are now available on the Council website at [tenterfield.nsw.gov.au](http://tenterfield.nsw.gov.au). These documents outline individual tree findings and include photographs illustrating examples of decline, providing complete transparency over the town's tree management.

Arborist findings reveal that the majority of the assessed heritage trees remain largely stable and suitable for ongoing monitoring and maintenance. However, ten trees have been identified as having significant defects and health decline that present a considerable safety risk. Expert advice confirms these trees cannot be safely retained through pruning or other treatment measures, with removal recommended as the only responsible course of action.

These trees suffer from irreversible structural and health issues, including advanced internal decay, fungal infection, compromised root systems, and a high likelihood of limb failure or collapse.

Over the coming months, these ten high-risk trees will be carefully removed to protect the community, property, and local infrastructure. These works will be carried out with care and consideration for the surrounding streetscape, pairing the removals with an immediate investment in advanced Pin Oaks for planned replanting.

Council notes that while only ten trees require immediate action, the arborist has flagged additional trees that may require removal over the next several years. Council plans to extend the safe life of the other 193 trees for as long as possible through active care, re-assessment, and monitoring.

Mayor Bronwyn Petrie emphasised that the decision had not been taken lightly, with Council recognising the importance and significance of these heritage trees.

*"Our Pin Oaks are deeply woven into the identity and character of Tenterfield, and we understand the strong connection many residents and our visitors have with these trees," Cr Petrie said.*

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*"They have shaped our streets for generations and are key to the character and appeal of our town."*

*"The decision to remove heritage trees is difficult for everyone, which is why Council sought independent expert advice and assessed every tree individually."*

*"However, Council has a responsibility to prioritise public safety. Where trees present a risk to residents, visitors and property, we must act on that advice."*

Cr Petrie said Council remains committed to preserving Tenterfield's distinctive tree-lined streets.

*"This is our opportunity to ensure the character and leafy appeal of Tenterfield carries into the future. We are committed to retaining trees wherever it is safe to do so, while also investing in replacement planting and future avenues."*

Council has already purchased 54 advanced Pin Oaks, with replanting to commence along Casino Road and Logan Street. Opportunities to establish new avenues in suitable locations are also being explored, supporting the long-term renewal and preservation of Tenterfield's famous autumn colours for future generations.

Residents are strongly encouraged to learn more by reading the detailed Arborist reports and information on Council's website: [tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/community/pin-oak-tree-update](https://tenterfield.nsw.gov.au/community/pin-oak-tree-update)

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