

Tree Assessment – Flash Report

7 Rex St. Goulburn



Client: Steve Jones

Contact No: 0418 370 346

Contact Email: jonessm@tpg.com.au

Report Compiled by: Brendan Murphy – Senior Consulting Arborist – About Trees Consultancy (ISA TRAQ, AQF 8, QTRA)

Arborist's Contact No: 0405 158 737

Arborist's Email: bezmurphy@yahoo.com

Date of Report: 15 July 2023

Aim & Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to give an objective evaluation on the condition of three trees at the residence of 7 Rex St. Goulburn. The owner of the property is concerned about the condition of the trees and would like to have the trees removed if possible. Mulwaree Shire Council is the governing body that will determine whether or not the trees can be removed and this report has been requested for its consideration.

Details of the site

The property is situated on a large semi-rural residential block, with several large trees in both the front and rear of the property. Without excavating the soil, there does not appear to be anything about the property that would have a detrimental effect on the trees in question. Certainly, however, the condition of the soil should never be overlooked as a critical factor in the health of any plant.

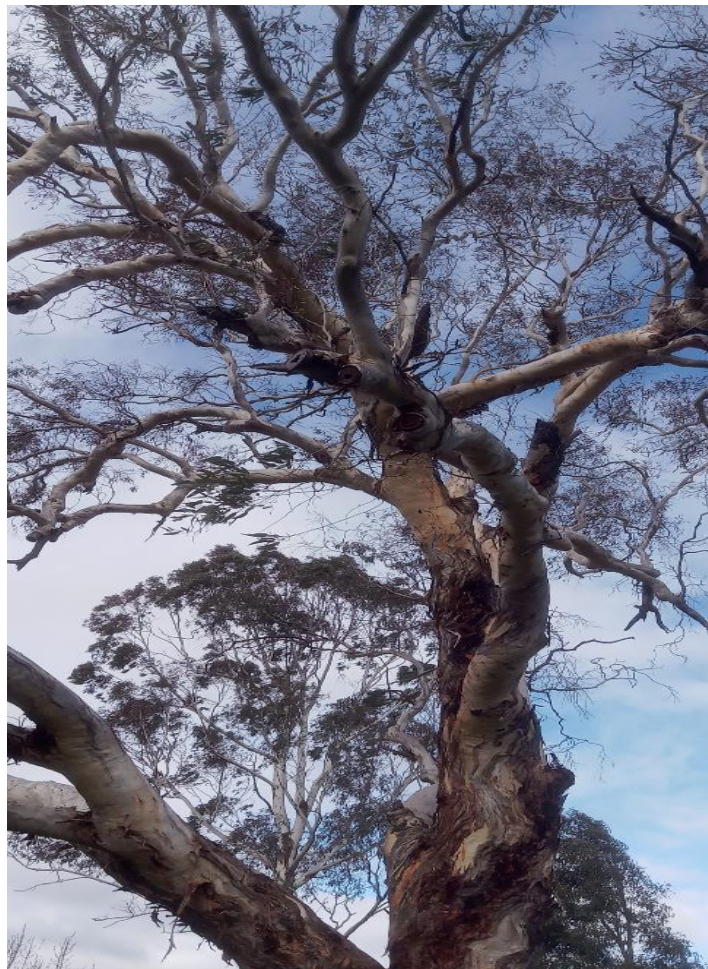


Fig. 1 Tree number 1 – *Eucalyptus melliodora*

Tree No. 1: The first tree is located in the front and to the right of the property. As can be seen in **Figs. 1, 2 & 3**, the tree's canopy appears to be showing signs of stress and has suffered from multiple branch failures in the past and bad pruning cuts, resulting in irregular branching and poor wound closure.



Fig. 2 & 3 Poor pruning & irregular branching.



Fig. 4 Base of tree.



Fig. 5 Drill holes observed at base.

The trunk crown, as can be seen by **Fig. 4** has a good trunk taper, but has some growth deformities at its base. There were some drill holes present at the base as well, which the owner assured me was for the purpose of having someone check the tree for termites and not for poisoning the tree. (See **Fig. 5**)

Tree No. 2: The second tree is located at the centre of the front yard of the property. (See image below.)



Fig. 6 Tree No. 2: *Eucalyptus blakelyi*

This tree is structurally sound at the base and most of the branch attachments, though there is a large wound at one of the main scaffold branches (possibly cocky damage, see **Figs. 6 & 7**), and some evidence of current and past branch failures (see **Fig. 8**).



Fig. 7 Large wound at scaffold branch.



Fig. 8 Some broken and hanging branches.

Tree No. 3: The third tree is located in the back yard of the property to the left and behind the front gate. This tree also slightly overhangs the neighbour's property.



Fig. 9 Tree number three: *Eucalyptus melliodora*.

The third tree has some irregular branching and trunk formation (see **Figs. 10**) and there is some rot within the trunk at approximately 2.5m above the ground and extending to 3m (see **Fig. 11**).



Fig. 10 Irregular branching.



Fig. 11 Trunk rot present.

There are also some branches with galls on them which hang over the neighbour's property (see **Fig. 12**). There also multiple branches in the canopy that have failed in the past (see **Fig. 13**).



Fig. 12 Galled branches over neighbours' fence.



Fig. 13 Old failed branches from canopy.

Conclusion

From the above observations, I would conclude that removal of the trees is not necessary from a structural standpoint. There are, however, plausible reasons to approve the removal of the trees, such as for safety concerns and the lack of aesthetic amenity in the trees.

Recommendations

- Due to the poor health of the first tree, I would recommend removing the tree, as it is quite close to the house and the possibility of injury from fallen branches is a real concern.
- The second tree also has potential for causing harm, due to fallen branches, but its location away from the house lowers the risk of the hazard substantially. I would recommend dead wood pruning this tree and removing any crossing or irregular branches.
- I would recommend removing the third tree, due to proximity to both the owner's house and the neighbour's property. This recommendation is due to the multiple issues with the tree, including: trunk rot, evidence of many failed branches in the past, and gall growths on branches. Addressing all of these problems, without removing the tree, would lead to high and unreasonable maintenance costs and compromising the aesthetic and structural integrity of the tree.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding the contents of this report.

In Care of Trees,

Brendan Murphy
About Trees Consultancy
Senior Managing Consulting Arborist
ISA TRAQ, AQF 8, QTRA
M: 0405 158 737
E: bezmurphy@yahoo.com

