D M HOLDINGS
PEST CONTROL | TREE SERVICES | SPRAYING

D M Holdings 2023 Ltd
5 Buller St, Dunedin 9016
P O Box 2474, South Dunedin 9044
Phone (03) 479 2774

9 February 2026

East Taieri Church
12a Cemetery Road
Mosgiel

Attention: Leeanne McKinlay

Dear Leeanne

Re: Tree Risk Assessment Results

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in my capacity as an experienced arborist to provide an independent professional opinion regarding three Scheduled English Oak trees located on the property at 12 a Cemetery Road, which sustained significant damage during a recent storm event.

A site inspection was undertaken following the storm to assess the condition, structural integrity, and ongoing risk posed by each tree. Based on this assessment, I consider that **full removal of all three trees represents the most appropriate and responsible course of action**.

Tree 1 – English Oak (Western-most tree)

This tree has suffered widespread storm-related damage throughout the canopy. Numerous dead and broken branches are present, and several primary limbs are now significantly overextended.

While remedial pruning could be undertaken (including removal of deadwood and reduction of weight and branch length on extended limbs), such works would be **extensive and pricey**. Even after intervention, the tree would remain structurally compromised, with an elevated likelihood of further branch failure during future storm events. Retention would therefore require ongoing intensive management without restoring acceptable long-term structural stability.

Tree 2 – English Oak (Central tree)

This tree presents the **most serious structural concerns**. In addition to storm damage throughout the canopy, there is a weak and failing union at the base of the tree. Significant reduction would be required across the canopy to rebalance the structure, including major weight reduction on the northern leader.

To retain this tree, **cabling and bracing would be required** in addition to extensive pruning. These measures would introduce long-term reliance on artificial structural support systems, incur ongoing inspection and maintenance costs, and still not eliminate the risk of catastrophic failure. From an arboricultural risk perspective, the presence of a compromised basal union renders this tree **unsuitable for long-term retention**, particularly in an urban or residential environment.

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Tree 3 – English Oak (Southern-most tree)

This tree has already experienced failure of a large limb and exhibits further broken and dead branches throughout the canopy. Significant reduction would be required on the southern leader, along with thinning and reduction of multiple overweighted branches to attempt to restore form and structure.

Even with substantial remedial works, the tree would remain unbalanced and vulnerable to further failure. The scale of intervention required would materially alter the tree's natural form while still leaving residual safety concerns.

Overall Arboricultural Conclusion

In my professional opinion, the level of damage sustained by all three trees is such that retention would:

- Require extensive and repeated pruning
- Involve structural support systems with ongoing maintenance obligations
- Not adequately mitigate public safety risk
- Impose disproportionate cost and liability relative to the benefit of retention

Collectively, these factors mean that removal is consistent with sound arboricultural practice and aligns with the intent of tree schedule provisions, which recognise safety and structural integrity as valid grounds for removal.

Accordingly, I recommend the full removal of all three English Oak trees, is an appropriate course of action, with replacement planting considered where appropriate to offset canopy loss and maintain long-term amenity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should further clarification or supporting information be required.

Kind regards

Paul Velte
Certified Master Arborist - ISA
Accredited Assessor - ISA Tree Risk Assessment
D M Holdings 2023 Limited
Phone 03 479 2774
info@dmholdings.co.nz