



MEDIA RELEASE

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TREE SAFETY AT BURTON'S RESERVE

A stand of blue gum trees near the Burton's Reserve car park are to be removed due to concerns that falling tree limbs could damage vehicles and cause serious injury to users of the reserve.

Four trees will be removed from the area by the Huon Valley Council following concerns expressed by the Burton's Reserve Management Advisory Committee.

Eucalypts are known for dropping limbs without warning, earning the species the unenviable tag of "widow makers". Limb dropping is a natural process that occurs when a fungus weakens the base of a limb. The continued growth of the stem forces the branch to break off at the weakened point.

The trees will be replaced with smaller shrubs and bushes which are unlikely to pose a threat to life and property. Local, indigenous natives such as *Banksia marginata*, *Callistemon pallidus* and *Poa* grasses are currently being considered for the site.

Blue gums play an important role in the ecosystem. In coastal areas, such as Port Cygnet, they are an important food source for the migratory Swift Parrot which returns to Tasmania each summer from Victoria. Due to the species' limb dropping characteristics, they are best planted away from property and places where people can be injured, such as playgrounds.



The blue gums at Burton's Reserve to be removed due to concerns over limb dropping.

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