

23 September 2025

Statement in Support of a Tree Management Strategy for Yass Valley Council

We strongly support the development of a comprehensive Tree Management Strategy for Yass Valley Council. Our natural environment is one of the region's greatest assets, home to endangered species such as the superb parrot and Gang Gang cockatoo, which rely on old-growth trees and hollows for survival. These ecological values are increasingly recognised as an important part of eco-tourism, attracting visitors interested in birdwatching and conservation. This trend is reflected in the growing network of citizen scientists contributing to platforms such as Canberra Nature Map, highlighting the potential for Yass Valley to embrace and promote its unique natural heritage.

We encourage the adoption of a tree canopy goal similar to that of Canberra, ensuring the integration of green spaces and tree-lined streets into new developments. Increased canopy cover reduces urban heat in the face of climate change, improves air quality, and provides relief for those with asthma and allergies. A focus on selecting low-allergen trees and grasses will further support community health while creating calming, shaded environments that enhance mental wellbeing.

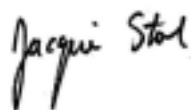
Heritage trees, particularly in Murrumbateman near the town's commercial centre, are of cultural and historical significance and must be carefully managed to ensure they are not lost to development pressures. We are also concerned about the current practice of removing mature trees deemed unsafe due to limb fall. Limb fall is a natural process that creates hollows vital for many endangered species. Rather than removing these trees entirely, best practice management should focus on planning development around them and pruning and retaining them in ways that allow natural hollows to form, safeguarding critical habitat.

A balanced Tree Management Strategy will help ensure that development and growth in Yass Valley occur alongside the protection of our environment. By prioritising trees as essential community infrastructure, Council can protect biodiversity, enhance liveability, and position the region as a leader in sustainable, nature-based tourism.



Stephanie Helm

President, Murrumbateman Community
Association



Jacqui Stol

President, Murrumbateman Landcare Group