



Good Afternoon

After seeing the proposed plan and inspecting the trees today here are my thoughts. There are a small number of trees that require pruning or removal to address minor safety concerns.

Firstly, removal of the trees for the motorcross track would not jeopardise the health of the remaining stand. I would recommend retaining a buffer zone of 3-5 row of edge trees on the NE side for dust suppression, noise abatement and it would also provide a bit more of a wind break to the remaining stand.

Secondly, the trees that are proposed to stay are in a healthy and stable condition, with only minor maintenance required. There is no indication that large-scale removal is necessary from a tree health perspective.

Finally, the stand of pinus trees is still currently immature for harvest and currently low value. Retaining them provides immediate environmental and amenity benefits. Deferring harvest for 25-30 years would allow further growth and increased timber value.

Regards

Connor Mills

Report on implications of CUT ABOVE Arborist Report for Cromwell Dogs

25th May 2026: prepared by Judy Cockeram

'Cut Above' are tree specialists, who are approved contractors for Southroads, Clutha District Council, Gore District Council, Otago Regional Council, and Powernet bring years of experience in all aspects of forestry. And provide an unbiased opinion as they are not working for the CODC.

Further to their first report Dated: 4th March which established **the trees are not diseased, are not dangerous and are not mature**. Cut Above have informed us with a further second more detailed inspection on site that the lumber quality is very good. It became apparent because of the growing conditions of this site in Central Otago we have been afforded an opportunity of slower grown, denser and straight lumber.

In the reported Received: May 6th they identified

“the stand of pinus trees is still currently immature for harvest and currently low value. Retaining them provides immediate environmental and amenity benefits. Deferring harvest for 25-30 years would allow further growth and increased timber value.”

We have been told falling the Sandflat Road pines was a cost saving measure so we are seeking to provide CODC with expert advice regarding this significant asset to ensure the greatest profit for the Cromwell Community. The advice has informed us that contrary to the 'missed opportunity' of harvesting at 25 years, the trees would, with another 25 years, become higher-value lumber. There is greater profit in leaving the trees for another 25 years.

As we are aware of others interest in using the land at the Sandflat Road pines we asked what the removal of some trees would mean for the whole stand.

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“The trees that are proposed to stay are in a healthy and stable condition, with only minor maintenance required. There is no indication that large-scale removal is necessary from a tree health perspective. There are a small number of trees that require pruning or removal to address minor safety concerns.”

There are many resources that point to better solutions than clear-felling. At the Ministry of Primary Industries and New Zealand Forestry website you can find <https://www.canopy.govt.nz/>

We wish to be part of the long term planning for this area so we have established Cromwell Dogs as a Charitable Trust. It will mean we will be in a position to accept a lease if rental is deemed an appropriate strategy. Again we are asking for council to **PAUSE and RECONSIDER** so proper planning and further enhancement of a valued resource can be maintained and improved.