



Wednesday 24 June 2026

## **Statement re: Timbertop incident**

### **Background**

*The Australian* has published an article following a recent incident where students left the Timbertop campus at night to travel to Merrijig. The article reports that parents have accused the School of breaching human rights conventions after some of their children were required to sleep outside in tents, as an internal suspension.

### **Statement**

“Choices made by some students in early June represented a significant breach of a fundamental Timbertop rule; it is essential that we can trust students to remain in their own Units overnight and violating this trust has serious implications for the wellbeing and safety of our community. The disregard of this critical non-negotiable condition put these students in danger and breached the necessary trust required for students to live safely at Timbertop. The consequences for such conduct, which are in some instances yet to be finalised, have been considered, commensurate and informed by the unique context of the Timbertop campus.

Student safeguarding, care and wellbeing are critical priorities for our School. Our imperative is to create and maintain an environment where students are safe, feel safe and behave safely; this is critical to enabling wisdom.

As a School, we have a clear focus and overarching ambition: to enable wisdom in young people through exceptional educational endeavours; our Timbertop programme is a unique part of how we actualise this focus and ambition. Timbertop is not just a campus – it is a distinctive philosophy of education. It builds confidence and capability through lived experience, and places growth, challenge and discovery at the heart of learning.

Media reporting of this nature is most regrettable. I feel especially concerned for the students themselves; most of whom have already accepted their mistake and are working hard to repair relationships and trust. Timbertop teaches us the significance of *Honesty*, *Kindness*, and *Effort*. If kindness and honesty are prioritised, and effort directed towards a successful reset, the outcome will be healthy and potentially an indelible lesson for these young people in their formative years.”

**Rebecca Cody**

Principal