

## Draft Waipa District Council Tree Policy – 28 May 2019

Existing Tree Policy (To be Superseded)	Draft Replacement Tree Policy
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To provide guidelines for the management of trees on public land, and make provision for the recognition and protection of significant specimen trees on private and public land.</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To provide policy direction for the management of amenity trees on Council land and protected trees on private property.</p>
<p>Trees on Council Land – Policy 4.4.5.1</p>	<p>Trees on Council Land</p>
<p>a) Council will maintain trees on Council land, including road reserves, to ensure their good health and undertake planting for continuity where trees are nearing maturity or commencing to decay.</p>	<p><b>Maintenance and New Planting:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Council will maintain trees on Council land, including road reserves, to ensure their good health, safety and amenity function.</li> <li>2) Council will undertake planting for continuity where trees are in a state of decline, commencing decay, have suffered damage or have been removed. Replacement trees shall be planted within the same or next available planting season, having regard to Policy 3 below.</li> <li>3) New planting and planting for continuity shall take into consideration ‘the right tree for the right place’, including potential impacts on utility infrastructure, Regional Infrastructure Technical Specification requirements (RITS) and the long-term cost impacts associated with ongoing maintenance.</li> <li>4) Council will avoid the inappropriate siting of buildings and development within the root protection zone of culturally significant, historic, significant native and gifted trees on the Council register.</li> <li>5) A minimum tree grade of PB95 (45L) shall be used for tree planting, unless lesser grades have been approved by the Manager Community Facilities due to limitations of species availability. Street trees shall have a minimum 30mm diameter trunk at time of planting.</li> <li>6) Unless exceptional circumstances have been approved by the Manager Community Facilities, street tree planting clearances shall be in accordance with the relevant setbacks specified in the Regional Infrastructure Technical Specification (RITS).</li> <li>7) Council will maintain an approved tree species register which identifies suitable species for specific locations. Tree planting on Council land</li> </ol>

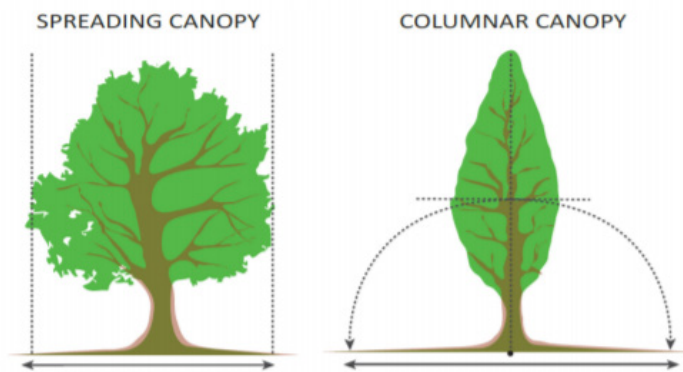
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	<p>shall have regard to the species register.</p> <p>8) To compensate for the effect of higher density urban development on limiting tree choice, Council will plant larger trees of long-term value in suitable public spaces.</p> <p>9) Tree pruning shall have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The species, function and form of the tree; and</li> <li>- Aesthetic impacts on the streetscape or reserve.</li> </ul>
<p>b) Trees on public reserves, including road reserves and Council land, are to be considered for removal only if it is clearly established that the tree is a potential danger to life or property by showing signs of structural defects, commencing to decay, or where root systems have obstructed or damaged utility services.</p>	<p><b>Tree Removal:</b></p> <p>10) Trees on public reserves, including road reserves and Council land, are to be considered for removal only in the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) if it is clearly established that the tree is a potential danger to human life or property by showing signs of structural defects, commencing to decay, or where root systems have obstructed or damaged utility services which cannot be repaired without tree removal; or</li> <li>(ii) if the tree constitutes a weed species which is self-sown and / or which has high weed dispersal potential; or</li> <li>(iii) if the tree creates severe hardship for adjoining private property by virtue of extraordinary leaf or debris drop, significant overhang (&gt;25% of canopy) or damage caused by root systems where root pruning cannot be achieved; or</li> <li>(iv) where tree removal is necessary to make way for Council-approved capital development or improvements. In these circumstances, the process will involve public consultation if the tree proposed for removal has a STEM score greater than 138.</li> </ul>
<p>c) Public reserves, road reserves or Council land which are adjacent to private property will be considered for removal if severe hardship from the effect of the trees can be proved. Types of hardship effecting persons lifestyle would include severe shading and overhang of trees onto private property. Severe overhang could be measured as being in excess of 25% of a tree's canopy overhanging private property. Leaf fall on its own onto private property is not considered a severe hardship.</p>	
<p>d) Trees on Council administered land will be considered for removal to make way for Council approved capital development or improvements.</p>	
<p>e) A register will be maintained on the care and protection of historic, significant native and gifted trees on Council land.</p>	<p><b>Tree Register:</b></p> <p>11) A Council Tree Register will be maintained for significant exotic and indigenous trees on Council land, as well as culturally significant trees, historic trees and gifted trees. The Council Tree Register will be maintained as a 'live', non-statutory document.</p> <p>12) Threshold criteria will be developed for the inclusion of significant exotic and indigenous trees on the Council tree register.</p>

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	<p>13) Nga Iwi Topu O Waipa will be consulted when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It is proposed to undertake works to, or in the vicinity of culturally significant trees; and</li> <li>- Culturally significant trees are proposed for inclusion or removal on the Council Tree Register.</li> </ul>
<p>f) Any felling or pruning or trimming of any tree on Council land is to be undertaken at the direction and to the satisfaction of the Asset Manager Recreation.</p>	<p><b>Staff Authorisation:</b></p> <p>14) The felling or pruning or trimming of any tree on Council land is to be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist at the direction of, and to the satisfaction of, the Manager Community Facilities.</p>
Trees on Private Land – Policy 4.4.5.2	Trees on Private Land
<p>a) Council will undertake a regular five yearly review of all trees identified in the Waipa District Plan to ensure that they are in good health and not posing a significant hazard.</p>	<p>15) Significant trees on private property shall be protected and managed through the provisions of the Waipa District Plan. The Waipa District Plan shall include a register of protected trees on private property.</p> <p>16) Access permitting, Council will undertake an independent five-yearly review of protected trees identified in the Waipa District Plan to ensure that they are in good health and retain at least 120 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation System (STEM).</p> <p>17) Protected trees on private property which no longer score at least 120 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation System (STEM) will be considered for removal from the Waipa District Plan protected tree register at the next available Plan review / Plan change opportunity.</p>
<p>b) During the five yearly review, Council will fund tree maintenance work identified as being necessary to maintain safety, health and amenity level on trees that are protected within Council's District Plan.</p>	<p><b>Maintenance Assistance:</b></p> <p>18) Subject to funding availability, Council will provide an annual contestable fund to assist landowners in maintaining trees that are protected under the Waipa District Plan.</p>
<p>c) Council will provide, at its expense, an advisory service to all owners of trees that are worthy or potentially worthy of protection within Council's District Plan. In order to be worthy of protection, a tree must accumulate at least 100 points in the RNZIH Tree Evaluation System, potentially</p>	<p><b>Advisory Service:</b></p> <p>19) On a requested basis, and at its expense, Council will provide an advisory service to owners of trees that are potentially worthy of protection within the Waipa District Plan. In order to be worthy of protection, a tree must accumulate at least 120 points in the Standard Tree Evaluation</p>

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<p>worthy trees must accumulate between 90 and 99 points.</p>	<p>System (STEM). 20) Trees which meet STEM qualification criteria will be considered for inclusion within the Waipa District Plan's protected tree register as part of the next available Plan review / Plan change opportunity.</p>
<p>d) If a tree does not maintain a level of at least 100 points in the RNZIH Tree Evaluation System, or the tree dies, then Council will consider initiating a District Plan change to remove it from the list of protected trees. Council accepts no responsibility for any costs associated with a tree after it is removed from the list of protected trees.</p>	
<p>e) Should a tree on the schedule be damaged during a storm, Council will assist in the cost of clearing up the particular tree, but will not be responsible for damage caused by that tree</p>	
<p>f) Protection measures for stands of indigenous trees will be targeted at those stands achieving in excess of 100 points from the RNZIH Tree Evaluation System, or a similar system approved by the RNZIH.</p>	

## Definitions

'Root protection zone' means for a tree with a spreading canopy, the area beneath the canopy spread of a tree, measured at GROUND LEVEL from the surface of the trunk, with a radius to the outer most extent of the spread of the tree's branches, and for a columnar tree, means the area beneath the canopy extending to a radius half the height of the tree. The definition is explained in the diagram below, which is aligned with the definition in the Operative District Plan).



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