


 WAITAKI
DISTRICT
PLAN
REVIEW

Notable Trees (TREE)

What are the key issues we need to think about?

The identification of significant trees in the district, listed in a schedule of Notable Trees, for protection against inappropriate trimming and removals.

What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

Notable trees, previously known as Heritage Trees, have been mapped, and the vast number of World War I Memorial Trees have been identified on the planning maps for the first time. You can view the Notable Trees on our website.

Alongside a standalone Notable Tree chapter the trees now have their own schedule. You can view the schedule on our website – check it out, our Notable Trees have some really interesting stories associated with them.

The focus of this chapter is on the protection of Notable Trees from inappropriate trimming and removal and to manage works within the root protection area. Standards have been set for trimming and pruning activities and non-compliance with these standards require a resource consent. Standards include limits on the amount of trimming and who can carry out the works.



What does it mean for me?

If your property has a Notable Tree(s), this would generally not affect you unless you were proposing to undertake trimming, pruning or removal of a Notable Tree for reasons other than provided for in the rules and standards or works other than maintenance of the ground within the root protection area. It is likely that trimming and removal work will need to be carried out by a qualified arborist.



Key changes from the current rules

We have reviewed our list of heritage trees to address errors, gaps in information and outdated listings.

- We have suggested an increase in the points threshold required from a STEM assessment and re-assessed Heritage Trees already in the Operative Plan against the higher points requirement.
- We have consolidated the Category A and B Heritage Trees into a single Notable Tree schedule.
- New suggestions from landowners and community members for trees to be included in the District Plan have been assessed and have added 28 new trees/groups of trees into the schedule.
- Trimming beyond a specified branch diameter limit is suggested to be restricted works for a qualified arborist to undertake or supervise.
- Removal of Notable Trees without requiring a resource consent is now suggested to be allowed in specified circumstances – such as when the tree is diseased or dying or posing a threat to people or property.
- The term 'root protection area' has changed to a best-practice definition

A STEM assessment – Standard Tree Evaluation Method – assesses trees based on condition (health), and amenity (community benefit), as well as age, rarity and commemoration value. Trees that score 130 or higher on the STEM are scheduled as a Notable Tree.

Summary of the new rules being considered

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- Maintenance of the ground within the root protection area (subject to criteria).
- Trimming of a Notable Tree where standards are complied with.
- Removal of dead or damaged Notable Trees where standards are complied with.

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- Activities other than maintenance of ground in the root protection area of a Notable Tree.
- Any of the activities mentioned above where the criteria or standards are not complied with (i.e., removal of a Notable Tree that is not dead, in terminal decline, or damaged and likely to cause imminent threat to the safety of people or property).

Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review

or scan for more info



More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at planreview@waitaki.govt.nz or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.