

TREE

Notable Trees

DRAFT
WAITAKI DISTRICT PLAN



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Notable Trees

Introduction

Trees play an important historic, ecological, environmental and cultural role across the District. Waitaki's Notable Trees are those that have been recognised and protected for their high historic heritage, ecological, landscape, amenity and cultural values. These trees can be prominent landmarks and natural features, add character and identity, may be rare or spectacular examples of species, or be associated with special events or sites. As is the case with the District's World War I Memorial Trees, Notable Trees may be associated with special historical or cultural events, or values. *Trees* may be identified as stand-alone trees or a small group of trees, where each tree within the group is protected. Notable Trees can be located on public or private land and include both exotic and indigenous species.

Notable Trees have been assessed using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) which 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 in SCHED4 - Notable Trees.

If not appropriately managed, activities can have damaging or irreversible adverse effects on Notable Trees. The focus is on the protection of trees from inappropriate trimming or removal and to manage works within the root protection area.

Objectives

TREE-O1 Recognise and protect Notable Trees

Trees are recognised for their heritage, ecological, landscape, amenity or cultural values and are protected from avoidable damage or removal.

Policies

TREE-P1 Identify Notable Trees

Identify and schedule Notable Trees within SCHED4 - Notable Trees, where trees have a STEM score of 130 or higher and have one or more of the following values:

1. heritage;
2. amenity;
3. landscape;
4. cultural;
5. ecological.

TREE-P2 Protect and maintain the values of Notable Trees

Protect and maintain the identified values of Notable Trees, listed in SCHED4 - Notable Trees, unless the works are unavoidable.

TREE-P3 Allowing appropriate works

Allow trimming of Notable Trees and maintenance within the root protection area where it is necessary to:

1. maintain, improve, or monitor tree health; or
2. prevent a significant threat to people or property; or
3. prevent a substantial risk to a scheduled Item of historic heritage (SCHED2 - Historic Heritage Items); and

ensure any adverse effects are avoided, or where avoidance is not practicable, appropriately remedied or mitigated.

TREE-P4 Activities within the root protection area of Notable Trees

Provide for activities within the root protection area of a Notable Tree where it can be demonstrated that any adverse effects on the Notable Tree will be avoided, remedied or mitigated, having regard to:

1. the values of the tree and whether these will be compromised; and
2. whether the activity will compromise the health or life expectancy of the tree; and
3. whether the tree is rendering the site incapable of reasonable use.

TREE-P5 Other trimming and pruning of Notable Trees

Provide for any other trimming of Notable Trees where it can be demonstrated that the works do not:

1. compromise the long-term health of the Notable Tree;
2. compromise the identified values of the Notable Tree, listed in SCHED4 - Notable Trees;
3. reduce the natural life of the Notable Tree;
4. increase the risk of the Notable Tree being subject to wind damage; and
5. impact the natural shape and form of the Notable Tree.

TREE-P6 Removal of Notable Trees

Avoid the removal or destruction of a Notable Tree, unless it can be demonstrated that:

1. the tree is dead or is in terminal decline, as assessed and certified by a suitably qualified arborist; or
2. the tree poses an imminent threat to the safety of people and property; or
3. the tree poses a substantial risk to a scheduled Item of Historic Heritage (SCHED2 - Historic Heritage Items); or
4. the tree is rendering the site incapable of reasonable use; and
5. there are no feasible alternative options for retaining the tree.

Rules

Note: For certain activities, a resource consent may be required by rules in more than one chapter in the District Plan. Unless expressly stated otherwise by a rule, resource consent is required under each of those rules. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach Chapter.

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

TREE-R1 Maintenance of the ground within the root protection area of a Notable Tree		
All zones	<p>Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where: PER-1 The maintenance does not alter the ground levels, remove soil, or cause any damage to the tree root system.</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Discretionary</p> <p>Where: DIS-1 Compliance is not achieved with PER-1</p>
TREE-R2 Trimming or pruning of a Notable Tree		
All zones	<p>Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where: PER-1 Compliance is achieved with TREE S1; or</p> <p>PER-2 The works are necessary to prevent a significant threat to people or property and compliance is achieved with TREE S2; or</p> <p>PER-3 The works are necessary to prevent a substantial risk to a scheduled Heritage Item (SCHED2 – Historic Heritage Items) and compliance is achieved with TREE S3; or</p> <p>PER-4 The works are necessary to improve, maintain or monitor tree health and compliance is achieved with TREE S3.</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Restricted Discretionary</p> <p>Where: RDIS-1 Compliance is not achieved with PER-1, PER-2, PER-3 or PER-4</p> <p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the impact the proposal will have on the integrity, ongoing viability and identified values of the scheduled Notable Tree, listed in SCHED4 – Notable Trees; 2. arboricultural best practice, including opportunities to minimize loss or damage to the tree, will be implemented as far as practicable; 3. cumulative effects on groups of trees; 4. the matters in TREE-P5.

TREE-R3 Removal of Notable Trees		
All zones	<p>Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where: PER-1 The works are for removal of a tree that is certified by a suitably qualified arborist to be dead or in terminal decline and compliance is achieved with TREE-S3; or</p> <p>PER-2 The works are for removal of a tree that is damaged and likely to cause an imminent threat to the safety of people or property and compliance is achieved with TREE-S2.</p>	<p>Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Non-Complying</p> <p>Where: NC-1 Compliance is not achieved with PER-1 or PER-2</p>

DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES

TREE-R4 Activities (other than the maintenance of the ground provided for in TREE-R1) in the root protection area of a Notable Tree		
All zones	Activity status: Discretionary	Activity status when compliance is not achieved: Not Applicable

TREE STANDARDS

TREE-S1 Trimming of Notable Trees		
All zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The maximum branch diameter being trimmed does not exceed 50mm at severance unless it is the removal of deadwood; 2. any trimming retains the natural shape, form and branch habit of the tree. 	<p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the matters in TREE-R2.
TREE-S2 Trimming or removal of Notable Trees posing a threat to people or property		
All zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The works are undertaken or supervised by a suitably qualified arborist or WDC approved contractor; 2. the works are in accordance with best arboricultural practice; 3. the Waitaki District Council is provided with written documentation from a suitably qualified arborist, confirming that the works were necessary, no later than 10 working days after the works have been completed. 	<p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the matters in TREE-R2.
TREE-S3 Trimming or removal of Notable Trees		
All zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The works are undertaken or supervised by a suitably qualified arborist; 2. the works are in accordance with best arboricultural practice; 3. the Waitaki District Council is provided with written documentation from a suitably qualified arborist, confirming that the works are necessary, no later than 10 working days prior to the works. 	<p>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the matters in TREE-R2.