

Appendix E – Pre-notification Consultation Letters

In reply please quote PC129

28 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft Plan Change 129 NPT Notable and Public Trees

The Whangarei District Council is proposing to undertake a plan change (PC129) to update the district plan provisions applying to public and notable trees.

Your Input is Sought

Council is now seeking early input from a range of stakeholders. If you have any comments or questions, the District Plan Department want to hear from you by the 10th of November 2017. Comments will be used to make changes to the PC129 provisions prior to formal notification. Regardless of whether or not you wish to comment at this stage, there will also be the opportunity to make a formal submission when the plan change is notified later in the year.

What is PC129?

PC129 proposes to replace the "Heritage Tree" provisions in chapters 14, 59 and Appendix 2 of the Operative Whangarei District Plan (WDP) with one district wide chapter titled 'Notable and Public Trees (NPT)' that relates to the protection of individual trees or groups of trees.

Both individually and collectively trees provide a significant contribution to the historical, ecological, cultural and amenity values of the District. Those specimens that exemplify these characteristics are identified as being "notable".

Trees in road reserves, parks and reserves make the streetscape more appealing while improving pedestrian amenity and public health and provide important ecological functions. However, road reserves, parks and reserves facilitate a wide range of uses which can conflict with the presence of trees. As such Trees over a certain size in road reserves, parks and reserves are referred to throughout the proposed NPT chapter as "public trees", with allowances made for necessary works.

Why complete PC129?

PC129 forms part of Council's rolling review of the District Plan over a 10 year period. The review of the 'Heritage Tree' provisions in the WDP has identified:

- Conflicts between trees and private land uses;
- Conflicts between maintenance and efficient operation of infrastructure and the call for protection of trees;
- Heritage trees have identified social, cultural and environmental values;
- The need to ensure that trees are considered in relation to future generations, and therefore identified and retained through future subdivision and development processes;
- The benefit associated with enabling trees on road reserves, parks and reserves to be efficiently managed in order to support the ongoing retention of this asset.

The change from 'Heritage Trees' to 'Notable and Public Trees', recognises that a large number of trees afforded protection under these provisions are located on road reserves, parks and reserves and that those scheduled in the WDP are not necessarily scheduled for their heritage values, rather a range of more diverse values.

PC129 does not propose to amend the list of scheduled trees included in the WDP, all of which would remain protected under the proposed provisions. However, it is acknowledged that comments could seek to add or remove trees from the schedule following notification of PC129.

Yours faithfully

District Plan Department

Encl.

1. Feedback form
2. Draft district plan text – Notable and Public Trees

In reply please quote

PC129

28 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Feedback on Draft Plan Change 129 NPT Notable and Public Trees

The Whangarei District Council is proposing to undertake a plan change (PC129) to update the district plan provisions applying to heritage trees.

Your Input is Sought

Council is now seeking early input from a range of stakeholders. If you have any comments or questions, the District Plan Department want to hear from you by the 10th of November 2017. Comments will be used to make changes to the PC129 provisions prior to formal notification. Regardless of whether or not you wish to comment at this stage, there will also be another opportunity to make a formal submission when the plan change is notified later in the year.

What is PC129?

PC129 proposes to replace the “Heritage Tree” provisions in chapters 14, 59 and Appendix 2 of the Operative Whangarei District Plan (WDP) with one district wide chapter titled ‘Notable and Public Trees (NPT)’ that relates to the protection of individual trees or groups of trees.

Both individually and collectively trees provide a significant contribution to the historical, ecological, cultural and amenity values of the District. Those specimens that exemplify these characteristics are identified as being “notable”.

Trees in road reserves, parks and reserves make the streetscape more appealing while improving pedestrian amenity and public health and provide important ecological functions. However, road reserves, parks and reserves facilitate a wide range of uses which can conflict with the presence of trees. As such Trees over a certain size in road reserves, parks and reserves are referred to throughout the proposed NPT chapter as “public trees”, with allowances made for necessary works.

Why complete PC129?

PC129 forms part of Council’s rolling review of the District Plan over a 10 year period. The review of the ‘Heritage Tree’ provisions in the WDP has identified:

- Conflicts between trees and private land uses;
- Conflicts between maintenance and efficient operation of infrastructure and the call for protection of trees;
- Heritage trees have identified social, cultural and environmental values;
- The need to ensure that trees are considered in relation to future generations, and therefore identified and retained through future subdivision and development processes;
- The benefit associated with enabling trees on road reserves, parks and reserves to be efficiently managed in order to support the ongoing retention of this asset.

The change from ‘Heritage Trees’ to ‘Notable and Public Trees’, recognises that a large number of trees afforded protection under these provisions are located on road reserves, parks and reserves and that

those scheduled in the WDP are not necessarily scheduled for their heritage values, rather a range of more diverse values.

PC129 does not propose to amend the list of scheduled trees included in the WDP, all of which would remain protected under the proposed provisions. However, it is acknowledged that comments could seek to add or remove trees from the schedule following notification of PC129.

Initial Hapu Comments:

Representatives on Te Karearea have provided some initial feedback which has focused on the cultural importance of protecting trees. Feedback included:

- The chapter should be re-named to 'significant and public trees' rather than "notable and public trees".
- Requests for more direction about the cultural criteria applied to tree selection.
- The criteria for identification of culturally significant trees should be established by hapu.

Any further feedback you may have would be greatly appreciated.

Further Information

Copies of relevant District Plan provisions applying to public and notable trees, are attached. Also attached is a copy of the STEM heritage tree selection criteria. The full District Plan is available electronically on-line on the Whangarei District Council website www.wdc.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully

District Plan Department

Encl.

1. Feedback form
2. Draft district plan text – Notable and Public Trees
3. STEM criteria