

Notable/Protected Tree Presentation
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Personal statement: I really appreciate the role trees have to enhance our physical environment and we should plant as many as we can and protect them – and in doing so we will protect our own health as well. However in my opinion

Main Points:

- (1) Notable and protected trees in the Whangarei District are over protected and need to have a more practical and realistic classification.
- (2) Valuable trees that are of **public benefit** should be maintained by the Whangarei District Council in parks, council owned land and on private property – at the Council's expense.
- (3) Protected trees on private property should be more realistically assessed as to whether they are of **private benefit** or **public benefit** by the WDC. Trees presently designated as a private benefit only should be, cost effectively (eg under \$500 to the landowner), reassessed by a panel of experts, neighbours consulted and a decision made whether to allow landowners to prune or fell the trees in question. Requests to protect additional trees should go through a similar process.

Case Study: 28 Norfolk Street, Regent, Whangarei

I am a resident in the house at that address and it has a magnificent Pohutakawa growing at the front of the section that overhangs the house I live in, neighbours properties and the roadside. In my opinion, it is a tree of public benefit because it helps to offset the increasing intensity of housing and commercial activity in the area that leaves little incentive to maintain the green shady areas of the street. But at present this tree is protected and the landowner has great difficulty getting the WDC to accept liability to cut back the tree to a commonsense size that maintains its beauty and public benefit and also keep it off the house and power lines in the way Northpower would like to protect the power lines. Help offered so far by the WDC bureaucrats has been minimal and far from what Northpower and the landowner would like. Alternative action requires thousands of dollars to go through planning consent etc.

This sort of thing really needs to change to a more practical and cost effective outcome to avoid power outages etc and risk to life and property.

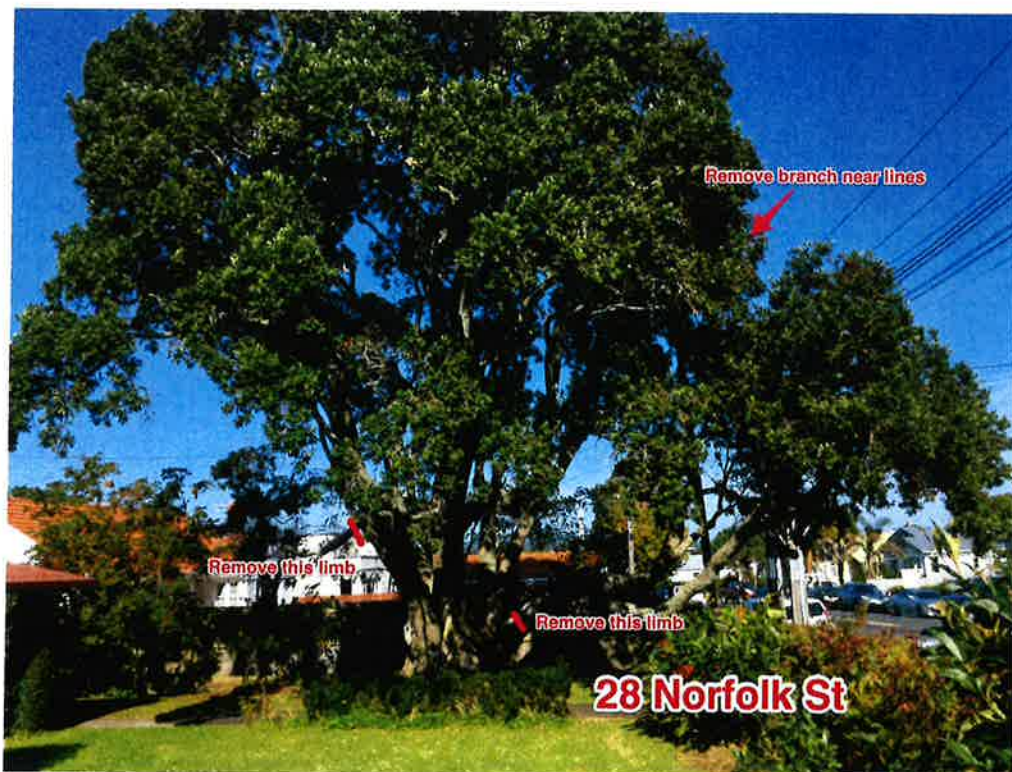
Photos of the tree are on the next page.

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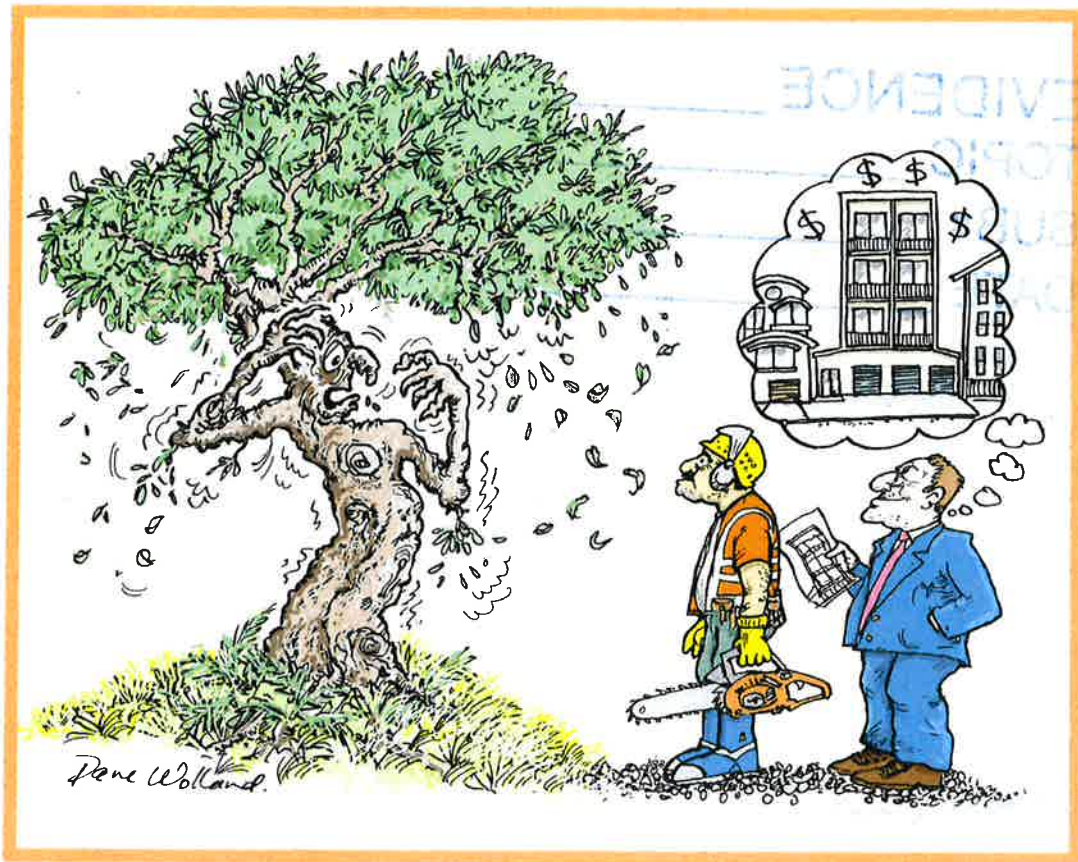


View from the street



What Northpower, the neighbours and the landowner would like done, but the WDC office staff will not approve or do this.

PS: At the other extreme this is also my worry about what you might recommend



EVIDENCE Further.
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