

## 14 Heritage Trees

### 14.1 Significant Issues

The damage and destruction of heritage trees can significantly affect the heritage, cultural, amenity and natural values of an area.

### 14.2 Overview

Trees serve as reminders of past generations and their achievements, and provide a sense of continuity and identity for the community. As such, they are a significant component of the heritage and amenity values of the District. This is particularly so in urban areas that are faced with continuous demand for intensive land development.

The heritage, amenity and natural values associated with these trees makes many of them deserving of protection. The majority of these significant trees are located on private land. Several are located in roads and parks which are publicly owned. An important factor in maintaining the unique heritage character of the District is the continued and healthy existence of trees of heritage value.

Trees, whether individually or collectively, can have a number of positive effects on the environment. These include:

- A heritage and natural environmental legacy we will leave for future generations;
- A pleasant outlook for a site and the surrounding area, whether it be in a residential, commercial or industrial location, by softening, complementing and in some instances contrasting with the built environment;
- A safe habitat for birds, insects and other wildlife;
- Shelter from the elements for humans, wildlife and other vulnerable elements of the environment;
- Avoidance or mitigation of the effects of natural hazards, such as landslips and erosion;
- Atmospheric processes by recycling moisture, absorbing carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen, and by settling and gathering airborne dust.

### 14.3 Objectives

The protection and enhancement of trees that make a significant contribution to heritage values.

*Explanation and Reasons: Trees that possess heritage values contribute to the identity of the District and to the well-being of the people who reside here. Development and other activities need to avoid adversely affecting these trees and the values associated with them.*

## 14.4 Policies

### 14.4.1 Identification

To identify trees of heritage value to the community in the Plan. Consideration is given to the criteria set out in Schedule 14A to determine whether trees are worthy of protection:

*Explanation and Reasons: This policy reflects the need to identify and protect trees within the District that possess heritage value to the community. Identifying individual trees or stands of trees that are significant by listing them in an appendix and identifying them on the Planning Maps, will result in greater public awareness of the importance of the trees. Such identification will also provide increased opportunities for management and protection of the heritage trees. It will allow for voluntary management by landowners and enforceable rules regulating activities involving listed Heritage Trees. Trees of significance to tangata whenua will be identified in Iwi/Hapu Environment Management Plans.*

### 14.4.2 Destruction

To ensure that no subdivision, use or development should result in destruction of, or adverse effects on, Heritage Trees, in particular adverse effects on:

- The long term life of the tree;
- The heritage and amenity values of the tree.

*Explanation and Reasons: Heritage Trees are an important heritage resource in the District, and as such their destruction, or modification in any way, is not considered to be desirable. Work undertaken on, or in the vicinity of, the trees should not endanger the trees or endanger people's health and safety. Development in the vicinity of a heritage tree can detract from its character. Therefore, development in the vicinity of a heritage tree can detract from its character. Therefore, development needs to be undertaken with care and sensitivity.*

### 14.4.3 Trees of Significance to Tangata Whenua

To ensure that subdivision, use or development does not adversely affect the cultural values of trees of significance to tangata whenua.

*Explanation and Reasons: Certain trees have Maori cultural value and can be tapu. Certain trees were set aside for specific cultural purposes and some of these are still standing today.*

### 14.4.4 Cross Boundary Effects

To administer the heritage tree protection provisions in a manner which recognises that works may be required at times to avoid significant loss of daylight to adjoining properties, and/or damage through falling branches and root growth; provided that the amenity value and health of the tree is not compromised.

*Explanation and Reasons: This policy seeks to ensure that cross-boundary effects as set out in the Property Law Amendment Act 1975 are duly recognised in administration of the heritage tree protection provisions.*

## 14.5 Methods

### 14.5.1 Regulatory Methods

- Identification of Heritage Trees on the Planning Maps (Policy 14.4.1).
- Resource Area rules relating to trimming and removal of Heritage Trees and activities near Heritage Trees (Policy 14.4.2).
- Resource consent conditions (Policy 14.4.2).
- Heritage Orders (Policy 14.4.2).

### 14.5.2 Other Plans and Legislation

- Identification of trees of significance to tangata whenua in Iwi/Hapu Environmental Management Plans (Policy 14.4.3).

### 14.5.3 Information, Education and Advocacy

- Liaison with other organisations involved in resource management, for example: Transit New Zealand, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (Policy 14.4.1).
- Liaison with iwi authorities and tangata whenua (Policy 14.4.3).
- Educate and inform owners and the public about the trees (Policy 14.4.1).
- Promote voluntary protection of Heritage Trees through the use of protective covenants under the Historic Places Act 1993 (Policy 14.4.1).
- Provide guidelines on trimming and care of Heritage Trees (Policy 14.4.4).

## 14.6 Anticipated Environmental Results

The following results are expected to be achieved by the foregoing Objectives, Policies and Methods. The means of monitoring whether the Plan achieves the expected outcomes are set out in the Whangarei District Council Monitoring Strategy.

- The recognition and identification of heritage trees of significance to the District.
- The protection of heritage trees to a level appropriate to their significance to the District.
- Nearby land use and development that is cognisant of, and sympathetic to, recognised heritage trees.
- The recognition, identification and protection of heritage trees of significance to Maori.

### Schedule 14A - Criteria for Heritage Tree Classification★

To provide a basis for regulatory measures to protect trees of heritage value, and to enhance public awareness of them. Selection and listing of trees of heritage value in this Plan has taken into account the following factors:

#### 1. Form

The tree should have good form, be reliable in structure and a good example of the species.

#### 2. Occurrence of the Species

How common or rare the tree is within the District, regional and national context.

#### 3. Vitality

The assessment of the health of the tree.

#### 4. Function

The physical and ecological functioning and contribution of the tree. This factor also includes recognition of the local adverse effects of the tree.

#### 5. Age

The loss of a mature tree leaves a time lapse before another tree will fulfil similar functions and achieve the same values. This factor also recognises the tree's natural life expectancy.

#### 6. Stature

The height and canopy spread of a tree can have a significant influence on its visual impact.

#### 7. Visibility

The amenity value of the tree and its accessibility to the public.

#### 8. Proximity of Other Trees

The singularity of a tree can be more important than a group of trees.

#### 9. Role in Setting

The visual and spatial qualities surrounding the tree in its setting. Many trees are significant landmarks in the District.

#### 10. Climatic Influence

The influence of a tree on the microclimate, e.g. shade, shelter and temperature control.

#### 11. Feature

Trees of exceptional proportions, or tree forms of special interest.

#### 12. Historic

The association of the tree with historic events, people and significant periods in the development of the District.

#### 13. Scientific and Botanical

The significance of the tree in a scientific or botanical context, having particular regard to rarity, representativeness and endemism. This factor also recognises trees of unusual genetic or morphological form.

Each of the factors is scored, and then a total score is calculated for each tree, in accordance with the Council's Standard Tree Evaluation Method.

---

\* A Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM), Ron Flook, 1996

Trees scoring 100 points or greater are listed as heritage trees in Appendix 2 of this Plan.

Date Approved	Editor	Paragraph	Change Reference	Decision Date	Approved By
14 September 2016	JM	14.5 14.5.3	Plan Change 124 becoming operative.	Operative date 28 September 2016 16/106480	MM

Editor **Jane Murdoch (JM)**  
Editor Position Team Administrator Policy Division

Approved By **Paul Waanders (PW)**  
**Melissa McGrath (MM)**

Approver Position Policy and Monitoring Manager (PW)  
Team Leader District Plan (MM)