

TREE – Notable Trees

Wairarapa's notable trees are those that have been identified and assessed as being of significant value for botanical and/or for historic, cultural, spiritual, landmark, or other community reasons. Trees may be identified as an individual stand-alone tree or a small group of trees where each tree within the group is protected. Notable trees include both exotic and indigenous species and have significance to the community.

Notable trees have been assessed using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) from the publication Flook, R.R. (1996) STEM A Standard Tree Evaluation Method, Nelson, New Zealand. STEM assesses trees based on condition (health) and amenity (community benefit) as well as notability (distinction). Trees assessed with total STEM points of 110 or more in the South Wairarapa District and 120 or more in Carterton and Masterton Districts have been considered worthy of being scheduled as Notable Trees.

Street trees (trees where the trunk is located within the road reserve) play an important role in terms of green cover in the districts, contributing to streetscape amenity, landscape, cultural, and ecological values. This chapter contains rules to protect *street trees* and ensure any works are undertaken in accordance with best arboricultural practice.

There may be a number of rules that apply to an activity, building, structure, or site. Resource consent may therefore be required under rules in this chapter as well as other chapters. Unless specifically stated in a rule, resource consent is required under each relevant rule. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach section in the How the Plan Works chapter.

Objectives

TREE-O1	Protection of notable trees
Notable trees that contribute to amenity, landscape, historical, cultural, or botanical values are recognised, identified, and protected.	
TREE-O2	Protection of street trees
<i>Street trees</i> that contribute to amenity, landscape, cultural, or ecological values are protected.	

Policies

Notable Trees	
TREE-P1	Identification and scheduling of notable trees
Identify notable trees using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) and schedule trees (in SCHED3 Notable Trees) where they are assessed as having significant values, having regard to: a. botanical and ecological values; b. cultural, landscape, amenity, and heritage (including tangata whenua) values; c. ongoing management of the tree and proximity to surrounding structures and <i>infrastructure</i>; and d. appearance and health of the tree.	
TREE-P2	Allowing appropriate works on notable trees
Provide for the minor-pruning or trimming of notable trees and activities in their <i>root protection areas</i> where the works are necessary to: a. improve or maintain tree health; b. prevent damage to property or infrastructure or improve public safety; or c. enable installation of underground network utilities of a minor nature using methods that avoid adverse effects on the notable tree.	
TREE-P3	Potentially appropriate works on notable trees
Allow other pruning or trimming of notable trees and activities in their <i>root protection areas</i> where it can be demonstrated that the works: a. do not compromise the long term health of the notable tree; b. do not compromise the values of the notable tree described in SCHED3 Notable Trees; c. do not reduce the natural life of the notable tree; d. do not increase the risk of the notable tree or nearby notable trees being subject to wind damage; and e. do not impact the natural shape and form of the notable tree.	
TREE-P4	Subdivision of sites with notable trees
Manage subdivision of sites containing a notable tree to ensure any adverse effects on the tree are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, considering:	

a. the specific significance and values of the tree(s); b. the extent that the subdivision provides for protection of the tree(s) including consideration of lot size, configuration, and layout and the location of potential <i>building</i> platforms and <i>accessways</i>; c. the location of any necessary <i>network utilities</i>; and d. the likelihood of any serious threat to people or property from the tree(s).	
TREE-P5	Removal of notable trees
Discourage the removal, partial removal, or destruction of a notable tree, unless: a. it is necessary to prevent serious imminent threat to the safety of people or property; or b. the tree is dead or is in irreversible decline as assessed and certified by a qualified arborist.	
Street Trees	
TREE-P6	Allowing appropriate works on <i>street trees</i>
Provide for the minor pruning or trimming of <i>street trees</i> and activities in their <i>root protection areas</i> where the works are necessary to: a. improve or maintain tree health; b. prevent damage to property or <i>infrastructure</i> or improve public safety; c. enable installation of underground network utilities of a minor nature using methods that avoid adverse effects on the street tree.	
TREE-P7	Potentially appropriate works on <i>street trees</i>
Allow other pruning or trimming of <i>street trees</i> and activities in their <i>root protection areas</i> where it can be demonstrated that the works: a. do not compromise the long term health of the <i>street tree</i>; b. do not reduce the natural life of the <i>street tree</i>; c. do not increase the risk of the <i>street tree</i> being subject to wind damage; and d. do not impact the natural shape and form of the <i>street tree</i>.	
TREE-P8	Removal of <i>street trees</i>
Discourage the removal, partial removal, or destruction of a <i>street tree</i>, unless: a. it is necessary to prevent serious imminent threat to the safety of people or property;	

b. the tree is dead or is in terminal decline as assessed and certified by a qualified arborist; or c. the removal is undertaken or supervised by Council, having determined it is necessary, having regard to whether: i. the tree has reached a stage in its lifecycle where it is not fulfilling the purpose for which it was originally planted; ii. the tree is having a detrimental effect on roadways, footpaths, stormwater or drainage flows, underground or overhead services; iii. the tree is causing excessive shading, branch or root encroachment and the problem cannot otherwise be economically or practicably remedied; or iv. the tree is a rogue tree, that was not planted by Council or that is not a desired species or is detracting from single species plantings in the location.	
TREE-P9	Works on <i>street trees</i> by Council
Allow works on <i>street trees</i> where they are undertaken by or supervised by Council using best arboricultural practices.	

Rules

TREE-R1	Pruning or trimming of any notable tree listed in SCHED3 Notable Trees
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The activity does not result in more than minor pruning or trimming of any notable tree, where minor pruning or trimming means: i. the removal of broken branches, deadwood, or diseased vegetation; ii. the removal of branches interfering with <i>buildings</i> or <i>structures</i>, but only to the extent that the branches are touching those <i>buildings</i>, or <i>structures</i>; iii. the pruning or trimming is required by statute or regulations, including the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 or the Telecommunications Act 2001 or the Government Roding Powers Act 1989; iv. the pruning or trimming is required to address an imminent danger to an electricity or telecommunication line; or v. other pruning or trimming necessary to maintain the health of a listed tree, certified by a <i>qualified arborist</i>;

	b. All pruning or trimming is undertaken or supervised by a <i>qualified arborist</i>; c. Notice is provided to Council in writing at least 10 days prior to the pruning or trimming being undertaken, specifying the location, nature, and purpose of the pruning or trimming works and the details, including qualifications, of the arborist who is to undertake or supervise the works; and d. The minor pruning or trimming of any tree shall not adversely affect the health or appearance of the tree.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R1(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P3. 2. Disposal of removed vegetation.

TREE-R2	Any activity within the <i>root protection area</i> of any notable tree listed in SCHED3 Notable Trees
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The activity does not involve or result in: i. the destruction, removal, or partial removal of the notable tree; ii. earthworks, except for: a. earthworks for the purpose of installing underground network utilities, including customer connections, provided these are: i. at least 1m below ground level; ii. installed by hand-digging or trenchless means (such as air spade, hydro vac or directional drilling methods); and iii. have an entry point either outside of the root protection area or that has an area of less than 1m²; iii. the covering of the ground by any <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> or the storage of goods, including the parking of vehicles; iv. the laying of any impervious surface; or v. the discharge of any toxic substance hazardous to the tree, unless a qualified arborist certifies that the health of the tree will not be adversely affected.

All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R2(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P3. 2. Options for the tree's management, including protection. 3. Replacement planting in the event the works result in loss of the tree.
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TREE-R3	Pruning or trimming of any <i>street tree</i>
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The activity does not result in more than minor pruning or trimming of any <i>street tree</i>, where minor pruning or trimming means: i. the removal of broken branches, deadwood, or diseased vegetation; ii. the removal of branches interfering with <i>buildings</i> or <i>structures</i>, but only to the extent that the branches are touching those <i>buildings</i>, or <i>structures</i>; iii. the pruning or trimming is required by statute or regulations, including the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 or the Telecommunications Act 2001; or iv. the pruning or trimming is required to address an imminent danger to an electricity or telecommunication line; b. All pruning or trimming is undertaken or supervised by the Council or a <i>qualified arborist</i>; c. Notice is provided to Council in writing at least 10 days prior to the pruning or trimming being undertaken, specifying the location, nature, and purpose of the pruning or trimming works and the details, including qualifications, of the arborist who is to undertake or supervise the works; and d. The minor pruning or trimming of any tree shall not adversely affect the health or appearance of the tree.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where:

	a. Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R3(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P7. 2. Options for the tree's management, including relocation or protection. 3. Disposal of removed vegetation.
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TREE-R4		Any activity in the road reserve within the <i>root protection area</i> of any <i>street tree</i>
All zones		1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The activity does not involve or result in: i. the destruction, removal, or partial removal of the street tree; ii. earthworks, except for: a. earthworks for the purpose of installing underground network utilities, including customer connections, provided these are: i. no shallower than 1m below ground level; ii. installed by hand-digging or trenchless means (such as air spade, hydro vac or directional drilling methods); and iii. have an entry point either outside of the root protection area or that has an area of less than 1m²; iii. the covering of the ground by any <i>building</i> or <i>structure</i> or the storage of goods; iv. the laying of any new impervious surface; or v. the discharge of any toxic substance hazardous to the tree, unless a qualified arborist certifies that the health of the tree will not be adversely affected.
All zones		2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R4(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P7. 2. Options for the tree's management, including protection. 3. Replacement planting in the event the works result in loss of the tree.

TREE-R5	Pruning or trimming, removing, or altering any <i>street tree</i> by Council
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The work is undertaken or certified by the Council; and b. The work is undertaken in accordance with best arboricultural practice.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R5(1). Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P7. 2. The matters in TREE-P8. 3. Options for the tree's management, including protection or relocation. 4. Disposal of removed vegetation. 5. Replacement planting.

TREE-R6	Removing or altering any notable tree listed in SCHED3 Notable Trees, other than provided for by TREE-R1
All zones	1. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Matters of discretion: 1. The matters in TREE-P3. 2. The matters in TREE-P5. 3. Options for the tree's management, including relocation or protection. 4. Disposal of removed vegetation. 5. Archival recording. 6. Replacement planting.

