



Proposed Plan Change H(b) Notable Trees

Manawatū District Council is proposing changes to the Manawatū District Plan about notable trees.

This fact sheet gives an overview of the changes proposed to the Manawatū District Plan to provide information to help you decide if you would like to make a submission or not. More detailed information is available on our website: mdc.govt.nz/Have-Your-Say

Why are we protecting notable trees?

Trees are increasingly recognised for their intrinsic role in enhancing urban and rural environments. Notable Trees in Manawatū are those that are recognised and protected for one or more of their botanical, landscape, amenity, historic heritage or cultural values. These trees may be prominent natural features and landmarks, add character and identity to the neighbourhood, be rare species, good specimens or have an association with special sites or events.

Scope of Plan Change H(b) Notable Trees

PCH(b) is limited to a review of the existing notable trees listed in Appendix 1D of the District Plan.

What changes are being proposed?

Amendments to the District Plan fall under the following two areas:

A review of the list of notable trees that are currently included in the District Plan: 'Appendix 1D – Trees with Heritage Value'

Individual assessments of the existing Notable Trees listed in Appendix 1D of the District Plan were completed. The assessment used the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) which assesses trees based on condition (health), amenity (community benefit) and notability (distinction).

Only those trees that had a STEM threshold of 130 or higher are recommended for this Plan Change. Some of the current trees listed are being taken off the list as they have been removed or are not in a condition to meet the definition of a notable tree.

Introduction of a new Notable Trees Chapter which:

- Provides clear policy guidance for those who have notable trees.
- New rules which enables owners to undertake essential pruning or remove a notable tree as a permitted activity, subject to standards.
- A new list of notable trees, including why they are important.
- New definition for the 'Root Protection Area' (where limited activities are allowed).

The following table provides a summary of the proposed rules for notable trees:

Activity	Type of Activity	Consent Status
Pruning:	i. Where necessary to prevent damage or obstruction to buildings, structures, paths, driveways, roads ii. Removal of deadwood, diseased vegetation, broken branches iii. Essential due to imminent threat to safety of people or damage to property	Permitted subject to standards. Where standards are not met, a restricted discretionary consent is required.
Gardening within Root Protection Area:	Where ground level is not increased/decreased within the Root Protection Area	Permitted
Works within Root Protection Area	Earthworks, root pruning, construction, soil compaction, laying of hard surfaces	Discretionary
Removal of Notable Tree	i. Required due to imminent threat to the safety of people, property which cannot be made safe by pruning, or ii. Where tree is confirmed dead or has less than five years life expectancy	Permitted subject to standards. Where standards are not met, a discretionary consent is required.
Other works not provided for		Discretionary

How do I make a submission or find more information?

We welcome your comments on Plan Change H(b). More information including a submission form can be found on Council's website: mdc.govt.nz/Have-Your-Say

Submissions close at **4pm, Thursday 15 December 2022** and must be received by Manawatū District Council on or before this date.

