

DISTRICT WIDE MATTERS

TREE – Notable Trees

[PCH(b)]

Introduction

Increasingly, trees are being recognised for their intrinsic role in enhancing urban and rural environments. They may be of a particular size, form, age, or rarity, or important historic heritage or cultural value which makes them significant. Trees also contribute to community wellbeing and may have important intrinsic value. Such trees may be recognised through listing in the District Plan as Notable Trees.

Manawatū's Notable Trees 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. Trees may be identified as an individual or groups and include both exotic and indigenous species.

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).

Objectives

TREE-O1

Trees with notable botanical, landscape, amenity, historic heritage or cultural values are identified and protected.

Policies

TREE-P1	Identify notable trees within TREE-SCHED1 where the tree or group of trees have a Standard Tree Evaluation Method score of 130 or higher, and where they have one or more of the following values:	
	TREE-P1.1	Botanical
	TREE-P1.2	Landscape
	TREE-P1.3	Amenity
	TREE-P1.4	Historic heritage
	TREE-P1.5	Cultural
TREE-P2	Allow essential pruning of notable trees listed within TREE-SCHED1 where it can be demonstrated that the works:	
	TREE-P2.1	Will maintain or improve the health and function of the notable tree
	TREE-P2.2	Are necessary to prevent an imminent threat to the safety of people and property
	TREE-P2.3	Are essential to prevent damage or obstruction to buildings, structures, paths, driveways or roads.
TREE-P3	Enable other pruning of notable trees listed within TREE-SCHED1 only where it can be demonstrated that the works:	
	TREE-P3.1	Will not compromise long term tree health.
	TREE-P3.2	Will not increase the risk of the notable tree being subject to wind damage.
	TREE-P3.3	Will not impact the natural shape and form of the notable tree.
	TREE-P3.4	Are consistent with best arboricultural practice.

TREE-P4	Enable works within the Root Protection Area of a notable tree where it can be demonstrated that the works:	
	TREE-P4.1	Will not compromise the root system or canopy of the notable tree.
	TREE-P4.2	Will not compromise the longevity, health and stability of the notable tree.
	TREE-P4.3	Are not able to be undertaken in an alternative location.
TREE-P5	Enable the removal of a notable tree listed within TREE-SCHED1 only where:	
	TREE-P5.1	The tree poses an imminent threat to the safety of people or property, and/or
	TREE-P5.2	The tree is dead or has less than five years life expectancy as assessed and certified by a Level 6 qualified Arborist.

Rules

Guidance Notes:

1. Plan users are directed to INF-R16 in the Infrastructure chapter for additional provisions that apply with respect to managing notable trees near Network Utilities.
2. The Electricity (Hazards From Trees) Regulations (2003) shall be complied with in relation to works associated with a notable tree near lines (including the *National Grid*).
3. Plan users are directed to the EW – *Earthworks* chapter for additional provisions that apply with respect to *earthworks* near notable trees.

Permitted Activities (PER)

TREE-R1	Pruning of a notable tree listed in TREE-SCHED1.
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	Where:	
	TREE-R1.1	The works are necessary to prevent damage or obstruction to buildings, structures, paths, driveways or roads, and are pruned to a maximum of one metre away from the <i>building</i> , structure, path, driveway or <i>road</i> to prevent interference, and TREE-S1 is complied with.
	TREE-R1.2	The works are necessary to maintain or improve the health and safety of the tree, including the removal of dead wood, diseased vegetation or broken branches, and TREE-S1 is complied with.
	TREE-R1.3	The works are essential due to imminent threat to safety of people or damage to property, and TREE-S2 is complied with.
TREE-R2	Gardening within Root Protection Area of a Notable Tree listed in TREE-SCHED1. Where:	
	TREE-R2.1	The ground level is not increased or decreased within the Root Protection Area of the notable tree, excluding minor tilling to remove weeds.
TREE-R3	Removal of a Notable Tree or Other Works Not Otherwise Provided for Notable Trees listed in TREE-SCHED1. Where:	
	TREE-R3.1	The works to remove the tree are essential works that are required due to an imminent threat to the safety of people or property which cannot be made safe by pruning, and TREE-S3 is complied with; or
	TREE-R3.2	That tree is confirmed to be dead or has less than five years life expectancy as assessed and certified by a Level 6 qualified Arborist, and TREE-S3 is complied with.

Notification Status:

An application for resource consent made in respect of rule TREE-R1 is precluded from being either publicly or limited notified.

Restricted Discretionary Activities (RDIS)

TREE-R4	When pruning a notable tree listed in TREE-SCHED1, compliance with any of the requirements of TREE-R1 cannot be achieved.
	Matters of Discretion (MD)
	TREE-MD1 The long term health, stability and function of the tree.
	TREE-MD2 Natural shape of the tree.

Discretionary Activities (DIS)

TREE-R5	Works Within the Root Protection Area of a Notable Tree listed in TREE-SCHED1. Where:
	TREE-R5.1 <i>Earthworks, root pruning, construction, soil compaction, laying of hard surfaces occurring in the Root Protection Area of a Notable Tree in TREE-SCHED1.</i>
TREE-R6	Removal of a Notable Tree or Other Works Not Otherwise Provided for Notable Trees listed in TREE-SCHED1. Where:
	TREE-R6.1 Compliance is not achieved with TREE-R3
	TREE-R6.2 Where other works are not provided for as a <i>permitted or restricted discretionary activity</i> .

Standards		
TREE-ST1	TREE-ST1.1	Works to be undertaken by a Level 4 qualified Arborist as a minimum.
	TREE-ST1.2	Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the proposed works taking place.
	TREE-ST1.3	Confirmation of the Arborist and their qualification level is to be provided to the Council at the time of notification of the works.
TREE-ST2	TREE-ST2.1	Manawatū District Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the proposed works taking place.
	TREE-ST2.2	Works to be undertaken by a Level 4 qualified Arborist as a minimum.
	TREE-ST2.3	Confirmation of the Arborist and their qualification level is to be provided to the Council at the time of notification of the works.
	TREE-ST2.4	The work is done to the minimum extent required to remove the serious imminent threat to the safety of people or property.
TREE-ST3	TREE-ST3.1	Manawatū District Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the proposed works taking place.
	TREE-ST3.2	Works to be undertaken by a Level 4 Arborist as a minimum.
	TREE-ST3.3	Manawatū District Council is provided with written documentation by a Level 6 Arborist confirming that the works were necessary and undertaken in accordance with good arboricultural practice no later than 10 working days after the works have been completed.
	TREE-ST3.4	Confirmation of the Arborist and their qualification level is to be provided to the Council at the time of notification of the works.