

# District Plan Review – Notable Trees



## ***Why should Notable Trees be protected?***

These trees need special care, and protection, to ensure that we and future generations can enjoy them as past generations have. While all trees play an important economic, environmental and social role, some trees are of greater value than others.

## ***What is a Notable Tree?***

Notable trees are a treasure for everyone as they allow us to identify with and to connect with a place. They are living historians that have witnessed our district's most transformative periods and are expected to be there to inform our childrens, children, of our current time.

Trees are given a score, once they hit 150 or more points the trees can be then included in the district plan.

## **Tell us what you think**

### ***(1) How could we increase public knowledge on how potential notable trees are protected?***

Currently Council does not receive nominations for trees to be considered as a notable tree. This is the preferred way of getting notable trees into the District Plan, as undertaking a district wide research project could be costly and any tree identified would require landowner approval before being placed in the District Plan.

### ***Do you think we should?***

- a) Create a user-friendly online tool that promotes the value of our district's notable trees and allows public to perform a basic self-assessment on a possible tree before submitting its nomination to Council and make it available on an ongoing basis.
- b) Ask, by promoting and undertaking a district wide nomination drive.
- c) Status quo. Do nothing and not actively seek nominations for notable trees.
- d) Something else? If so, what?

### ***(2) Should we increase the Number of Notable Trees in our district plan (Kaipara District Plan 2013)***

Of the ten listed notable trees in the district plan, two have been lost. The current 150 points required for trees to be included in the district plan, could be too high. This may be effectively excluding younger succession trees or community important trees.

*Do you think we should?*

- a) Lower the 'points' used for determining a notable tree from 150 to 100 STEM assessment points.
- b) Include younger succession trees that could become notable in the future.
- c) Status quo, only include trees that meet or exceed the 150-point assessment level.
- d) Is there something else you think we should do? If so, what?

(3) *Do you have or know of any tree or cluster of trees that could be nominated for a notable tree assessment? Please provide details*

(4) *Should we provide more incentives for private landowners to identify and protect Notable Trees.*

The district plan policies require landowner agreement to identify and protect notable trees.

Landowners must consider the trade-off between protecting a tree and use of land for something else.

Some development rights when subdivisions occur can currently be gained, otherwise there are no incentives for landowners. The district plan also contains rules to protect notable trees and outlines how they can be managed.

*Do you think we should?*

- a) Provide support to private landowners with notable trees on their property through costs of maintenance on the trees.
- b) Incentivise private landowners, to protect a notable tree on their property through a rate remission, and /or provide regular maintenance, and / or some other way.
- c) Status Quo. Maintain the current incentives contained within the operative district plan.
- d) Something else? If so, what?

## **NEXT STEPS**

Staff will collate the responses we receive on this discussion paper and write a report on the issues and options identified by our communities. This report will be presented to Council and adopted for public consultation in 2022, as part of the Section 32 evaluation on Notable Trees, under the Resource Management Act 1991.