

PROPOSED GORE DISTRICT PLAN SECTION 32 REPORT

NOTABLE TREES



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Glossary of Terms

Resource Management Act 1991	RMA or 'the Act'
Gore District Council	GDC or 'the Council'
Operative District Plan	ODP
Proposed District Plan	PDP
National Planning Standards 2019	PS
Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017	RPS
National Policy Statements	NPS
National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission 2008	NPS-ET
National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020	NPS-UD
National Environmental Standards	NES
National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009	NES-ETA
National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities 2016	NES-TF
Permitted Activity	PA
Controlled Activity	CA
Restricted Discretionary Activity	RDA
Discretionary Activity	DA
Non-complying Activity	NCA

1. Executive Summary

Section 32 of the Act requires objectives in plan change proposals to be examined for their appropriateness in achieving the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991 ('the Act' or 'the RMA'), and the policies and methods of those proposals to be examined for their costs, benefits, efficiency, effectiveness and risk in achieving the objectives. The analysis set out in this report is to fulfil the obligations of the Council under s32 of the Act.

This section 32 evaluation report relates to the evaluation of options for the management of notable trees in the Gore District Plan. The National Planning Standards provide for notable trees to be included in the historical and cultural values section of the District Plan, alongside the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori Chapter and the Historic Heritage Chapter. The objective, policies and rules for managing notable trees are therefore located within the Notable Trees Chapter under Part 2 – District Wide Matters. Notable trees could be considered to have cultural significance to Māori and/or as having historic heritage values and therefore those section 32 evaluation reports have some relevance. The subdivision of land that contains a notable tree(s) is addressed by a specific rule in the Subdivision Chapter.

The Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017 (RPS) includes a policy that aims to avoid, mitigate and remedy adverse effects on historic heritage values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. The identification of trees in Gore District for protection from these activities assists in recognising this broader RPS provision.

Trees make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of both urban and rural areas, and may have a cultural significance in some instances. Notable trees are those which have been identified as prominent natural features and landmarks that add character and identity to different parts of the district; those which are rare species or spectacular specimens; those associated with special sites or events; and/or those with special historical or cultural values. Notable trees are typically mature trees with significant structural form and health. The purpose of identifying individual notable trees and groups of notable trees is to protect them from damage or removal.

There are 97 Significant Trees currently listed in the Operative District Plan. Approximately half of these significant tree locations are on public land (such as the road reserve or within gardens and parks), while the other half are located on private property. Many of the significant trees are associated with an historic event or a prominent person.

The Operative District Plan allows for minor trimming and maintenance of a significant tree by hand operated tools and emergency works on any significant tree to safeguard life or property as permitted activities. Resource consent is triggered for all other activities in relation to a significant tree. The outcomes from the current Significant Trees provisions have been variable. Factors such as the absence of a standalone chapter and clear policies have created some implementation issues.

The Proposed District Plan contains an updated schedule of Notable Trees in the District. These have been assessed utilising the nationally recognised Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) to measure their significance. A notable tree in the Proposed District Plan is one with a STEM score of 100 or above.

This report evaluates the resource management issues relating to notable trees against the Operative District Plan (ODP) and the Proposed District Plan (PDP) provisions to ascertain if

these are the most efficient and effective means of achieving the purpose of the Act to retain and protect notable trees.

The Notable Trees Chapter will assist the Council to fulfil its statutory functions and responsibilities as required by the Act through the following proposed objective, policies and rules:

- Objective which provides for the retention of trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values.
- Policies which:
 - Identify notable trees utilising the STEM by a qualified arborist or a Māori cultural expert.
 - Protect the values, viability, health, structural integrity and tree roots of notable trees from activities including ground disturbance and subdivision.
 - Enable the removal of broken branches, deadwood or diseased vegetation and trimming of any notable tree in certain circumstances, subject to being undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural practices or Māori cultural practices.
 - Avoid the removal of notable trees unless the tree(s) no longer meeting the STEM threshold to be classed as notable, or there is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure.
 - Provide education and advice to encourage the protection of notable trees.
- Rules that address the trimming of notable trees; the removal of any notable tree; activities within the root protection area; and the fixing of any structure or object to any part of a notable tree.

Key changes from the Operative District Plan include the following:

- A standalone chapter and specific objective and policies for notable trees to align with the National Planning Standards.
- Introduction of definitions for the relevant new terminology (root protection area).
- New objective to replace the more generic objective, relating to the values of notable trees.
- Seven new policies to replace the single policy to provide for stronger guidance, including clear direction on tree removal.
- Revised rules to better ensure protection but provide flexibility for activities such as trimming, maintenance and minor activities in the root protection area.
- Clear matters of control and discretion.

2. Overview and Purpose

2.1 Introduction to the resource management issues

The Notable Trees Chapter provides a regulatory framework for the identification and retention of notable trees and the protection of these from inappropriate activities. The provisions seek to manage the following issues:

- Issue 1** The removal or loss of notable trees through inappropriate land use, development or subdivision, can potentially detract from the amenity and character of the environment.
- Issue 2** The damage caused to notable trees through inappropriate land use, development or subdivision, can potentially affect the high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values of those trees.

Issue 3 Notable trees can pose a safety threat to people, property, buildings or infrastructure.

2.2 Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the proposed provisions in accordance with the requirements of Section 32 of the RMA 1991.

The Proposed District Plan (PDP) includes a chapter relating to notable trees which is consistent with the requirements of the National Planning Standards (PS). It contains an objective, policies and rules to protect trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values and enable the trimming and removal of any notable tree or trees in certain circumstances.

This report assesses the appropriateness of the proposed Objective to achieve the purpose of the Act and the effectiveness and efficiency of the policies and rules which give effect to the Objective. This report also provides information on the issues that the provisions seek to address, the research undertaken and an evaluation of the provisions relating to Significant Trees within the Operative District Plan (ODP).

An assessment of the scale and significance of the provisions will inform the level of detail included in this report.

3. Statutory and Policy Context

3.1 Resource Management Act

In carrying out a s32 analysis, an evaluation is required of how the proposal achieves the purpose and principles contained in Part 2 of the RMA.

Section 5 sets out the purpose of the RMA, which is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

Sustainable management means *managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, while –*

- (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
- (b) safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

In achieving this purpose, authorities also need to recognise and provide for the matters of national importance identified in s6, have particular regard to other matters referred to in s7 and take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi referred to in s8.

The s6 matters relevant to this topic are:

- (e) the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga:*

This matter is relevant as trees that have cultural significance can be identified by a Māori cultural expert for protection. Additionally, Māori cultural practices can inform the trimming of notable trees in some circumstances.

(f) the protection of historic heritage from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:

This matter is relevant as historic values / heritage values is one of the relevant factors in identification of notable trees.

The s7 matters that are relevant to this topic are:

(a) kaitiakitanga:

(c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:

(f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:

(g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources:

These matters are relevant as notable trees contribute to the local character and amenity values of the area in which these are located. Notable trees contribute to the quality of the natural environment and are a natural resource with finite characteristics.

With respect to section 7(f), trees assist with maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment in a range of ways. These include:

- purification of air and rainwater (by removing gaseous chemical and particulate pollutants and releasing oxygen);
- carbon storage;
- recycling nutrients;
- maintaining outdoor comfort by providing shade and shelter;
- stormwater and erosion management by absorbing ground and rainwater and stabilising slopes;
- traffic calming;
- enhancing amenity;
- providing habitats and food for wildlife; and
- encouraging biodiversity.

Section 8 of the RMA requires the Council to take into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi). Tangata whenua, through the Hokonui Rūnanga, have partnered with the Council in the preparation of the Proposed District Plan.

Section 31 is relevant insofar as it requires the Council to establish, implement and review a District Plan which contains objectives, policies and methods to achieve a range of purposes as listed above. This report considers the appropriateness of the new objective within the Proposed District Plan (PDP) to achieve the purpose of the Act. The review of the Operative District Plan and the establishment of a new District Plan allows Council to undertake its statutory functions under Section 31.

Sections 76(4A) and 76(4B) of the RMA requires the Council to specifically identify notable trees for protection in a District Plan, either individually or as part of a definable group. These provisions aim to prohibit blanket tree protection rules in urban areas. Section 76(4C) of the RMA sets out the definition of an 'urban environment allotment' or 'allotment', as follows:

- is no greater than 4,000m² in area; and

- is connected to a reticulated water supply system and a reticulated sewerage system; and
- on which there is a building used for industrial or commercial purposes or as a dwellinghouse; and
- is not reserve land or an area subject to a conservation management plan or conservation management strategy.

Section 76(4A) of the RMA sets out that a rule in a District Plan may prohibit or restrict the felling, trimming, damaging, or removal of a tree or trees on a single urban environment allotment only if, in a schedule to the plan,

- the tree or trees are described; and
- the allotment is specifically identified by street address or legal description of the land, or both.

Section 76(4B) of the RMA sets out that a rule in a District Plan may prohibit or restrict the felling, trimming, damaging, or removal of trees on 2 or more urban environment allotments only if:

- the allotments are adjacent to each other; and
- the trees on the allotments together form a group of trees; and
- in a schedule to the plan, the group of trees is described; and the allotments are specifically identified by street address or legal description of the land, or both.

The Council has prepared a new schedule of Notable Trees for the PDP that includes the details required under 76(4A) and 76(4B) of the RMA. 20 significant trees from the current schedule have been recommended for removal from the new schedule, either due to the condition of the tree or prior removal.

Section 74 sets out the matters which must be considered by a territorial authority when preparing and changing its district plan. This report includes an evaluation of how Council has prepared the PDP in accordance with section 74.

3.2 National Policy Statements

The Section 32 – Urban Form and Development and Overview Evaluation Report includes details and a brief assessment of all National Policy Statements (NPS).

There are no National Policy Statements which have direct relevance to notable trees. However, the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) which has a focus on creating well-functioning environments has indirect relevance. Objective 4 and Policy 6(b), recognise that amenity values (including the amenity values of urban trees) needs to change in order to accommodate increased and varied housing densities and types. This policy direction is required to be given effect to in the PDP and this means that where residential intensification is enabled and promoted, the objective and policies with respect to notable trees need to recognise this higher order direction.

3.3 National Environmental Standards

The Section 32 - Overview Evaluation Report includes details and a brief assessment of all National Environmental Standards (NES). The following NES have relevance to the topic:

The NES for Electricity Transmission Activities Regulations 2009 relates to the management of existing electricity transmission lines. Clause 30 of the NES outlines that trees cannot be trimmed, felled or removed if there is a specific rule that prohibits or restricts it.

The NES for Telecommunication Facilities 2016 relates to the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure across New Zealand. Clause 45 of the NES outlines that where any activity is carried out on significant trees that are not in the road reserve and are specifically identified in the District Plan; the activity complies with the regulation, if the activity is carried out in accordance with the tree protection rules in the District Plan.

There are no other relevant National Environmental Standards.

3.4 National Planning Standards

The National Planning Standards 2019 (PS) requires a more bespoke approach to planning zones than the current ODP. This includes a clearer centre hierarchy, rural settlement zones, and a wider range of residential, industrial and rural zones. The NPS also requires that matters which affect the entire district are provided for in specific chapters.

The National Planning Standards provide for notable trees to be included in the historical and cultural values section of the District Plan. The National Planning Standards requires that if a district plan addresses the following matters, these must be contained in a Notable Trees chapter.

- (a) identification of individual trees or groups of trees
- (b) provisions to manage trees or groups of trees
- (c) a schedule(s) of individual trees and groups of trees. This schedule must include a description of the tree(s) including the species of the tree(s). This may cross-reference an appendix.

3.5 Regional Policy Statement

The Southland Regional Policy Statement 2017 (RPS) sets out the framework and priorities for resource management in the region. The RPS identifies the regionally significant issues around the management of the Region's natural and physical resources and sets out what needs to be achieved (objectives) and the way in which the objectives will be achieved (policies and methods). The PDP is required to give effect to the regional policy statement as required by section 75(3) of the RMA.

The RPS does not provide any specific direction in relation to notable trees or any policy support for the method of protecting trees of local significance, only historic heritage in general. There is a reference to heritage trees as part of the range of historic heritage resources across Southland. The following provisions have relevance to the topic:

Policy HH.1 – Public awareness and appreciation

Promote public awareness and appreciation of Southland's historic heritage.

Policy HH.2 – Protection of historic heritage

Avoid, mitigate and, where appropriate, remedy adverse effects on historic heritage values from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. On a case-by-case basis take into account factors such as the significance of heritage values, financial cost and technical feasibility when making decisions relating to the protection of historic heritage.

The RPS notes that:

The contribution of an historic heritage resource to Southland's identity and culture will depend on the nature and significance of the resource. Some heritage values are being modified or damaged by subdivision, use and development. Local authorities have an obligation under Section 6(f) of the Act to protect historic heritage values.

The protection of trees in a district for the purpose of maintenance of amenity and quality of the environment is an issue for a district council to determine. The identification of trees for protection through methods within Gore District assists in recognising this broader RPS provision. The methods for the protection of identified archaeological sites, buildings, structures and items of particular historic heritage value to the district are assessed separately in the section 32 evaluation report for the Historic Heritage Chapter.

3.6 Regional Plans

Environment Southland has prepared a number of regional plans, these include:

- Regional Air Plan 2016
- Effluent Land Application Plan 1998
- Regional Water Plan 2010

Environment Southland's proposed Southland Water and Land Plan was made partially operative following a council meeting in January 2021.

To date most district plans have relied solely on the Regional Policy Statements (RPS) to provide strategic direction as district plans must give effect to RPS's in accordance with RMA requirements. The provisions of the Southland RPS are summarised within the Section 32 – Urban Form and Development and Overview Evaluation Report. However, there are no specific provisions for notable trees in relation to district-level matters in the Regional Air Plan 2016 and the Effluent Land Application Plan 1998.

In the Regional Water Plan 2010, the Financial Contributions section sets out the circumstances and purposes for which financial contributions may be imposed and used. One of these circumstances is where the activity for which consent is granted will adversely affect features of special historical, ecological or intrinsic value (including trees or areas of vegetation with such values) and features of importance to *tāngata whenua* for spiritual, cultural or historical reasons. The amount of contribution is determined by calculating the fair and reasonable costs of protecting or restoring such a feature to an extent appropriate to compensate for the adverse effects caused by the proposed activity. This is relevant as financial contributions may be volunteered as a measure to mitigate the damage or loss of a notable tree(s). However, from 18 April 2022, there is no longer the ability for Council to impose a financial contribution under the RMA.

There are no other specific provisions for notable trees in relation to district-level matters in the Regional Water Plan 2010.

3.7 Iwi Environmental Management Plan(s)

'Te Tangi a Tauira – The Cry of the People' the Ngai Tahu Ki Murihiku Natural Resource and Environmental Management Plan identifies a broad range of relevant matters when considering where and how Gore grows and develops.

Wāhi Rākau – areas of important trees is identified as a Wāhi Taonga class. The Plan identifies issues, including access to customary resources on conservation land (e.g. trees for carvings, whare, pou pou, waka), the harvesting of native trees and the selective felling and extraction of indigenous trees.

The Notable Trees chapter of the District Plan may help to protect trees of cultural and historical significance to Hokonui Rūnanga.

3.8 Other Legislation and Policy Documents

The following Acts are considered relevant to the topic, and these are summarised below:

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003

The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 helps to protect the security of the supply of electricity, and the safety of the public by:

- prescribing distances from electrical conductors within which trees must not encroach;
- setting rules about who has responsibility for cutting or trimming trees that encroach on electrical conductors; and
- assigning liability if those rules are breached.

The PDP includes methods that reference the Regulations and which reflect the need to trim or remove a notable tree for safety reasons, in relation to electrical conductors.

The Reserves Act 1977

The Reserves Act 1977 provides for the acquisition, preservation and management of areas for their conservation values or public recreational and educational values. All trees located on reserve land are protected under Section 42 of the Reserves Act. Any cutting or destroying of bush or trees requires a special permit. On recreation, government purpose, or local purpose reserves, the approval of the administering body of the reserve (generally the Council) is required. The unauthorised removal or wilful damage of any tree, shrub, fern or plant on any reserve is an offence under Section 94 of the Act.

The proposed schedule of notable trees includes trees located in reserves.

The Property Law Act 2007

The Property Law Act 2007 controls trees and unauthorised improvements on neighbouring land. Section 336 of the Act provides for 'Further considerations relating to trees', which allows for a Court Order for the removal or trimming of a tree pursuant to section 333, subject to the Court having regard to the following matters:

- the interests of the public in the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment
- the desirability of protecting public reserves containing trees
- the value of the tree as a public amenity
- any historical, cultural, or scientific significance of the tree
- any likely effect of the removal or trimming of the tree on ground stability, the water table, or run-off.

The requirement to trim or remove a notable tree under a Court Order remains subject to the rules in the PDP.

The Telecommunications Act 2001

The Telecommunications Act 2001 allow for trees to be altered where necessary in relation to telecommunications services. S128 of the Act states, “If a tree, shrub, or plant on any land or road interferes with, or is likely to interfere with, a line, the network operator who uses the line may request the owner or occupier of the land, or local authority or other person who has control of the road, to remove or trim the tree, shrub, or plant.”

The requirement to trim or remove a notable tree under this Act remains subject to the rules in the PDP.

3.9 Other Local Policies, Strategies, Guidelines and Plans

A range of other local policies, guidance and plans were reviewed to inform the PDP Notable Trees objective, policies and rules. These are summarised below:

Gore Subdivision and Land Development Bylaw 2019

This Bylaw aims to guide subdivision, land use and development in the Gore District by providing developers and their professional advisors with certain standards for the design and construction of land development and subdivision infrastructure.

The Bylaw includes one reference to ‘special and protected trees’. Design drawings need to show any special or protected trees that may be affected by the construction works.

Gore District Road Stopping Policy 2011

This Policy applies to all road stoppings undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by the Council.

The Policy includes one reference to ‘protected trees’. In considering an application for road stopping, the Council must firstly consider whether the stopping should be initiated or not based on the rules in the evaluation criteria. One of these rules is whether the road has a current or potential value for amenity or conservation functions including protected trees.

Gore Parks, Recreation and Facilities Strategy 2019

This Strategy is a vision for parks in the Gore District that, while not binding, gives an indication of the Council’s intentions for the future provision, development and operational standards of park land. The Strategy includes two references to ‘notable trees’ in the context of service delivery standards.

In relation to ‘Protected and significant tree maintenance’, the Strategy states that the Council provides assistance for Notable Trees on private and public land to promote health and safety of those trees, at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Manager.

In relation to the ‘Notable tree asset register’, the Strategy states that a register of Notable Trees on both Council and private land resides in the Council’s District Plan. The register records basic information of location, species, age, condition and land ownership, and will be continuously developed.

4. Resource Management Issue Analysis

4.1 Background

Section 2.1 of this report identifies three resource management issues which the provisions of the PDP Notable Trees chapter address:

Issue 1 The removal or loss of notable trees through inappropriate land use, development or subdivision, can potentially detract from the amenity and character of the environment.

The removal or felling of a notable tree may be of significant interest to the local community. The loss of a notable tree can adversely affect the amenity and character of an area due to the loss of the values possessed by a tree.

The PDP includes provisions that require a non-complying resource consent to be sought, where it is proposed to remove a notable tree that does not meet the specific circumstances for removal.

Issue 2 The damage caused to notable trees through inappropriate land use, development or subdivision, can potentially affect the high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values of those trees.

Activities that are undertaken near a notable tree(s) may adversely damage the health and integrity of a notable tree or group of trees. Any degradation of a tree could adversely affect the botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values that make them qualify as a notable tree(s).

The PDP includes provisions that allow for small-scale trimming or more substantial trimming to be undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural practice or Māori cultural practice for that particular species. Any works within the root protection zone need to be necessary, taking into account the integrity, ongoing viability and health and values of the tree.

Issue 3 Notable trees can pose a safety threat to people, property, buildings or infrastructure.

There may be circumstances when the substantial trimming or the removal of a notable tree(s) is unavoidable. This includes damage to a tree caused from natural events which leads to the poor health of the tree and/or an imminent threat to the safety of people, property, buildings and infrastructure.

The PDP includes provisions that allow for the removal of a notable tree subject to resource consent, only when the tree no longer meets the STEM threshold to be classed as notable, and/or there is an imminent threat to the safety of people, property, buildings and infrastructure.

4.2 Operative Plan Approach

The term 'Significant Trees' is used rather than 'Notable Trees'. Significant Trees are currently managed in the Land Use Activities Framework (Chapter 3) and Rules (Chapter 4)

chapters in the Operative District Plan¹ (ODP). The ODP recognises that heritage and amenity values can be adversely affected by inappropriate and unnecessary works on significant trees.

Objective 3.3[6] seeks to:

- Retain heritage and amenity values associated with significant trees.

Policy 3.4[9] seeks to:

- Identify and protect trees with significant heritage or amenity values.

Significant Trees are controlled by Rule 4.12.

Rule 4.12.1 refers to Table 4.3 of the ODP. Table 4.3 sets out the schedule of Significant Trees and includes the following details: tree number, trees species, location, reason for inclusion and the District Plan map reference number. A copy of the current Table 4.3 is included in Appendix 1 of this report.

Rule 4.12.2 states that it is a permitted activity to:

1. undertake minor trimming and maintenance of significant trees by hand-operated pruning shears or secateurs in accordance with accepted aboricultural practice.
2. undertake emergency works on any significant tree to safeguard life or property, provided that written advice is given to the Gore District Council within one week of the works being undertaken.

Rule 4.12.3 states that any removal or modification of any significant tree, or pruning, trimming or any other modification or activity within the canopy spread of any significant tree, not provided for by Rule 4.12.2 is a discretionary activity.

4.3 Effectiveness of Operative Plan

Issue	Comment	Response
There is no specific district plan framework to manage significant trees.	Significant trees are managed through the single objective and policy in 'Chapter 3 Land Use Activities – A Framework' and three rules under 4.12. The National Planning Standards require a standalone chapter for notable trees.	A separate Notable Trees chapter will be included in the PDP, in accordance with the National Planning Standards.
The schedule in Table 4.3 is outdated and no longer aligns with current best practice.	The reasons for the inclusion of the individual trees or groups of trees in the schedule are somewhat generic and not based upon	All notable trees in the schedule have been assessed utilising the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM). This is the

¹ Chapters 3 and 4, [District Plan - Gore District Council \(goredc.govt.nz\)](http://goredc.govt.nz)

	a current recognised methodology.	methodology used to identify and schedule trees in the Notable Trees chapter.
In relation to permitted activity rule 4.12.2(1), the term 'minor trimming and maintenance' is unclear and the term 'accepted arboricultural practice' is unclear. There is little guidance provided to inform to what extent the trimming and maintenance activities are minor in nature and whether a qualified arborist must be involved.	The shape and form of a significant tree can still be modified substantially using hand operated tools. Accepted arboricultural practice has changed over time, since the ODP was written.	The introduction of guidance on what constitutes 'trimming' of a notable tree as a permitted activity is introduced. Specifically, trimming is of branches that are less than 75mm in diameter only. The Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) has been adopted to determine whether a tree qualifies as a notable tree.
In relation to rule 4.12.23, the term 'canopy spread' is not defined or illustrated.	This makes it difficult to determine whether or not an activity is located within the canopy spread of a tree.	The term 'root protection area' is introduced, which is included in the definitions. The use of a root protection area provides a larger area of protection around notable trees with columnar canopies than 'canopy spread'.
The trimming of significant trees as provided for as a permitted activity under other legislation is not acknowledged.	Resource consent may be required, where the trimming activity is not a permitted activity.	The trimming of any notable tree that is not a permitted activity; where such trimming is required under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 is provided for as a controlled activity.
There is no provision for the essential activities of any utility service or infrastructure near or within the canopy spread of a significant tree.	Resource consent would be required as a discretionary activity.	Resource consent would be required as a restricted discretionary activity. The less stringent activity status reflects the importance of having utility services and infrastructure.
There is no provision for subdivision of land that contains a significant tree.	The creation of a new allotment that contains a significant tree and its future development potential could put that tree at risk.	Subdivision of land that contains a notable tree is provided for as a restricted discretionary activity in the Subdivision Chapter, in order for the impacts of a subdivision upon a tree to be considered before a subdivision is approved.

Rule 4.12.3 states that any activity that is not identified as a permitted activity is a discretionary activity.	As a discretionary activity, all matters can be considered and it is necessary to revert back to the objective and policies, which currently provide limited guidance.	The PDP introduces the controlled and restricted discretionary activity status for some activities and includes clear matters of control and matters of discretion to provide guidance.
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The schedule of Significant Trees in Table 4.3 in the ODP is outdated. The ODP approach is not efficient or effective as the current single objective and policy lacks detail and the rules are vague, which could have resulted in inefficient consent processing and a lack of clarity and direction for both plan users and decision makers.

The Significant Trees provisions also do not acknowledge the ability for a Māori cultural expert to identify a notable tree, or identify Māori cultural practices as an alternative to recognised arboricultural practices.

4.4 Technical Research

Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM)

The Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) as composed by Ron Flook is the most commonly used evaluation method around New Zealand. It is recognised by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association and the Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture as the most widespread method for evaluating heritage and notable trees for district plans around the country. Through STEM, trees are evaluated on:

- Condition and health – Including form, occurrence, vigour and vitality, function and age.
- Amenity and community benefit – Including stature, visibility, proximity, role and climate.
- Notability – Including Stature, Historic, and Scientific recognition.

In addition to the evaluation itself, a threshold score is required to determine whether a tree is significant enough to be protected in the district plan. This is the methodology that has been used to assess the trees in the Gore District for significance and recognition in the PDP, through scheduling them in the Notable Trees chapter.

There is no national STEM threshold score that determines whether a tree is notable enough to be scheduled in a District Plan. A threshold that is set too low would dilute the value of the schedule overall and a threshold that is set too high may exclude trees that are valued by the local community. Where STEM has been used around the country, this figure has been determined by each Council. This approach has enabled them to have the flexibility to apply an appropriate threshold to recognise local climates and context to growing conditions. In the PDP, trees that have scored 100 or higher on the STEM have been scheduled as a notable tree or group of trees.

The schedule of significant trees in the ODP forms the foundation for creating an updated schedule of Notable trees for the PDP. The Council commissioned Cadwallader Tree Consultancy to review the current schedule of significant trees in Table 4.3 of the ODP. This involved an Arboricultural specialist visiting each tree or group of trees to check that the trees are accurately located on the current records and to assess them against the STEM. The Council (Parks and Reserves) holds a copy of the STEM Assessments Manual.

It was identified that some of the trees in Table 4.3 no longer exist in the location described, through either lawful or unlawful removal, or the tree has deteriorated in condition over time and should no longer be deemed a notable tree going forward.

The Council also commissioned an investigation into additional trees that could be included in the schedule.

A copy of the Summary of Tree Assessments Undertaken is included in Appendix 2. The Notable Tree STEM Assessments for each of the scheduled trees in the PDP are available for viewing online.

Root Protection Area

The notable trees provisions seek to manage activities, so that the ground around these trees is not disturbed and their roots do not become damaged. In order for the provisions to work effectively, it is necessary to determine the minimum area around a tree containing sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain the tree's viability. This is an area referred to in the ODP as 'canopy spread', which as previously noted, is not defined in section 4.12 of the ODP or the Definitions chapter of the ODP.

The Ministry for the Environment considered defining 'root protection area' in the draft versions of the National Planning Standards. However, following submissions from Councils across the country, it was concluded that "what constitutes the appropriate root protection area is a matter for experts and councils to determine" and the definition was removed from the National Planning Standards. Therefore, there is no New Zealand standard to determine what constitutes a 'root protection area'.

The PDP includes the following definition for 'root protection area':

"means the circular area of ground surrounding a notable tree, for a distance of 12 times the diameter of the tree 1.5 metres above ground level"

This new definition provides a clearer means of measurement than the ODP, when determining the location of activities and buildings in relation to a notable tree and is consistent with the recommendation of the Arboricultural specialist.

4.5 Analysis of Best Practice – how other Councils are addressing the same issue

To understand whether the PDP provisions in relation to notable trees are appropriate and consistent with how other Councils are addressing the same issues, the following District Plans were reviewed.

- Southland District Plan² - 22 January 2018 (Southland District Council borders Gore District Council to the north, south and east)
- Clutha District Plan³ - 30 June 1998 (Clutha District Council borders Gore District Council to the west)
- Proposed New Plymouth District Plan⁴ - Notified 21 November 2022

² [District Plan - Southland District Council \(southlanddc.govt.nz\)](https://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/)

³ [District Plan - Clutha District Council \(cluthadc.govt.nz\)](https://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/)

⁴ [IsoPlan \(npdc.govt.nz\)](https://www.npdc.govt.nz/)

- Proposed Timaru District Plan⁵ - Notified 22 September 2022
- Proposed Selwyn District Plan⁶ - Notified 5 October 2020

These plans were selected either because these districts border the Gore district, or are the most up to date examples of approaches to protecting notable trees in districts with comparable characteristics to the Gore District. A summary table of the rules from these district plans is provided in section 4.5.6 of this report.

4.5.1 Southland District Plan (SDP)

There appears to be no significant trees or notable trees in the Southland District. The SDP does not contain any chapter or provisions that relates to significant trees or notable trees within Section 5 Historic Heritage, or Section 5.2 Historic Heritage Items.

Summary

There are no notable trees identified in the Southland District and accordingly, there are no notable tree provisions within the SDP.

4.5.2 Clutha District Plan (CDP)

The CDP contains provisions that relate to significant trees within Section 3.5 Heritage. The Council has compiled a register of trees of heritage value for inclusion in the CDP. This list has been developed through consultation with the public and comprises trees of historic or botanical significance, or trees that are of landmark significance, or contribute significantly to scenic and/or amenity values of a location.

Table 13.2: Register of Significant Trees includes a description of 22 significant trees or groups of trees, the address, the legal description and the reason for registration.

Rule HER.1(iv) states that any work or activity (excluding minor pruning) which would adversely affect those trees listed in Table 13.2 is a discretionary activity.

The corresponding reason for this rule is that:

“There may well be a valid reason why a registered heritage item needs to be altered or demolished (for example, public safety) and consequently the discretionary resource consent procedure enables Council to relax the standards when legitimate circumstances can be shown”.

Summary

The significant trees provisions within the CDP do not include any permitted activities and any works or activities to a significant tree triggers a discretionary activity resource consent.

The issue is that the terms, ‘minor pruning’ and ‘adversely affect’ in Rule HER.1(iv) are not defined. It is inferred that ‘minor pruning’ would be a permitted activity, however this is not clear.

This approach of Clutha District Council is outdated and lacking in detail and guidance, in the same manner as the Gore District Council’s ODP.

⁵ [IsoPlan \(timaru.govt.nz\)](https://www.timaru.govt.nz/iso-plan)

⁶ [IsoPlan \(selwyn.govt.nz\)](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/iso-plan)

4.5.3 Proposed New Plymouth District Plan (PNPDP)

SCHED4 - Schedule of Notable Trees lists the notable trees in the New Plymouth district that are protected. SCHED4 includes a description of 514 sites with a single notable tree or groups of trees, along with the common name, the botanical name, the address, single/group and the number of trees.

Part 2 (District Wide Matters) of the PNPDP, Historic and Cultural Values - TREE - Notable Trees, contains the Notable Trees section. There is one objective and seven policies.

'Root protection area' is defined as follows:

"means the circular area of ground surrounding a notable tree. For trees with spreading canopies, the root protection area extends from the trunk to the outer most extent of the canopy. For trees with columnar crowns, the root protection area extends from the trunk to a radius half the height of the tree".

Rules TREE-R1 to TREE-R11 provide for different activities. This is summarised in the table in section 4.5.6 of this report.

Summary

The notable tree provisions in the PNPDP are more detailed and generally consistent with the PDP provisions for Gore, although the provisions are more permissive in nature with respect to activities within the root protection area of a notable tree. The provisions include gardening, mowing or soft landscaping, earthworks and root pruning within the root protection area of a scheduled notable tree as a permitted activity. Similar activities within the root protection area of a notable tree are a restricted discretionary activity in the PDP for Gore.

The PDP for Gore has a similar approach to the removal of a notable tree to the PNPDP. In the PNPDP, the removal, partial removal or destruction of an unsafe or unsound scheduled notable tree is a permitted activity, while the general removal of a notable tree is a non-complying activity. In the PDP for Gore, it is a controlled activity for the removal for a tree that becomes no longer notable due natural events or there is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure. It is a non-complying activity for the general removal of a notable tree.

4.5.4 Proposed Timaru District Plan (PTDP)

SCHED5 - Schedule of Notable Trees lists the notable trees in the Timaru district that are protected. SCHED5 includes 161 sites with a single notable tree and 21 sites with groups of trees, along with the address, legal description, along with the botanical name and common name, a locality description and reference number.

Part 2 (District Wide Matters) of the PTDP, Historic and Cultural Values - TREE - Notable Trees, contains the Notable Trees section. There is one objective and four policies.

'Root protection area' is defined as follows:

"means the circular area surrounding a tree; which is the greater of the radius; measured from the base of the trunk to:

a. the outer extent of the branch spread; or

b. half the height of the tree.

Rules TREE-R1 to TREE-R4 provide for different activities. This is summarised in the table in section 4.5.6 of this report.

Summary

The notable trees provisions in the PTDP are fewer and generally consistent with the PDP provisions for Gore, although the provisions provide for maintenance activities as a controlled activity, in addition to trimming activities as a permitted activity. The permitted trimming relates to branches that are less than 50mm in diameter, whereas the permitted trimming for Gore relates to branches that are less than 75mm in diameter.

New activity and development within the root protection area of a notable tree is also likely to be a restricted discretionary activity, which is similar to the provisions for Gore.

In the PTDP, the removal of a notable tree in all instances is a discretionary activity. In the PDP for Gore, it is a controlled activity for the removal of a tree that poses a risk to people and property, a restricted discretionary activity where the removal is subject to a notice issued under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, and a non-complying activity for general tree removal.

4.5.5 Proposed Selwyn District Plan (PSDP)

TREE-SCHED2 - Notable Trees lists the notable trees in the Selwyn district that are protected. TREE-SCHED2 includes a description of 104 sites with single notable trees or groups of trees, along with the address, the legal description, the common name, the botanical name, and the material used for identification.

Part 2 (District Wide Matters) of the PSDP, Historic and Cultural Values - TREE - Notable Trees, contains the Notable Trees section. There is one objective and five policies.

‘Root protection area’ is defined as follows:

“The circular area surrounding a tree, which is the greater of the radius, measured from the base of the trunk to:

- a. the outer extent of the branch spread; or*
- b. half the height of the tree”*

Rules TREE-R1 to TREE-R7 provide for different activities. Rules TREE-REQ1 to TREE-REQ2 provide for rule requirements.

Rules TREE-R1 to TREE-R7 provide for different activities, while TREE-REQ1 and TREE-REQ2 provide for activity rule requirements. This is summarised in the table in section 4.5.6 of this report.

Summary

The notable trees provisions in the PSDP are more detailed and generally consistent with the PDP provisions for Gore, although the provisions more permissive in nature with respect to activities within 5m of the base of a tree. The provisions include gardening or cultivation, earthworks for fence posts or installing underground network utilities, and buildings or structures within 5m of the base of a tree in certain circumstances as a permitted activity. Similar activities within the root protection area of a notable tree are a restricted

discretionary activity in the PDP for Gore, or a non-complying activity where the activity is not specifically provided for.

The PDP for Gore has a more stringent approach to the removal of a notable tree and the fixing of a structure or an object to a notable tree than the PSDP. In the PSDP, the removal of an unsafe scheduled notable tree is a permitted activity and the general removal of a notable tree is a restricted discretionary activity. In the PDP for Gore, it is a controlled activity for the removal of a tree that poses a risk to people and property and a non-complying activity for general tree removal. The fixing of a structure or an object to a notable tree is a restricted discretionary activity in the PSDP, whereas in the PDP for Gore, it is a non-complying activity.

The PSDP provisions offer a very detailed description of the types of pruning of a notable tree that qualifies as a permitted activity (activity rule requirement TREE-REQ1). Additionally a very detailed description is provided for the types of gardening, cultivation, earthworks, buildings, and structures within 5m of the base of a notable tree that qualifies as a permitted activity (activity rule requirement TREE-REQ2). The PDP provisions for Gore are very brief in comparison in that the trimming of branches that are less than 75mm in diameter in accordance with recognised arboricultural practice is a permitted activity. All other trimming of a notable tree is a controlled activity or a restricted discretionary activity.

4.5.6 Rule Summary Table and Conclusion

District Plan (column)	Proposed Gore District Plan	Southland District Plan	Clutha District Plan	Proposed New Plymouth District Plan	Proposed Timaru District Plan	Proposed Selwyn District Plan
Activity (row)						
<i>Trimming or pruning of any notable tree</i>	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	N/A	Permitted (inferred)	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Permitted provided that branches are less than 50mm diameter, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule
	Restricted Discretionary			Restricted Discretionary	Restricted Discretionary	Restricted Discretionary
					Controlled for other maintenance activities	
<i>Trimming of any notable tree where required under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003</i>	Controlled, if the trimming is not permitted	N/A	Not provided for	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Not provided for	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule
						Discretionary
<i>Removal of any notable tree where there is a risk to people or property or the tree is no longer notable</i>	Controlled	N/A	Discretionary (inferred)	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Discretionary	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule
				Non-complying		Discretionary
<i>Removal of any notable tree that</i>	Discretionary	N/A	Not provided for	Non-complying	Discretionary (inferred)	Not provided for

<i>is subject to a notice issued under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003</i>						
<i>Removal of any notable tree or trees</i>	Non-complying	N/A	Discretionary (inferred)	Non-complying	Discretionary	Discretionary
<i>Construction, installation and maintenance of any utility service or infrastructure within the root protection area of any notable tree</i>	Restricted Discretionary	N/A	Not provided for	Restricted Discretionary	Restricted Discretionary	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule
<i>Other activities within the root protection area of any notable tree</i>	Restricted Discretionary	N/A	Not provided for	Earthworks and root pruning are permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule	Earthworks and any buildings or structures within 5m of the base of a tree are Permitted, subject to meeting conditions of the rule
				Restricted Discretionary		
	Non-complying			Restricted Discretionary for buildings and outdoor storage	Restricted Discretionary	Restricted Discretionary
				Non-complying for other activities		
<i>Subdivision of land that contains any notable tree</i>	Restricted Discretionary (refer to the Subdivision Chapter)	N/A	Not provided for	Restricted Discretionary	Not provided for	Not provided for
<i>Fixing of any structure or object to any part of a notable tree</i>	Non-complying	N/A	Not provided for	Not provided for	Not provided for	Restricted Discretionary
<i>Gardening, mowing or soft landscaping within the root protection area</i>	Not provided for, although would be permitted	N/A	Not provided for	Permitted	Not provided for	Permitted

The approach for Gore reflects the proposed objective to retain notable trees. Therefore, the provisions are slightly stricter than other District Plans, in terms of protecting a notable tree from removal unless a tree poses a risk to people or property, or when it no longer meets the threshold for scheduling as a result of natural events. The provisions are similar to other District Plans, in terms of protecting notable trees from activities in the root protection area that could cause harm to the tree(s).

4.6 Other Relevant Documents and feedback

During the period that the current provisions have been in force, the Council has received four applications for resource consent seeking the removal of a significant tree(s).

In April 2016 (LU 2016/208), the Council granted consent for the retrospective removal of one significant tree (T55 – *Juglans regia* (Walnut)). The tree had been removed five years earlier by the applicant after a large limb fell and damaged a fence and a large split through the tree resulted.

In June 2017 (LU 2017/292), the Council granted consent for the removal of a significant tree (T70 - Golden Cedar) that had died of natural causes.

In February 2019 (SC 2018/380 and LU 2018/372), the Council granted consent for the removal of three significant trees (T56 - *Nothofagus fusca*, T57 *Cedrus* (Cedar) and T58 - *Abies procera* (Fir)) to facilitate access to a proposed subdivision.

In November 2022 (LU 2022/164), the Council granted consent for the removal of two significant trees (T32 - Monkey Puzzle trees) in order to establish and operate a commercial and industrial business on the site.

5. Scale and Significance

5.1 Scale and Significance Evaluation

Section 32(1)(c) of the RMA requires that this report contain a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the proposal.

	Comments	Assessment		
		Low	Medium	High
Degree of change from the Operative Plan	An updated schedule of notable trees for the PDP has been developed. A notable tree is one with a STEM score of 100 or above. New provisions have been introduced to provide guidance on the activities that involve a notable tree and the types of activities that can take place within the root protection area of a notable tree.		X	
Scale of effects – geographically (local, district wide, regional, national).	The scale of effects for notable trees is limited to the local and district wide level. On private properties, the protection of notable trees affects a small part of those properties, as land use activities in the root protection area of a notable tree are restricted.		X	
Effects on matters of national importance (s6 RMA)	The identification and protection of notable trees is related to the protection of historic heritage under section 6(f).	X		
Scale of effects on people (how many will be affected – single landowners, multiple landowners, neighbourhoods, the public generally, future generations?).	Some notable trees are located on public land and are valued by the community and contribute to the amenity and character of an area. Some notable trees are located on private property. The owners of private properties will be the most affected by the proposed provisions, especially if the tree was not scheduled in the ODP as significant but is scheduled in the PDP as notable.		X	
Scale of effects on those with specific interests, e.g., Tangata Whenua	Provision is made for a Māori cultural expert to identify notable trees that have cultural value and for Māori cultural practices to influence trimming activities. No such provisions existed in the ODP.		X	

	Comments	Assessment		
		Low	Medium	High
Degree of policy risk – does it involve effects that have been considered implicitly or explicitly by higher order documents? Does it involve effects addressed by other standards/commonly accepted best practice?	The National Planning Standards provide for notable trees to be included in the historical and cultural values section of the District Plan. The STEM is recognised as the most widespread method of evaluating heritage and notable trees for district plans around the country.	X		
Likelihood of increased costs or restrictions on individuals, communities or businesses.	There may be increased costs, as the proposed rules will result in a resource consent being required for certain types of activities, and such applications will need to be accompanied by a supporting arboricultural report. The cost of trimming notable trees falls upon both the Council and private landowners. This is however similar to the ODP approach.	X		

5.2 Evaluation Summary

The identification and management of notable trees is not substantially controlled through other planning documents at the regional or national level. However, trees more generally are controlled through other legislation as noted in section 3.8.

The PDP provisions contain a more comprehensive approach to identifying and managing notable trees. More specific policies and rules are introduced to provide guidance on activities that involve a notable tree and to provide guidance on activities that take place within the root protection area of a notable tree. Activities can be a permitted activity, controlled activity, restricted discretionary activity, discretionary activity or a non-complying activity. New and clear matters of control and matters of discretion are provided to assist decision makers for the two controlled activities and the two restricted discretionary activities.

Overall, the scale of significance is considered to be low to medium and therefore, the level of detail provided within this evaluation is commensurate with the scale and significance of the environmental, economic and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions.

6. Consultation

6.1 Overview

During the preparation of the District Plan Review, the Council is required by Clause 3 of Schedule 1 of the RMA to consult with the Minister for the Environment; other Ministers of the Crown and local authorities who may be affected and the tangata whenua of the area through iwi authorities. The Council may consult anyone else during the preparation of a proposed policy statement or plan.

6.2.1 Consultation Undertaken

The Section 32 – Urban Form and Development and Overview Evaluation Report provides an overview of the consultation undertaken to date in respect of the PDP. The PDP has been prepared in partnership with Hokonui Rūnanga who have reviewed and provided feedback on the Notable Trees Chapter to ensure consistency with the Mana Whenua Chapter and that cultural values are appropriately integrated throughout the proposed provisions.

Engagement with the community on the draft District Plan was undertaken between 10th August 2022 and 30th September 2022. The feedback received in respect of the Notable Trees Chapter is summarised in a table in Appendix 3.

In summary, National Public Health Service – Southern recommended the merging of two draft policies relating to tree trimming to avoid duplication.

In response to the above feedback, the provisions were revised to combine the ‘how’ and ‘when’ policies relating to tree trimming.

Transpower Limited opposed the controlled activity status for trimming of trees near powerlines, as it would require a resource consent in all cases which is not efficient, and trimming is mandatory. Transpower Limited recommends enabling trimming near powerlines as permitted activity in all cases.

In response to the above feedback, the rule relating to trimming near powerlines was amended to allow for permitted trimming consistent with other notable trees. A controlled activity status is proposed for trimming that is not a permitted activity.

7. Proposed Plan Provisions

7.1 Strategic Direction

The Urban Form and Development Chapter of the PDP does not contain any specific strategic Objectives relevant to Notable Trees, however, Objective UFD-O7 relates to ensuring urban environments are liveable, safe and well-designed, which would include the provision of notable trees for the benefit of the community.

Urban environments are liveable, connected, accessible, safe and well-designed spaces for the community to live, work and play in, which:

- 1. incorporate natural features, water management and topography into design to minimise environmental effects;*
- 2. recognise the local context, heritage values and character of an area including cultural histories;*
- 3. have connected and efficient transport networks;*
- 4. are adequately serviced by utilising and/or upgrading existing infrastructure or with new infrastructure or additional infrastructure*

The Mana Whenua Chapter of the PDP does not contain any specific reference to notable trees. However, there is general reference to taonga/resources across the district, which could include notable trees that have a cultural significance.

7.2 Objectives and Policies

The proposed objective and policies aim to address the resource management issues relating to notable trees as identified in section 2.1 of this report by identifying and protecting notable trees from removal and from land use, development and subdivision activities that may cause harm to the trees. The background assessment of other Council's Plans and the ODP along with the scale and significance of the issues and topic have also informed the PDP provisions.

There is one objective in the Notable Trees Chapter of the PDP that seeks the retention of trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values.

There are seven policies in the Notable Trees Chapter of the PDP that follow on from the single objective including:

- Enabling the identification of notable trees by qualified arborists utilising the STEM, or where relevant, a Māori cultural expert.
- Protecting the values, viability, health, structural integrity and setting of notable trees and avoid damage to their tree roots, particularly when ground disturbance and subdivision activities are involved.
- Enabling the removal of broken or diseased parts of notable trees or the trimming of any notable tree in some circumstances, subject to being undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural or Māori cultural practices.
- Directing users to avoid the removal of a notable tree unless the tree no longer meets the STEM threshold as a result of natural events and there is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure.
- Providing for education and advice as a non-regulatory measure to encourage the protection of notable trees.

7.3 Rules

There are four categories of rules for notable trees which give effect to the Objective and Policies.

Trimming activities

The trimming of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees is a permitted activity, provided that the trimming is of branches that are less than 75mm in diameter and the trimming is undertaken in accordance with arboricultural practice. Where the trimming is of branches that are more than 75mm in diameter, the trimming is a restricted discretionary activity.

Where such trimming is not a permitted activity and is required under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, the trimming is a controlled activity because trimming is mandatory to ensure the safety of the public from electricity lines.

Removal

Where there are changes to any notable tree(s), arising from natural events, which results in the tree(s) no longer meeting the STEM threshold to be classed as notable, the removal of such a tree is a controlled activity. The removal of any notable tree(s) that poses a risk to people, property buildings or infrastructure is also a controlled activity.

The removal of any notable tree(s) that is subject to a notice issued under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 is a discretionary activity.

The general removal of any notable tree(s) for any other reason is a non-complying activity.

Activities within the root protection area

The construction, installation and maintenance of any utility service or infrastructure within the root protection area of any notable tree(s) is a restricted discretionary activity.

A limited range of other activities within the root protection area of any notable tree(s) is a restricted discretionary activity. This includes any activity or new or replacement fences or structures, new impervious surfaces, the alteration of the ground level by more than 75mm and the storage of any hazardous substances within the root protection area of any notable tree(s).

Fixing structures or objects

The fixing of any structure or object to any part of a notable tree is a non-complying activity.

Subdivision

The subdivision of land that contains any notable tree(s) is a restricted discretionary activity and this rule is included as rule SUB-R9 in the Subdivision Chapter.

7.4 Definitions

The following definitions are relevant to the Notable Trees Chapter:

Notable tree: *A tree assessed and identified utilising the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) with a score above 100.*

Root Protection Area: *Means the circular area of ground surrounding a notable tree, for a distance of 12 times the diameter of the tree 1.5 metres above ground level.*

Building: *means a temporary or permanent movable or immovable physical construction that is: (a) partially or fully roofed; and (b) fixed or located on or in land; but excludes any motorised vehicle or other mode of transport that could be moved under its own power.*

Ground level: *means:*

- (a) the actual finished surface level of the ground after the most recent subdivision that created at least one additional allotment was completed (when the record of title is created);*
- (b) if the ground level cannot be identified under paragraph (a), the existing surface level of the ground;*
- (c) if, in any case under paragraph (a) or (b), a retaining wall or retaining structure is located on the boundary, the level on the exterior surface of the retaining wall or retaining structure where it intersects the boundary*

Infrastructure: *means—*

- (a) pipelines that distribute or transmit natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel, or geothermal energy;*
- (b) a network for the purpose of telecommunication as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001;*
- (c) a network for the purpose of radiocommunication as defined in section 2(1) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989;*

- (d) facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person—*
 - (i) uses them in connection with the generation of electricity for the person's use; and*
 - (ii) does not use them to generate any electricity for supply to any other person:*
- (e) a water supply distribution system, including a system for irrigation:*
- (f) a drainage or sewerage system:*
- (g) structures for transport on land by cycleways, rail, roads, walkways, or any other means:*
- (h) facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers transported on land by any means:*
 - (i) an airport as defined in section 2 of the Airport Authorities Act 1966:*
 - (j) a navigation installation as defined in section 2 of the Civil Aviation Act 1990:*
 - (k) facilities for the loading or unloading of cargo or passengers carried by sea, including a port related commercial undertaking as defined in section 2(1) of the Port Companies Act 1988:*
 - (l) anything described as a network utility operation in regulations made for the purposes of the definition of network utility operator in section 166*

Structure: *means any building, equipment, device, or other facility, made by people and which is fixed to land; and includes any raft.*

8. Evaluation of Objectives

This section of the report evaluates the proposed objectives as to whether they are the most appropriate to achieve the purpose of the Act.

Existing Objective	Appropriateness to achieve the purpose of the Act
Objective 3.3[6] of the ODP seeks to: Retain heritage and amenity values associated with significant trees.	This objective provides high level guidance to decision makers in relation to retaining significant trees that have heritage and amenity values. This objective is broadly consistent with RMA Sections 5(2)(a) and 5(2)(c) but is not considered to fully achieve the purpose of the Act as only heritage and amenity values are considered. Relevance Due to the broad nature of this objective, it is of some relevance and provides some guidance and direction for decision makers and plan users, in terms of retaining significant trees that have heritage and amenity values. Usefulness The current objective does not recognise that significant trees can have high botanical and cultural values, in addition to heritage and amenity values. Significant trees with high botanical and cultural values may not be included in the current schedule in the District Plan. Reasonableness The current objective is reasonable but is supported by a single policy and a narrow set of methods. It has not resulted in unreasonably high costs on the community to date. Achievability The current objective seeks outcomes within the scope of Council's responsibilities and can be realistically achieved through regulations at a district level.

Proposed Objective	Appropriateness to achieve the purpose of the Act
TREE-O1 - The retention of trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values.	The objective is considered to be the most appropriate way to achieve the purpose of the Act because it: • Recognises that trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values are a natural resource that should be retained for the benefit of future generations (RMA Section 5(2)(a)). • Recognises that the loss of trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values may have adverse effects on the environment (RMA Section 5(2)(c)). • Recognises that the protection of historic heritage, in the form of notable trees, from inappropriate use, and development is a matter of national importance that the Council must recognise and provide for (RMA Section 6(f)). • Recognises the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their taonga (RMA Section 6(e)). • Recognises that the Council must have particular regard to the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment, and any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources (RMA Sections 7(c), (f) and (g)). Relevance The objective is relevant to the resource management issues identified which notes that the removal or loss of notable trees through inappropriate land use, development or subdivision, can potentially detract from the amenity and character of the environment. Furthermore, any damage caused to notable trees can potentially affect the high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values of those trees. The objective provides guidance and direction for decision makers and plan users, in that the intended outcome is to retain notable trees. Usefulness The objective guides the decision maker to retain notable trees and the values of those trees, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The objective references the different types of values possessed by notable trees, which have been identified by the Cadwallader Tree Consultancy in developing the updated schedule. Provision is made for a Māori cultural expert to identify notable trees with cultural values. Without the objective, and the associated provisions, there is no certainty the trees with outstanding values will be retained. Reasonableness The notable trees provisions will not result in unreasonably high costs on the community. The framework for trimming activities that are a permitted activity is similar to the ODP, albeit contains greater certainty for users on what types of trimming is a permitted activity and what types

	of trimming requires a resource consent. The new matters of control and discretion provide greater clarity and direction for decision makers and are expected to result in a greater consistency of decision making. Achievability The objective seeks outcomes within the scope of Council’s responsibilities and can be realistically achieved through regulations at a district level. The objective is generally consistent with identified tangata whenua outcomes, which include providing for the relationship between Māori and their taonga.
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Summary Overall, the proposed Objective provides greater clarity and certainty for Plan users and decision makers, whilst also achieving the purpose of the Act in a reasonable, useful, relevant and achievable manner. The objective will allow the Council to fulfil its obligations under s31 of the Act and is consistent with identified tangata whenua outcomes.
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9. Evaluation of Options to Achieve the Objectives

9.1 Evaluation

Section 32(1)(b) requires an evaluation of whether the provisions are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives by identifying other reasonably practicable options, assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives, and summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions.

The assessment must identify and assess the benefits and costs of environmental, economic, social and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions, including opportunities for economic growth and employment. The assessment must if practicable quantify the benefits and costs and assess the risk of acting or not acting if there is uncertain or insufficient information available about the subject matter.

For each potential approach, an evaluation has been undertaken relating to the costs, benefits and the certainty and sufficiency of information (as informed by section 4 of this report) in order to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the approach, and whether it is the most appropriate way to achieve the relevant objective(s). For the purpose of this evaluation, the Council has considered the following potential options:

- Option A - The proposed provisions
- Option B - The 'status quo' provisions

Section 32(2)(b) requires that if practicable, the benefits and costs of a proposal are quantified.

Based on the scale and significance of the proposed changes, specifically the degree of change from the ODP, level of policy risk and scale of effects, it is considered that quantifying costs and benefits is unnecessary. Therefore, exact quantification of the benefits and costs identified in this report was not considered necessary, beneficial or practicable. Rather, the table below generally identifies where there may be additional cost(s) and benefit(s).

Option A – Proposed Provisions	
Objective TREE-O1 - The retention of trees and groups of trees with high botanical, heritage, cultural and/or amenity values.	
<i>Policies and rules which give effect to the objective TREE-O1:</i>	
TREE-P1	Identify notable trees and notable groups of trees on the basis of an assessment undertaken by an arborist, holding a qualification approved by the NZ Qualification Authority, utilising the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM), or where relevant, a Māori cultural expert.
TREE-P2	Protect the values and setting of notable trees and notable groups of trees.
TREE-P3	Undertake activities, including ground disturbance and subdivision, in a manner that provides protection of the viability, health, structural integrity and setting of notable trees and notable groups of trees.
TREE-P4	Subject to being undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural, or where relevant, Māori cultural practices, enable: 1. The removal of broken branches, deadwood or diseased vegetation within notable trees or notable groups of trees, and 2. The trimming of any notable tree or trees within notable groups of trees where: (a) this enhances the long-term health, structural integrity or appearance of the tree(s), (b) the values of the tree(s) are not compromised, (c) there is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure; or (d) the tree significantly restricts use of the site.
TREE-P5	Avoid the removal of a notable tree or trees within notable groups of trees unless at least one of the following circumstances apply: 1. Changes to the tree or group of trees, arising from natural events, which results in the tree no longer meeting the STEM threshold to be classed as notable. 2. There is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure.
TREE-P6	Avoid damage to notable tree or trees within notable groups of trees, including tree roots.
TREE-P7	Provide education and advice to encourage the protection of notable trees and notable groups of trees.
TREE-R1 Trimming of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED is a permitted activity where:	

1. Trimming is undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural practice so as to retain a natural shape, form and branch habitat for that particular species, and 2. Except for the removal of broken branches, deadwood or diseased vegetation, trimming is of branches which are less than 75mm in diameter. Trimming of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED that is not a permitted activity, is a controlled activity where: 3. The trimming is required under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. Trimming of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED that is not a permitted activity or a controlled activity is a restricted discretionary activity. TREE R2 Removal of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED is a controlled activity where: 1. There are changes to the tree or group of trees, arising from natural events, which results in the tree(s) no longer meeting the STEM threshold to be classed as notable; or 2. There is a high quantifiable risk to people, property, buildings or infrastructure. Removal of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED that is not a controlled activity, is a discretionary activity where: 3. The removal is subject to a notice issued under the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. Removal of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED that is not a controlled activity or a discretionary activity is a non-complying activity. TREE-R3 Activities within the root protection area of any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED is a restricted discretionary activity where: 1. The activity is limited to the construction, installation and maintenance of any utility service or other infrastructure. OR 2. Any activity or the construction, addition or replacement of any fence or structure; and 3. Any impervious surfacing, sealing, paving, soil compaction, or alteration to the ground level of no more than 75mm; and 4. The activity does not involve the storage of any hazardous substance. Any non-compliance with the above is a non-complying activity. TREE-R4 Fixing of any structure or object to any part of a notable tree in TREE-SCHED is a non-complying activity. SUB-R9 Subdivision is a restricted discretionary activity, where the subdivision is of land that contains any notable tree or trees within a notable group of trees in TREE-SCHED.	
Benefits	Costs
Environmental • Clear definitions for terms provides greater certainty. The new definition of ‘root protection area’ protects more of the tree roots for columnar canopy trees than ‘canopy spread’ did. This helps landowners and developers to consider the future growth of notable trees when establishing site layout and building location. • All provisions are clearly set out in one chapter with a clear framework to retain notable trees. • Plan users and landowners will have a clear understanding of the values of a notable tree listed in the schedule. • The provisions clearly set out the types of activities that are a permitted activity and the types of activities that may threaten the values of a notable tree and will require a resource consent. Notable trees can still be maintained and trimmed to an extent without having to obtain a resource consent. • Matters of control and discretion provide clarity and efficiency for decision making by limiting the scope to relevant matters only. • The provision of essential infrastructure is recognised and provided for in proximity to notable trees. • The involvement of an arborist for permitted activity trimming avoids the potential for damage caused by detrimental trimming or improper maintenance. • The involvement of an arborist to inform Council decision making avoids any potential unnecessary removal, partial removal or destruction of notable trees.	Environmental • There are no anticipated environmental costs associated with the proposed provisions, which aim to retain and protect notable trees.

Economic - Landowners are made aware of a notable tree on their land and the impact of that tree upon property ownership. - There may be increased employment opportunities for local arborists. - Notable trees generally improve the attractiveness and amenity of public spaces, which can have positive economic benefits. - The ongoing provision of essential infrastructure is recognised and provided for. - Notable trees can still be maintained and trimmed without the need for resource consent.	Economic - There is a cost to the Council to arrange for detailed STEM analysis of trees to be undertaken across the district, and monitoring costs to enforce the rules. - New notable trees have been added to the Schedule and this may result in new costs for landowners. In particular, there are greater requirements to engage arborists to undertake trimming, to supervise activities within the root protection zone, or to commission reports to support a resource consent application. - The root protection area represents a greater area around columnar trees, thereby possibly reducing the available area of a property on which to undertake construction activities.
Social - The community understands the way in which the tree assessments have been undertaken (STEM) and what values have been identified, as these assessments are made available to the public. - The proposed provisions provide some certainty for the community and the Council on the type and level of trimming allowed as of right. - Notable trees are identified, protected and retained for present and future generations. This also contributes to the local character and the amenity of the district for residents and visitors.	Social The provisions may appear more complex to plan users as these are lengthier and more detailed compared to those in the Operative Plan.
Cultural - There is recognition of cultural values as a part of the tree assessment process, including enabling a Māori cultural expert to identify a notable tree. - Māori cultural practices are able to influence trimming activities as an alternative to recognised arboricultural practices. This provides for the relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their taonga.	Cultural There are no anticipated cultural costs associated with the proposed provisions.
Efficiency There are a number of improved efficiency outcomes associated with the PDP provisions. These include improved clarity through a more directive objective and set of policies, which provides greater certainty for plan users and decision makers. It is considered that the proposed provisions will achieve the Notable Trees objective in the Plan as: - The updated Notable Trees Schedule accurately represents the current significant tree assets across the district. - The policies provide for the identification and protection of notable trees and their different values, including details and direction on appropriate and inappropriate activities in relation to notable trees, thereby providing a high level of certainty. - The policies recognise Māori cultural practices. - The rules enable some types of trimming and maintenance as a permitted activity, provided that it is undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural practice. - The rules require that activities that may cause damage to notable trees are appropriately managed through the resource consent process. - Non-regulatory methods outside of the District Plan such as education and information provision, technical advice and promotion of notable trees and their values will be used, to support the proposed provisions to achieve the proposed objective. Overall, the benefits of managing notable trees via this approach outweigh the costs.	
Effectiveness The proposed provisions are considered to be the most effective means of achieving the objective and giving effect to the National Planning Standards 2019, as: - The provisions are practical and enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligations, including duties imposed on the Council by s31 of the RMA. - The definition of ‘root protection area’ may not provide complete protection in all situations. However it is straightforward, has been tested by other councils, and represents an increase in protection that is reasonable. - The adverse effects from inappropriate land use, development and subdivision activities are managed appropriately by the rules. Therefore, this helps to reduce the possibility that such activities will damage or harm the health or values of a notable tree. This approach is not considered to be overly restrictive or onerous for landowners. - The rules reflect best practice and expert arboricultural advice and the types of activities that can occur as a permitted activity and the types of activities that require a resource consent are clearly set out. This enables decision-makers to make an informed decision based on policy guidance and on the values of the particular tree(s). - Any proposal for the general removal of a notable tree triggers a non-complying activity consent and this activity status represents the Council’s intended goal of retaining notable trees. - The provisions enable the Council to effectively administer its District Plan in a clear and consistent manner.	

Overall, managing notable trees via this approach is considered to be effective.
Risk of acting or not acting
Risks of not acting: - The resource management issues would not be adequately addressed. - The current schedule of significant trees is outdated. The new notable trees that have been identified would not be protected and could be damaged or felled, as these are not currently identified as significant trees in the Operative Plan. - The Operative District Plan policy and rules lack clarity and therefore certainty. Risks of acting: - Landowners will need time to understand the new provisions. - Generally low risk, as the proposed schedule and the provisions have been reviewed by key parties, who have provided feedback on the draft provisions. Overall, there is sufficient information to act and the risks from not acting is higher than the risk of acting.
Overall Evaluation
The proposed policies and methods are an appropriate option to achieve the objective for notable trees. The benefits outweigh the costs and the methods efficiently give effect to the proposed objective. The methods help to protect notable trees and manage activities in relation to notable trees to ensure that their values are maintained, along with the health and safety of the community, in order to address the identified resource management issues.

Option B – Status Quo	
Objective 3.3(6) Retain heritage and amenity values associated with significant trees. Policy 3.4(9) Identify and protect trees with significant heritage or amenity values. Rule 4.12.1 Significant Trees: Refer to Table 4.4 (Refer to Appendix 1 of this report). Rule 4.12.2 It is a permitted activity to: (1) undertake minor trimming and maintenance of significant trees by hand-operated pruning shears or secateurs in accordance with accepted aboricultural practice. (2) undertake emergency works on any significant tree to safeguard life or property, provided that written advice is given to the Gore District Council within one week of the works being undertaken. Rule 4.12.3 Any removal or modification of any significant tree, or pruning, trimming or any other modification or activity within the canopy spread of any significant tree, not provided for by Rule 4.12.2 is a discretionary activity.	
Benefits	Costs
Environmental - Significant trees have been identified and are protected and maintained for present and future generations. - Significant trees can be trimmed and maintained without the need for resource consent subject to using hand operated tools in accordance with accepted arboricultural practice.	Environmental - The rules lack detail and guidance. Different types of activities are not distinguished and provided for separately. There is little guidance on activities including general minor trimming, trimming in relation to electricity conductors, the installation of utility services near a significant tree, other activities near a significant tree, subdivision involving a significant tree, or fixing an object or structure to a significant tree. - The removal of a significant tree is a discretionary activity rather than a non-complying activity, which suggests that significant trees have not being provided with the highest form of protection through the most stringent activity status.

	- It is unclear whether arborist involvement is compulsory and there is a greater potential for damage from detrimental trimming, improper maintenance or other activities. - Canopy spread is not defined and is open to interpretation and therefore, it may not be sufficient to protect tree roots for columnar canopy trees.
Economic - A resource consent is not required for emergency works to a significant tree to safeguard life or property, therefore, less costs are involved. - Arborist involvement is not clearly specified as compulsory and therefore, there may be less costs involved for landowners and the Council.	Economic - Anyone intending to apply for a resource consent will experience a financial cost and the associated time/uncertainty. - The associated assessments for the significant trees are not available and if such assessments are required, these would need to be arranged and prepared.
Social Plan users, arborists and landowners are familiar with current provisions.	Social The values of the significant trees are not clearly identified and the associated assessments are not available to the public, so the community do not have an understanding of why the trees are scheduled. - The community may not get to experience any trees that are inadvertently lost from detrimental trimming, improper maintenance or other activities.
Cultural There are no known cultural benefits associated with the current provisions.	Cultural There is no opportunity for significant trees that have a cultural value to be protected.
Efficiency and Effectiveness	
- The single objective and policy lacks detail, and the rules are vague, which could have resulted in inefficient consent processing and a lack of clarity and direction for both plan users and decision makers. - The terms used in the rules are also unclear, in terms of determining whether an activity is a permitted activity or requires a discretionary activity consent. - The Significant Trees Schedule is outdated and does not accurately represent the current significant tree assets across the district, including the tree(s) that have already been removed or lost. - Some of the significant trees in the current schedule have been protected and therefore, the current provisions are partially effective. - Under the current provisions, at least 9.2 percent of the trees in the Significant Trees Schedule have been lost (T32, T35, T44, T55, T56, T57, T58, T70) for various reasons. - This approach has not been overly restrictive or onerous for landowners. - The associated assessments are not available in order for the public to understand why the trees are significant. Any trees that possess high botanical and cultural values may not have been identified and included in the schedule. - The status quo approach is inconsistent with the National Planning Standards that require a standalone chapter for notable trees in Part 2 District Wide Matters. Overall, the costs of the current provisions outweigh the benefits and therefore, the status quo approach is not the most efficient and effective.	
Risk of acting or not acting	
Risks of not acting: - The resource management issues would not be adequately addressed. - The National Planning Standards will not be implemented. - The Operative District Plan rules lack clarity and therefore certainty. Risks of acting: - Landowners with a notable tree on their property will need time to understand the new provisions. - Generally low risk, as the proposed schedule and the provisions have been reviewed by key parties, who have provided feedback on the draft provisions. - Overall, there is sufficient information to act and the risks from not acting is higher than the risk of acting.	
Overall Evaluation	
The existing policy and methods are somewhat outdated and do not effectively address the identified resource management issues.	

9.2 Summary of Preferred Options

Summary

The preferred option is Option A, the Proposed District Plan provisions, which are anticipated to address the resource management issues and achieve the purpose of the Act and provide greater clarity and direction to plan users and decision makers, thereby being consistent with section 5 of the RMA 1991. Option B, the existing Operative District Plan approach is ineffective at addressing the resource management issues. The Schedule needs to be updated to accurately represent the current significant tree assets across the district. A revised approach is proposed based on applying rules for different types of activities to help to protect notable trees and manage activities in relation to notable trees to ensure that their values are maintained, along with the health and safety of the community. The proposed provisions provide an appropriate balance between allowing for small-scale trimming activities to be undertaken as of right, while managing the potential adverse effects of more substantial trimming activities and other activities that could impact notable trees.

Appendix 1. Table 4.3 Significant Trees from the Operative District Plan

No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
T1	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> (Evergreen Magnolia)	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1989 to commemorate the contribution of the Gore Borough Council to the people of Gore 1885 – 1989.
T2	<i>Camellia japonica</i> ‘Kate Shepard’	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1993 by Women’s Christian Temperance Union to celebrate the franchise of women 1893 – 1993.
T3	<i>Abies concolor</i> <i>candicans</i> (Colorado White Fir)	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1991 by Mayor I R Tulloch to commemorate the formation of Gore District Council in November 1989.
T4	<i>Mespilus germanica</i> <i>Medlar</i>	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1988 by Mr I D Gilchrist to honour his services as the long time Superintendent of Reserves.
T5	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1911 to commemorate the coronation of King George V.
T6	<i>Ulmus glabra pendula</i> (Bowler Elm)	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted circa 1916. Donated to the public of Gore by M E Bowler.
T7	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> ‘wellingtonia’	Gore Gardens, Gore	Planted in 1906. The tallest tree in Gore, the tree is a landmark in the town of Gore.
T8	All trees, not referred to above	Gore Gardens, Gore	The trees are a notable component of the Gore landscape.
T9	Grove of <i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	Gore Domain, Corner of Fairfield and Preston Streets, Gore	The trees are a notable component of the Gore landscape.
T10	All trees	Croquet Club Quadrant, Gore Domain, Gore	The trees are a notable component of the Gore landscape.
T11	<i>Ulmus minor</i> ‘Louis van Houtte’ (Golden Elm)	Gore Civic Centre, Gore	Planted in 1989 by Mayor H L Smith to celebrate the centenary of when Gore was proclaimed a Town district.
T12	<i>Sophora japonica pendula</i>	Gore Civic Centre, Gore	Planted in 1988, donated by Mr H L Smith in recognition of his daughter’s employment at the Gore Public Library for many years.
T13	<i>Quercus rubra</i> (Red Oak)	Main Street, Gore	Planted in 1992 to honour the death of bus driver Mr S Horrell.

No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
T14	<i>Quercus cerris</i> (Turkey Oak)	Road Reserve, 165 Main Street, Gore	Highly notable tree.
T15	All trees Precinct includes <i>Quercus</i> , <i>Acer pseudo</i> <i>plantanus</i> and <i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Triangle, Gore	Planted circa 1920. The trees are an integral form in the Triangle environs and are a significant feature of the central Gore Landscape.
T16	All trees Precinct includes <i>Carpinus betulus</i> , (Hornbeam), <i>Quercus</i> (Oaks), <i>Ulmus</i> (Elms), <i>Fraxinus</i> (Ash), <i>Tilia</i> (Limes) and Beech	SH 94, Hokonui Drive to Waimea St, Gore	Planted circa 1912-1914 by Council gardener Mr A T Newman. The trees are recognised by most residents as a significant component of the Gore landscape.
T17	Group of <i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	Deer Park, Martin Street, Gore	The trees are a notable component of the Gore landscape.
T18	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> ‘St Mary’ (Evergreen Magnolia)	Bannerman Park, Gore	Planted in 1987 by Gore Soroptimists.
T19	<i>Aesculus X Carnea</i> (Red Horse Chestnut) Red Horse Chestnut	Bannerman Park, Gore	Planted in 1980 by Gore Soroptimists to celebrate the Charter of Soroptimists International.
T20	<i>Prunus accolade</i> (Japanese Cherry) Flowering Cherry	Bannerman Park, Gore	Planted circa 1960 on Arbour Day by Sister Cuthbert, daughter of former Mayor, Mr Popplewell.
T21	Group of <i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	Bannerman Park, Gore	Planted 1965 on Arbour Day by Milton Green, great grandson of Thomas Green, a former Mayor of Gore.
T22	Row of <i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	West bank of Mataura River, north of SH 1 bridge, Gore	The trees are a notable component of the landscape along the bank of the Mataura River.
T23	<i>Tilia europea</i> (Lime)	Road Reserve, 13 Lewis Street, Gore	The tree is a notable component of the landscape.
T24	<i>Tilia europea</i> (Lime)	“Wilden” 15 Lewis Street, Gore	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T25	<i>Fraxinus excelsior pendula</i> (Weeping Ash)	37 Coutts Road, Gore	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T26	<i>Castanea sativa</i> (Spanish Chestnut)	Kerwood Place, Gore	The tree is a notable component of the landscape.
T27	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> ‘wellingtonia’ (Redwood)	23 Devon Street, Gore	The tree is a notable component of the landscape.

Table 4.3 Significant Trees			
No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
T28	Row of <i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	Sports Ground, Gore High School, Gore	Notable specimens worthy of protection.
T29	<i>Ulmus glabra pendula</i> (Horizontal Elm)	Hostel, Gore High School, Gore	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T30	Grove of <i>Rhododendron</i> sp	Entrance to Gore Race-course, SH 1, Gore	A significant grove of rhododendron species worthy of protection.
T31	<i>Ulmus procera</i> (Elm) (5) and <i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak) (2)	Holy Trinity Church, 19 Traford Street, Gore	Notable specimens worthy of protection.
T32	<i>Araucaria araucana</i> (2) Monkey Puzzle Female (south) and Male (north)	40 Charlton Lane, Gore	The house on the site was built in 1914 and the trees were planted by Mr Faulkner, the original owner. The trees are visible from State Highway 1. Notable under RNZIH Scheme
T33	All trees includes <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> ; <i>Quercus</i> spp; and <i>Populus</i> spp	Victoria Park, SH 1 East Gore	The trees are a notable component of the Gore landscape.
T34	<i>Quercus robur</i> English Oak	East Gore School, Gore	Planted 1915 to mark the death of Mr J Gilchrist, an old pupil of the school and the first soldier killed in World War 1.
T35	Deleted		
T36	Avenue of trees <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (English Beech)	Hamilton Park, East Gore	Planted in 1943 on Arbour Day. The avenue of trees provides shelter from the nor-west winds.
T37	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'horizontalis' (Horizontal Elm)	Tulloch Park, Mataura	Planted 1984, presented to Mataura Borough by Mr F MacKay on the occasion of his 100 th birthday.
T38	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> (2) (Redwood)	Waikaka School, Waikaka	Notable specimens worthy of protection.
T39	All trees	St Phillips and St James Anglican Church, Main Street, Waikaka	Notable specimens worthy of protection.
T40.	<i>Abies procera</i> (Fir)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T41.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T42.	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (English Beech)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T43.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.

Table 4.3 Significant Trees			
No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
T44.	Deleted		
T45.	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (English Beech)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T46.	<i>Acer pycnodoplatanus</i> (Sycamore)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T47.	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (English Ash)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T48.	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (English Beech)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T49.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T50.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T51.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T52.	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	81 Wigan Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T53	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	40 Albany Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T54	<i>Juglans regia</i> (Walnut)	80 Ruia Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T55	Deleted		
T56	Deleted		
T57	Deleted		
T58	Deleted		
T59	<i>Cedrus</i> (Cedar)	90 Kakapo Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T60	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'horizontalis' (Horizontal Elm)	36 Broughton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T61	<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> (Wellingtonia)	13 Ardwick Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T62	<i>Juglans regia</i> (Walnut)	22 Albany Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T63	<i>Nothofagus fusca</i> (Red Beech)	141 Broughton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T64	<i>Quercus robur</i> (English Oak)	79 Hokonui Drive	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T65	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	14 Crewe Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T66	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	28 Crewe Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T67	<i>Juglans regia</i>	12 High Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.

Table 4.3 Significant Trees			
No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
	(Walnut)		
T68	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	12 High Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T69	<i>Quercus palustris</i> (Pin Oak)	12 High Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T70	<i>Thuja plicata aurea</i> (Golden Cedar)	12 High Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T71	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	12 High Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T72	<i>Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'</i> (Horizontal Elm)	8 Willis Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T73	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	5 Garnet Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T74	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	5 Garnet Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T75	<i>Tilia europea</i> (Lime)	5 Garnet Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T76	<i>Nothofagus cliffortioides</i> (Native Mountain Beech)	1 Garnet Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T77	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	11 Norton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T78	<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> (Ash)	11 Norton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T79	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	3 Latham Lane	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T80	<i>Fagus sylvatica purpurea</i> (Copper Beech)	11 Rock Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T81	<i>Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'</i> (Horizontal Elm)	49 Hamilton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T82	<i>Quercus</i> (Oak)	61 Hamilton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T83	<i>Cedrus atlantica</i> (Atlas Cedar)	61 Hamilton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.

Table 4.3 Significant Trees			
No.	Tree Species	Location	Reason for Inclusion
T84	<i>Agathis australis</i> (Kauri)	136 Broughton Street	Rare specimen in Southland worthy of protection.
T85	<i>Quercus rubra</i> (Red Oak)	Legal Road, William Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T86	<i>Nothofagus fusca</i> (Red Beech)	28 Coutts Road	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T87	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> (Lime Blossom)	28 Coutts Road	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T88	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> (Lime Blossom)	28 Coutts Road	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T89	Various	129 Kakapo Street	Notable specimens worthy of protection.
T90	<i>Quercus</i> (Oak)	2 Devon Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T91	<i>Tilia europea</i> (Lime)	2 Devon Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T92	<i>Ulmus</i> (Elm)	2 Devon Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T93	<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> (Ash)	2 Devon Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T94	<i>Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'</i> (Horizontal Elm)	39 Ardwick Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T95	<i>Juglans regia</i> (Walnut)	7 North Terrace South	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T96	<i>Acer Rubrum</i> (Red Maple)	7 North Terrace South	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T97	<i>Acer</i> (Maple)	9 Halton Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T98	<i>Nothofagus fusca</i> (Red Beech)	17 Gordon Terrace	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T99	<i>Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'</i> (Horizontal Elm)	290 Main Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T100	<i>Betula pendula</i> (Silver Birch)	27 William Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T101	<i>Tilia europea</i> (Lime)	64 Ardwick Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T102	<i>Quercus</i> (Oak)	16 Hilbre Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.
T103	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Weeping Ash)	38 Wentworth Street	Notable specimen worthy of protection.

Appendix 2. Summary of Tree Assessments Undertaken

¹ TXX refers to notable tree number in Operative District Plan and PTXX are trees potentially suitable for inclusion

GDC REF ¹	ADDRESS	SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAME	NOTABILITY EVALUATION AND OTHER NOTES:	STEM SCORE
T8	Gore Gardens, Gore	All trees, not referred to above			294
T33	Victoria Park, SH 1 East Gore	All trees	includes Sequoiadendron giganteum; Quercus spp; and Populus spp		252
T16	SH 94, Hokonui Drive to Waimea St, Gore	All trees			249
T10	Croquet Club Quadrant, Gore Domain, Gore	All trees			237
T15	Triangle, Gore	All trees	Precinct includes Quercus, Acer pseudo plantanus and Ulmus glabra		227
T36	Hamilton Park, East Gore	Avenue of trees Fagus sylvatica	(English Beech)		225
T31	Holy Trinity Church, 19 Traftord Street, Gore	Ulmus procera (Elm) (5) and Quercus robur (English Oak) (2)			222
T32A	40 Charlton Lane, Gore	Araucaria araucana (2)	Monkey Puzzle Female (south) and Male (north)		222
T32B	40 Charlton Lane, Gore	Araucaria araucana (2)	Monkey Puzzle Female (south) and Male (north)		222
T17	Deer Park, Martin Street, Gore	Group of Quercus robur	(English Oak)		216
T27	23 Devon Street, Gore	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Wellingtonia		216
T61	13 Ardwick Street	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Wellingtonia		207
T6	Gore Gardens, Gore	Ulmus glabra pendula	(Bowler Elm)		201
T9	Gore Domain, Corner of Fairfield and Preston Streets,	Grove of Quercus robur	(English Oak)		201
T30	Entrance to Gore Race-course, SH 1, Gore	Grove of Rhododendron sp			198
T60	36 Broughton Street	Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'	(Horizontal Elm)		198
T38	Waikaka School, Waikaka	Sequoiadendron giganteum (2)	(Redwood)		195
T25	37 Coutts Road, Gore	Fraxinus excelsior pendula	(Weeping Ash)		192
T29	Hostel, Gore High School, Gore	Ulmus glabra pendula	(Horizontal Elm)		186
T7	Gore Gardens, Gore	Sequoiadendron giganteum	Wellingtonia		183
T26	Kerwood Place, Gore	Castanea sativa	(Spanish Chestnut)		183
T34	East Gore School, Gore	Quercus robur	English Oak		183
T22	West bank of Mataura River, north of SH 1 bridge, Gore	Row of Quercus robur	(English Oak)		180
T101	64 Ardwick Street	Tilia europea	(Lime)		180
T63	141 Broughton Street	Nothofagus fusca	(Red Beech)		179
T78	11 Norton Street	Fraxinus uhdei	(Ash)		177
T96	7 North Terrace South	Acer Rubrum	(Red Maple)		177
T94	39 Ardwick Street	Ulmus glabra 'horizontalis'	(Horizontal Elm)		174

GDC REF ¹	ADDRESS	SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAME	NOTABILITY EVALUATION AND OTHER NOTES:	STEM SCORE
T14	Road Reserve, 165 Main Street, Gore	Quercus cerris	(Turkey Oak)		171
T89A	129 Kakapo Street	Various		Remove one of the trees shown	168
T82	61 Hamilton Street	Quercus	(Oak)		165
T28	Sports Ground, Gore High School, Gore	Row of Betula pendula	(Silver Birch)		162
T75	5 Garnet Street	Tilia europea	(Lime)		162
T81	49 Hamilton Street	Ulmus glabra ‘horizontalis’	(Horizontal Elm)		162
T89B	129 Kakapo Street	Various			162
PT8	2a Crombie Street		Horizontal Spreading Elm		162
T5	Gore Gardens, Gore	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		159
T76	1 Garnet Street	Nothofagus cliffortiodes	(Native Mountain Beech)		159
T80	11 Rock Street	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	(Copper Beech)		157
T23	Road Reserve, 13 Lewis Street, Gore	Tilia europea	(Lime)		156
T24	“Wilden” 15 Lewis Street, Gore	Tilia europea	(Lime)		156
PT2	7 Lewis Street North		cedar		156
T83	61 Hamilton Street	Cedrus atlantica	(Atlas Cedar)		153
T95	7 North Terrace South	Juglans regia	(Walnut)		153
T97	9 Halton Street	Acer	Maple		153
T74	5 Garnet Street	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	(Copper Beech)		150
T72	8 Willis Street	Ulmus glabra ‘horizontalis’	(Horizontal Elm)		147
T103	38 Wentworth Street	Fraxinus excelsior	(Weeping Ash)		147
PT6	244 Main Street		elm		147
T3	Gore Gardens, Gore	Abies concolor candicans	(Colorado White Fir)		144
T43	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		144
T51	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		144
T67	12 High Street	Juglans regia	(Walnut)		144
T90	2 Devon Street	Quercus	(Oak)		144
PT3	7 Lewis Street North		English beech		144
PT7	244 Main Street		Copper Beech		144
T40	81 Wigan Street	Abies procera	(Fir)		141
T86	28 Coutts Road	Nothofagus fusca	(Red Beech)		141
T92	2 Devon Street	Ulmus	(Elm)		141
T53	40 Albany Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		138
T69	12 High Street	Quercus palustris	(Pin Oak)		138
T85	Legal Road, William Street	Quercus rubra	(Red Oak)		138
T100	27 William Street (Says T27 on intramaps)	Betula pendula	(Silver Birch)		138
PT12	2 Rimu Street		giant redwood		138
T13	Main Street, Gore	Quercus rubra	(Red Oak)		135
T37	Tulloch Park, Mataura	Ulmus glabra ‘horizontalis’	(Horizontal Elm)		135

GDC REF ¹	ADDRESS	SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAME	NOTABILITY EVALUATION AND OTHER NOTES:	STEM SCORE
PT4	3 Garnet Street		NZ Black Beech		135
T12	Gore Civic Centre, Gore	Sophora japonica pendula			132
T59	90 Kakapo Street	Cedrus	(Cedar)		132
T79	3 Latham Lane	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	(Copper Beech)		132
T88	28 Coutts Road	Tilia platyphyllos	(Lime Blossom)		132
PT1	7 Lewis Street North		blue Atlas cedar		132
T48	81 Wigan Street	Fagus sylvatica	(English Beech)		129
T50	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		129
T52	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		129
T84	136 Broughton Street	Agathis australis	(Kauri)		129
T87	28 Coutts Road	Tilia platyphyllos	(Lime Blossom)		126
T99	290 Main Street	Ulmus glabra ‘horizontalis’	(Horizontal Elm)		126
T41	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		123
T42	81 Wigan Street	Fagus sylvatica	(English Beech)		123
T54	80 Ruia Street	Juglans regia	(Walnut)		123
T71	12 High Street	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	(Copper Beech)		120
T11	Gore Civic Centre, Gore	Ulmus minor ‘Louis van Houtte’	(Golden Elm)		117
T21	Bannerman Park, Gore	Group of Quercus robur	(English Oak)		117
T45	81 Wigan Street	Fagus sylvatica	(English Beech)		117
T49	81 Wigan Street	Quercus robur	(English Oak)		117
T91	2 Devon Street	Tilia europea	(Lime)		114
T47	81 Wigan Street	Fraxinus excelsior	(English Ash)		111
T65	14 Crewe Street	Acer	(Maple)		109
T66	28 Crewe Street	Acer	(Maple)		108
T98	17 Gordon Terrace	Nothofagus fusca	(Red Beech)		108
PT10	4 Preston Street		maple		108
PT14	30 Huron Street		Copper Beech		108
T1	Gore Gardens, Gore	Magnolia grandiflora	(Evergreen Magnolia)		105
T4	Gore Gardens, Gore	Mespilus germanica Medlar			105
T102	16 Hilbre Street	Quercus	(Oak)		102
T19	Bannerman Park, Gore	Aesculus X Carnea	(Red Horse Chestnut)	Commemorative tree	99
T64	79 Hokonui Drive	Quercus robur	(English Oak)	In Dispute, should be retained even with a reduction in Arb. value	96
T77	11 Norton Street	Fagus sylvatica purpurea	(Copper Beech)	Over 50 yrs, modified specimen but worth retaining.	96
T2	Gore Gardens, Gore	Camellia japonica ‘Kate Shepard’		Notable being event specific	93
T73	5 Garnet Street	Acer	(Maple)	Over 50 yrs, worth retaining.	90
T68	12 High Street	Acer	(Maple)	Remove	72
T18	Bannerman Park, Gore	Magnolia grandiflora ‘St Mary’	(Evergreen Magnolia)	Could not locate - Remove	0
T20	Bannerman Park, Gore	Prunus accolade	(Japanese Cherry)	Could not locate - Remove	0
T35		Deleted		Remove	0

GDC REF ¹	ADDRESS	SPECIES_NAME	COMMON_NAME	NOTABILITY EVALUATION AND OTHER NOTES:	STEM SCORE
T39	St Phillips and St James Anglican Church, Main Street, Waikaka	All trees		Incorrect site - Remove	0
T44	81 Wigan Street	Acer pycnodoplatanus	(Sycamore)	Not reported - Remove	0
T46	81 Wigan Street	Acer pycnodoplatanus	(Sycamore)	Very Poor Condition - Remove	0
~~T55~~	~~80 Ruia Street~~	~~Juglans regia~~	~~(Walnut)~~	Removal Consented	0
~~T56~~	~~70 Kakapo Street~~	~~Nothofagus fusca~~	~~(Red Beech)~~	Removal Consented	0
~~T57~~	~~70 Kakapo Street~~	~~Cedrus~~	~~(Cedar)~~	Removal Consented	0
~~T58~~	~~70 Kakapo Street~~	~~Abies procera~~	~~(Fir)~~	Removal Consented	0
T62	22 Albany Street	Juglans regia	(Walnut)	Tree gone - Remove	0
T70	12 High Street	Thuja plicata aurea	(Golden Cedar)	Tree gone - Remove	0
T93	2 Devon Street	Fraxinus uhdei	(Ash)	Very Poor Condition - Remove	0
PT5	244 Main Street		native beech	Very poor condition - Do not list	0
PT9	5 Hobson Street		NZ Red Beech	Tree Gone	0
PT11	4 Preston Street		pin oak	Tree Gone	0
PT13	36 Huron Street		Ash	Refused Entry	0
PT15	13 Talbot Street		Claret Ash	Tree Gone	0
PT16	13 Talbot Street		Kowhai	Tree Gone	0

Appendix 3. Feedback Summary

Person / Organisation	Feedback summary	Response
National Public Health Service – Southern	• Recommends the merging of two draft policies relating to tree trimming to avoid duplication.	Revised to combine the ‘how’ and ‘when’ policies relating to tree trimming.
Denyse Goodall	• Supports in principle but wants more support for landowners, in particular in relation to green waste.	Non-regulatory support for land owners will be discussed with the committee.
Robina Johnston	• Supports providing for trimming of the trees. • Concerned about planting of inappropriate trees.	The provisions do not relate to planting of new trees.
Transpower Limited	• Opposes the controlled activity status for trimming of trees near powerlines as it would require a resource consent in all cases which is not efficient, and trimming is mandatory. • Recommends allowing for trimming as permitted activity in all cases.	The rule relating to trimming near powerlines was amended to allow for permitted trimming consistent with other notable trees, and a controlled activity status for non-compliance as trimming is mandatory.
Feedback Summary		
Feedback was generally positive relating to provision to allow for trimming of notable trees. The recommendations included revising some of the provisions for clarity, providing non regulatory support for land owners, and amending the provisions for trimming near powerlines, which is mandatory.		
Response summary		
The provisions were revised to combine the ‘how’ and ‘when’ policies relating to tree trimming. The rule relating to trimming near powerlines was amended to allow for permitted trimming consistent with other notable trees, and a controlled activity status for non-compliance as trimming is mandatory. The provision of non-regulatory support for landowners will be discussed with the Council.		