

Notable Trees

The purpose of this chapter

Notable trees make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of both urban and rural areas, as well as having 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.

Many of the Notable Trees of the Gore District are located on public land, and frequently associated with an event or prominent person. For example, the avenues of large trees on Hokonui Drive and State Highway 1 south of Gore make an important contribution to the character of the District. These trees can be lost or adversely affected by felling or inappropriate trimming, and land use activities, including ground disturbance, or construction of structures, in close proximity to them.

The rules

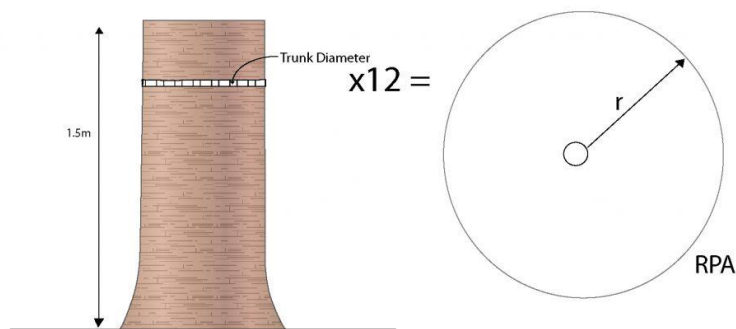
It is proposed that minor tree trimming for health and maintenance of the specimen would be permitted.

Resource consent examples

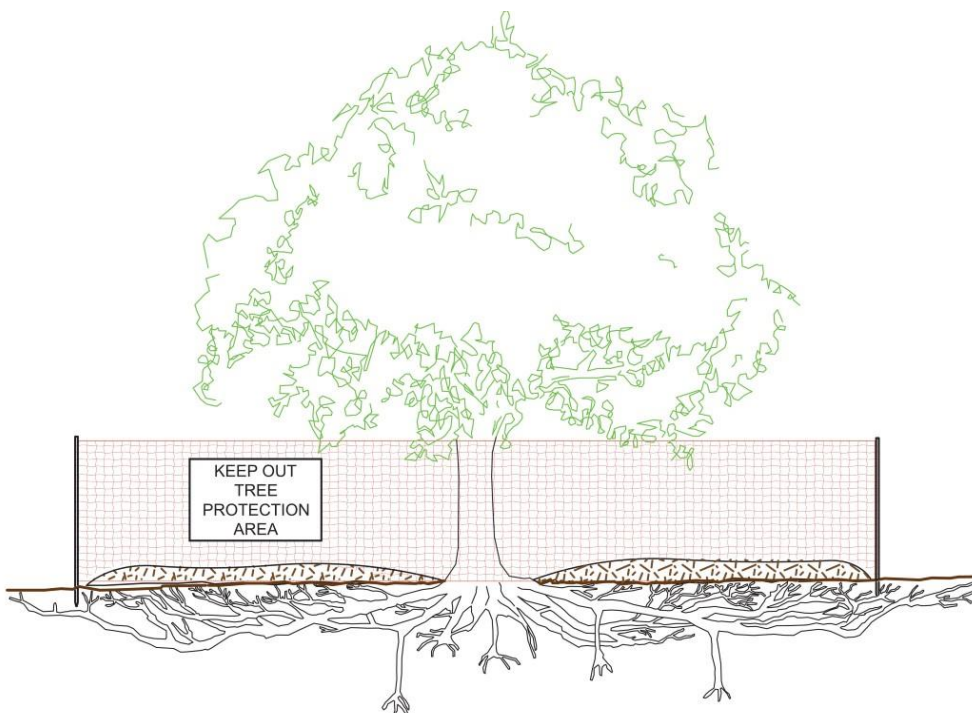
Tree trimming required under electricity lines is enabled by the Proposed Gore District Plan but would need to be managed through a simple resource consent process. Granting of the consent would be mandatory.

The following activities (except as listed above) are managed by the Proposed Gore District Plan through a full resource consent process:

- Works for utility services in the root protection area of the tree
- Structures and activities within the root protection area of the tree
- Subdivision on sites with notable trees
- Fixing structures or objects to trees
- Removal of trees



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.



What's the difference from the current District Plan?

The Proposed Gore District Plan identifies 94 Notable Trees. The review of the operative significant tree schedule and technical assessment recommended that 10 trees are added and that 13 are removed as they no longer meet the threshold for scheduling. The Proposed Plan is more specific than the current District Plan. It gives more clarity and assurance to applicants about which matters would need to be assessed under a resource consent application. Assessments are provided for each tree that identifies what the notable values are, and where the tree is located. The proposed provisions provide for trimming under electricity lines and works for utility services within the root protection area of the tree, which were previously not considered. The provisions also extend to cover the tree roots and not just the parts of the tree above ground. Removal of a tree could mean the loss of its values or the tree itself, and it should be avoided unless there is a significant risk to people and property, or the tree has been damaged by natural events and no longer retain its values.

What are the criteria for tree scheduling?

The District Plan contains a list of notable trees in the District. These have been assessed utilising internationally recognised Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) to measure their significance. A notable tree in the Gore Proposed Plan is one with a STEM score of 100 or above. The score is based on a range of factors including:

- 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

Notable trees are typically mature trees with significant structural form and health.

Can I see the assessment of a Notable Tree?

Yes, the Notable Tree evaluations are available on the website, or to request a copy of an assessment, please contact proposeddistrictplan@goredc.govt.nz

Are there any benefits of owning a Notable Tree?

The main benefit of a Notable Tree listing is the protection of the tree values and to the local area. Many people who own notable trees also recognise their values and importance to the community as a whole. A Notable Tree listing provides certainty for people, giving owners and the community confidence the tree, or group of trees, will be protected.

We provide free advice on the appropriate maintenance and trimming of protected trees, and in some instances we have also provided additional arborist support. Sometimes a council will provide additional financial assistance as well, or waving of resource consent fees and streamlined consent processes.

Does an owner have the right to object to or support a proposed Notable Tree listing?

Yes. If you have information indicating the tree does not meet the criteria for listing you should provide this to our District Plan Review team. Now that plan is notified, the owners and wider community have another chance to make a formal submission and be heard in relation to their submission.

Does a Notable Tree listing affect property rates or value?

The notable tree listing does not affect the property rates. Notable tree provisions ensure a tree is protected. There is no evidence to suggest a tree listing devalues the property. While there are some restrictions on works and activities that could damage the tree, buyers are often attracted by the recognised values of the specimen.

Links to the Proposed Gore Plan

This information sheet addresses a few of the key provisions in the Proposed Gore Plan. It should not be used as a definitive representation of content. To view actual Proposed Gore District Plan content, please go to www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz

Make a submission

To find out how to submit on the Proposed Gore District Plan, head to www.lets.talk.goredc.govt.nz.