



SECOND GENERATION DISTRICT PLAN

PLAN CHANGE 1 – MINOR IMPROVEMENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: SCHEDULE OF TREES IN THE 2GP (CHANGES TREEX, TREE1 & TREE2)

What is the Schedule of Trees?

The schedule of trees is a list of trees that have been assessed as being significant and are protected in the Second Generation Dunedin City District Plan (2GP). A resource consent is required to remove or modify trees that are on the schedule (see 2GP Rule 7.3.2), or to undertake certain activities in close proximity to them (see 2GP Rule 7.5.2).

How can I find out if a tree is scheduled?

Trees on the schedule are listed in Appendix A1.3 to the 2GP. This list includes both individual trees and tree groups. Trees on the schedule are referred to as 'scheduled trees'. Each scheduled tree, or tree group, has a tree number and notes on the tree location, species, common name, and Māori name. Appendix A1.3 can be accessed by viewing the 2GP online via the link below.

Scheduled trees also appear on the 2GP Planning Map, denoted by green dots with the tree number. The 2GP Planning Map can be accessed online via the link below.

Why do trees get scheduled?

Trees can contribute positively to amenity values and the quality of the environment. They can also have important historic or scientific values. The 2GP seeks to protect trees that contribute significantly to these values to ensure the community can continue to enjoy them into the future, in accordance with 2GP Objective 2.4.1 and Policy 2.4.1.2. In most cases, trees around Dunedin are only protected when they are scheduled in the 2GP.

How do trees become scheduled or unscheduled?

Trees can only be added to or removed from the schedule of trees through a formal public process to change the 2GP. The process includes assessing trees to see if they meet the criteria to be scheduled and, if so, formally proposing their inclusion in the 2GP. Formal proposals to schedule trees in the 2GP are open to public submissions and a public hearing. A hearing panel makes the decision on whether to schedule a tree or not.

What criteria are used to assess trees for scheduling?

The criteria for assessing whether a tree should be scheduled are set in 2GP Policy 2.4.1.2. This is supported by use of the industry best-practice method called the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM).

STEM assessments are undertaken by professional arborists and landscape architects and evaluate the condition of the tree, its amenity characteristics, and any notable features including stature, and historic or scientific values.

Trees that score highly in a STEM assessment (a score of 145 or greater) are typically scheduled. However, the STEM score is also weighed against any risk the tree poses to safety, or any potential for damage to existing infrastructure, buildings, or structures.

What is proposed for the schedule of trees in Plan Change 1?

Plan Change 1 proposes to protect 12 more trees in the schedule of trees, under change 'TreeX'. Plan Change 1 also proposes changes to clarify and correct how some existing scheduled trees and tree groups are identified in the 2GP, under changes 'Tree1' and 'Tree2'. Please see the 'Section 32 Report' on the *Plan Change 1* webpage for further information on the changes proposed.

Plan Change 1 also provides the opportunity to make a submission to suggest a tree for scheduling, or to request that an existing scheduled tree is removed from the schedule. Submissions seeking the addition or removal of trees from the schedule should be made via the Plan Change 1 submission form available on the Plan Change 1 webpage, quoting the change code 'TreeX'.

What rules apply to scheduled trees?

Resource consent is required for:

- Modifying a scheduled tree (2GP Rule 7.3.2.2)
- Removal of a scheduled tree (2GP rules 7.3.2.1 and 7.3.2.3)
- Activities that involve ground excavation or installation of impermeable surfaces on the ground under a scheduled tree, for example, new buildings or driveways (2GP Rule 7.5.2).

The resource consent process enables the effects of the proposed activities to be evaluated and options for avoiding or mitigating these effects to be explored.

There are no application fees for resource consent applications involving modification or removal of a scheduled tree. However, the tree owner will likely need to engage a suitably qualified arborist as part of preparing their application.

What if I want to cut down a scheduled tree?

You must apply for a resource consent and the application must be granted before you can cut down a scheduled tree. In many cases, applications to cut down scheduled trees will be publicly notified so other people can make submissions. To find out more, please seek advice from a resource consent planner at the planning enquiries desk at the DCC Customer Services Centre.

Does DCC offer assistance for maintaining scheduled trees?

The maintenance of scheduled trees is the responsibility of the property owner in the same way it is for any other tree on their property. The Fund for Maintaining Significant Trees provides some financial assistance to scheduled tree owners to help with maintenance costs. The fund was established to recognise the contribution scheduled trees make to the amenity and environmental quality of the city.

Information on eligibility criteria and the process to apply for funding are available online via the link below.

Links to online information

2GP Appendix A1.3 Schedule of Trees

www.dunedin.govt.nz/2gp-appendix-a1.3-schedule-of-trees

2GP Planning Map

www.dunedin.govt.nz/2gp-maps

Information on Plan Change 1 and Making a Submission

www.dunedin.govt.nz/2gp-plan-change-1

Information on the Fund for Maintaining Significant Trees

www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/trees

Apply to the Fund for Maintaining Significant Trees

www.dunedin.govt.nz/significant-tree-maintenance-fund