

PARS – Operations: AOR for Comments



Assessment for Reserve Tree Removal

(As per Item 3 of Appendix 6 of Reserves Management Plan: General Policies)

Tree location: **Ferntree Reserve**

Date of Assessment: **07/08/2019**

Assessor: **Steve Rowlands, Urban Forest Officer**

Asset No: **T444 Significant Tree -**

Species: **Abies alba - Silver fir**

Appendix 6 Evaluation of Tree Complaints (*with comments in italicised bold*):

1. The Council will consider the following issues when making decisions about tree complaints:

- 1.1 any actual or potential danger to people's life or health or the complainant's property;

The tree has been risk assessed and found to be of Category 3-Slight risk under the T.H.R.E.A.T.S. risk assessment method. The score of 300 points suggests that annual inspection or after storms of Force 10 or greater. Any recommended pruning to take place within 2 years. In order to reduce the risk level further.

- 1.2 any undue obstruction of the complainant's view; and

The tree has been crown lifted as per the resource consent application previously made by the applicant.

- 1.3 any other undue interference with the reasonable enjoyment of the complainant's land, including shading.

The site is currently sub-divided into three bare lots.

2. In considering undue obstructions of views and other undue interference by trees, the Council will consider the following factors:

- 2.1 the requirements of any management plans for the reserve;

Not applicable

- 2.2 the requirements of the District Plan with respect to trees;

The tree is a significant tree, listed as T444 under the 25.3 Schedule of significant trees. The plan designates removal of a scheduled tree as a restricted discretionary activity but only where said tree is dead, in terminal decline or with extreme failure or, subject to a court order for removal – none of these apply in this instance.

- 2.3 the interests of the public in the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment;

The tree is an uncommon species of notable size providing visual amenity over a wide area. Given Council's stated 2030 Carbon neutral objective, the value of the retention of publicly-owned trees is self-evident.

- 2.4 the desirability of protecting public reserves containing trees;

The reserve is not threatened per se, only the significant Fir tree.

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- 2.5 the value of the trees as a public amenity;
The tree has been valued at \$65,701 under the Helliwell Tree Amenity Valuation system.
- 2.6 the historical, cultural, or scientific significance (if any) of the trees;
The tree is listed as a Significant tree under Schedule 25.3 of the 2GP.
- 2.7 the likely effect (if any) of the removal or trimming of the trees on ground stability, the water table, or run-off;
The tree is expected to have considerable water uptake.
- 2.8 when the applicant became the occupier of the land and when the interference began;
Not applicable – the applicant does not own the land or tree which grows upon it.
- 2.9 where the consideration of undue obstruction occurs, the burden of proof will fall on the applicant and not the Council; and
See 3.1
- 2.10 where the consideration of undue obstruction includes the issue of shading, the costs associated with any action will be negotiated by Council.
See valuation
3. Trees and bush on reserves will only be thinned or removed where the Council is satisfied that it is:
- 3.1 necessary for the management of the reserve, including the remedy or mitigation of the issues considered in this document; or
Not necessary – potential conflicts and perceived threats can be managed by arboricultural input and good building design with adherence to British Standard 5837:2012 or similar.
- 3.2 necessary for the preservation of other trees and bush; or
Not applicable.
- 3.3 in order to harvest trees planted for revenue purposes.
Not applicable

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2GP Policies and Objectives

1. The subject tree is scheduled and Objective 7.2.1 requires;

“The contribution made by significant trees to the visual landscape and history of neighbourhoods is maintained.”

To this end, removal of the subject Silver fir is contrary to Policy 7.2.1. as it is neither dead nor in terminal decline and a removal order in terms of section 333 of the Property Law Act 2007 is not in place.

Its removal would also be contrary to Policy 7.2.1.2, which indicates that Council will;

Avoid the removal of a scheduled tree (except as provided for in Policy 7.2.1.1) unless:

- a. there is a significant risk to personal/public safety or a risk to personal safety that is required to be managed under health and safety legislation;

The tree is classified as presenting a slight risk.

- b. the tree poses a substantial risk to a scheduled heritage building or structure;

The tree does not threaten a scheduled heritage building or structure.

- c. there is a moderate to significant risk to buildings;

Not applicable – there are only bare lots at present. Risk assessment however has been scored based on residential development having taken place.

- d. the removal of the tree is necessary to avoid significant adverse effects on existing infrastructure and network utilities; or

Not applicable.

- e. removal of the tree will result in significant positive effects in respect of the efficient use of land.

The tree is upon and shall remain upon public reserve land.

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SCORING:

Field assessment:

Tree No:	Common Name	Botanical name:	Height (m):	DBH (cm):	Canopy Spread (m) NESW	Character:	Attributes:									
							Form	Crown	Limb structure	Bole	Rootzone	Structure	Amenity	Function	Root constraints	Canopy constraints
T444	Silver fir	<i>Abies alba</i>	30	130		Well-balanced, conical form of large conifer tree of 2/3 proportion. No conflict with lines, canopy skirt well outside statutory clearances and root flare encroaching footpath.	Good	Average	Average	Good	Average	Average	Excellent	Good	Average	Excellent

HELLIWELL AMENITY VALUATION

HELLIWELL VISUAL AMENITY VALUATION		FACTOR							
Tree No.	Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	\$ Value
1	<i>Abies alba</i>	7	3	3	1	2	2	4	65701

T.H.R.E.A.T.S. ASSESSMENT

Tree Ref:	Species	Condition	DBH (cm)	Height (m)	Crown radius (m)	Age Class	PROTECTED TREE ?	Notes	Failure Score	Target Score	Impact Score	HAZARD SCORE
1	<i>Abies alba</i>	Good	130	30	8	M-Mature	YES	Highest risk presented by co-dominant leader failure onto currently bare lots but assessed as though building already constructed	2	25	6	300

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION OF CONTROL MEASURES

8] Appropriate Response

The use below of the word 'within' should not be taken to mean that delay is necessarily acceptable

Score range	✓	Threat Category	Recommended action & Completion deadline	Code
4000+		7- Extreme	Evacuate/prevent access to impact site, emergency call-out of contractors	E
2001-3999		6- Serious	Close site if practical; arrange for work to be completed within 7 days	7D
1000-2000		5- Significant	Arrange for work to be completed within four weeks maximum	4W
330-999		4- Moderate	Remediate within 13 weeks, reinspect after SWE meantime (Inc. gales to Force 7+)	13W
160-329	✓	3- Slight	Reinspect annually /after storms (Force 10+), expect to schedule work within 2 yrs	A
50-159		2- Minimal	Reinspect within 3 yrs If public access, schedule work as required	3Y
0-49		1- Insignificant	Reinspect within 5 yrs if general public access or 3 yrs if child-specific access & TS ≥20	3/5Y

9] Outline of Work Required

Consider amenity and conservation values of tree when selecting control measure

Control measure	✓	Examples	Notes / Work specification
Target management		Target value / vulnerability reduced by exclusion, diversion or relocation: e.g. anti-social planting / fence off & warn; re-route paths; relocate benches	
Further investigation		Decay mapping to establish significance of defect: set results against failure criteria	
Install support		Non-invasive brace to support vulnerable member / dividing union	
Localised pruning	✓	Reduce weight loading on vulnerable limb (including shortening dead branches to retain habitat)	
Limb removal		Prune out dead/damaged/vulnerable growth	
General pruning		Reduce crown by specified amount	
Crown removal		Leave stem as a standing carcass (consider habitat-piling cord wood, preferably in dappled light)	
Tree removal		Takedown and fell to ground level (consider habitat piling & also stump-grinding as a disease reduction measure)	