

## **OPERATIONAL POLICIES**

### **STREET TREE PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Street trees are trees located on the grass verge or berm along streets or, occasionally, within the paved parts of roads. These trees have been planted or accepted by Council, with the intention of providing amenity value to the neighbourhood and the City generally. Like other trees, street trees have both positive and negative impacts. Council needs to proactively (ie at the time of planting) and reactively manage street trees to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of trees while maximising their benefits.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The Dunedin City Council's objectives for street trees, as contained in the *Street Tree Planting Policy*, are:

*[To] recognise the importance of high quality landscape.*

*[To] recognise the role of street tree planting in achieving a high quality landscape.*

*[To] provide for appropriate street tree planting in the City.*

These objectives have limited application to the planting of new and the management of existing street trees. To rectify this, the Dunedin City Council has developed management objectives for street trees:

*To maintain and enhance the amenity, landscape, historical, cultural and botanical values of street trees.*

*To avoid the adverse effects of street trees for new planting.*

*To mitigate or remedy the adverse effects of street trees for existing trees.*

These objectives are based on Council's policy for trees generally (as expressed in the *Proposed District Plan*), for street trees (as expressed in the *Street Tree Planting Policy*) and for reserve trees (as expressed in the *General Policies Section* of the Reserves Management Plans).

## POLICIES

### Street Tree Planting

The Dunedin City Council supports planting of trees and other plants in streets subject to the consideration of other factors such as infrastructural services, safety, traffic considerations and the avoidance, remedy or mitigation of adverse impacts.

1. Any planting in streets must have the written approval of the Dunedin City Council.
2. Council may plant street trees on request, to replace existing trees that need to be removed or as part of organised project or precinct planting.
3. Plans for street tree planting will take into account:
  - 3.1 the effects street trees will have on adjacent properties at the time of planting and in the future. Matters to consider when considering effects include, but are not limited to, shading, loss of views, root damage to pavement and adjacent properties, overhanging branches and traffic safety;
  - 3.2 the width of the berm at the proposed location;
  - 3.3 the effects trees will have on underground and overhead services;
  - 3.4 landscape considerations; and
  - 3.5 the requirements of the *Street Tree Planting Policy*<sup>1</sup>.
4. Neighbours living immediately adjacent to proposed street tree planting sites and people who are likely to be significantly effected by new street trees will be consulted as part of the planning process for street tree planting.
5. Trees will not be planted where the immediate adjacent neighbour or those who are likely to be significantly effected do not want a new tree. It is recognised that this may have implications on the amenity and landscape values of the City.
6. Only the species listed in the appendices to the *Street Tree Planting Policy* will be planted by the Dunedin City Council as street trees.
7. Street trees will only be planted where:
  - 7.1 pedestrian and driver sight-lines are not unduly obscured;
  - 7.2 underground services are unlikely to be unduly effected; and

---

<sup>1</sup> The *Street Tree Planting Policy* establishes landscape guidelines for street tree planting. It also establishes a tree growing programme to ensure that adequate stocks of suitable trees are available. The Policy, however, does not provide guidance for the planting process or the ongoing management of street trees.

7.3 overhead services are unlikely to be unduly effected.

8. Street trees may be planted in fully sealed footpaths, kerb protrusions and medians after due regard of transportation, roading and utility services considerations.

### **Street Tree Management**

1. Council shall be responsible for the management of street tree maintenance.
2. Council shall establish and maintain a database containing information relevant to the maintenance requirements of the City's street trees.
3. Street trees will not be topped.
4. Pollarding is not an acceptable technique for street tree management. Where trees have been pollarded in the past, and the health of the tree requires it, further pollarding will be carried out until the tree is replaced.
5. All applications to plant or remove and modify street trees must be in writing so that Council has a permanent record of the application.
6. The relevant provisions in the District Plan will be followed in decision-making about street trees.
7. Before making any decision about street tree complaints, Council will prepare a tree report that provides information about the health and effect of removing or trimming the tree.
8. If necessary, Council will seek a landscape report that provides comment on the amenity value of the street trees subject to complaint.
9. Council will consider the following issues when making decisions about street tree nuisances:
  - 9.1 any actual or potential danger to people's life or health or the applicant's property; and
  - 9.2 any other undue interference with the reasonable enjoyment suffered by the applicant, including shading and views.
10. In considering undue interference by street trees Council will consider the following factors:
  - 10.1 the interests of the public in the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment;
  - 10.2 the desirability of protecting publicly-owned trees;
  - 10.3 the value of the tree as a public amenity;

- 10.4 the historical, cultural, or scientific significance (if any) of the tree;
- 10.5 the likely effect (if any) of the removal or trimming of the tree on ground stability, the water table, or run-off; and
- 10.6 the time when the applicant became the occupier of the land and when the nuisance began.
11. If a complaint about a nuisance caused by views cannot be resolved by negotiation, then Council may remove the offending tree and replant in a suitable place. All work will be at the expense of the applicant if the age of the tree is greater than the length of occupancy of the complainant. If the age of the tree is less than the length of occupancy of the complainant, then costs will be shared 50/50 between the Council and the complainant.
12. The height restriction for street trees overhanging carriageways and driveways is 4.25 m. For street trees overhanging footpaths, a height restriction of 2.6 m should be used as a general guide. Where there is sufficient safe, paved footpath for a person to avoid the tree, street trees may overhang below this height restriction.
13. In considering applications for street tree removal or relocation for development purposes, Council will consider the following factors:
  - 13.1 the interests of the public in the maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing environment;
  - 13.2 the desirability of protecting publicly-owned trees;
  - 13.3 the value of the tree as a public amenity;
  - 13.4 the historical, cultural, or scientific significance (if any) of the tree; and
  - 13.5 the likely effect (if any) of the removal or trimming of the tree on ground stability, the water table, or run-off.
14. Neighbours living immediately adjacent to street trees that are the subject of removal or relocation applications (for development reasons) will be consulted as part of the decision-making process.
15. If permission is given for the removal or relocation of a street tree for development purposes, Council will require all work to be carried out at no cost to Council and to Council standards.
16. If permission is given for the removal of a street tree for development purposes, the applicant will be required to pay for the purchase, planting and first five years maintenance costs of a replacement tree. If a replacement is not able to be located in the immediate vicinity (eg same street) of the removed tree, an equivalent sum will be used to plant a street tree elsewhere in the city.

17. Physical works on Dunedin City Council owned street trees will only be carried out by approved tree contractors.
18. Where trees on road reserves are of sufficient value, these may be reclassified as street trees and added to the Council's register.
19. Where a new street tree planting is intended to be vested in the Dunedin City Council, the planting must meet the specifications for tree planting.

## APPENDICES

### Reference Documents

Legislation:	Local Government Act 1974 Reserves Act 1977 Property Law Amendment Act 1977 Resource Management Act 1991
Dunedin City Council Policy:	Proposed District Plan Reserves General Policies Street Tree Planting Policy Street Tree Planting Implementation Strategy Trees on Road Reserve Policy Roading Maintenance Standards Vegetation Control Policy, Practice and Procedures

### Glossary

Approved Contractor	An approved contractor will have sufficient experience and knowledge to work on Council trees. This will include knowledge of tree work methods, tree health, legislative requirements, and safety requirements. These attributes will be assessed by Council staff.
Crown Lifting	Remove lower branches for better access, light or visibility.
Crown Reduction	Selective removal of peripheral branches to reduce crown size, for power-line clearances or to mitigate crown dieback.
Crown Thinning	Selective branch removal to lighten heavy limbs, improve light penetration or decrease wind resistance.
Dead Wooding	Removal of dead stubs, branches or limbs. Beneficial for tree vitality and safety.
Formative Pruning	Establishment of desirable form and sound structure. Best performed when trees are young to minimise wound size.
Pollarding	The annual removal of all of the previous year's growth to the same point on the tree structure, resulting in a flush of slender shoots and branches each spring.
Topping	A practice that involves the removal of strong leaders, usually on a horizontal plane. Topping may lead to damage or death of the branch, and a resulting structure which has rapid regrowth and poor structural stability. It impacts on the natural form of the tree and usually reduces its aesthetic value.

### Street Tree Planting Policy Species List

Approved by the Planning and Environment Committee Meeting 30 May 1996

#### A. WAIKOUAITI

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	Coprosma	Karamu
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Griselinia</i>	Broadleaf	Papauma
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	Southern Rata	Rata
<i>Olearia virgata</i> x ` <i>Dartonnii</i> `	Twiggy Tree Daisy	-
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai

#### B. WEST HARBOUR (RAVENSBOURNE TO CAREY'S BAY)

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acer</i>	Maple	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	Southern Rata	Rata
<i>Nothofagus</i>	Southern Beech	Tawhai/Tawhairaunui/ Tawhairauriki
<i>Plagianthus regius</i>	Ribbonwood	Manatu
<i>Pittosporum eugeniodes</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

**NB.** Except *Acer palmatum* and *japonicum* ie. Japanese Maples.

#### C. EAST HARBOUR/PENINSULA

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acer</i>	Maple	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Metrosideros</i>	-	Rata
<i>Myoporum (Tasmanian)</i>	-	Ngaio
<i>Plagianthus</i>	Ribbonwood	Manatu
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-

<i>Sophora microphylla</i>	South Island Kowhai	Kowhai
----------------------------	---------------------	--------

#### D. ST KILDA/ST CLAIR/TOMAHAWK/FORESHORE

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	Strawberry Tree	-
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	-
<i>Coprosma robusta</i>	Coprosma	Karamu
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	Broadleaf	Papauma
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Metrosideros</i>	-	Rata
<i>Myoporum (Tasmanian)</i>	-	Ngaio
<i>Olearia traversii</i>	-	Akeake
<i>Pittosporum eugeniodes</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai

#### E. ST CLAIR PARK/CAVERSHAM/KAIKORAI/CORSTORPHINE

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental Plane	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

#### F. BROCKVILLE/HALFWAY BUSH/WAKARI/PINE HILL

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Carpinus</i>	Hornbeam	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech	-
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip tree	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Platanus</i>	Plane	-
<i>Pittosporum eugeniodes</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-



<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

#### G. HIGHGATE/MORNINGTON

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Crataegus (sterile forms)</i>	Hawthorn	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Nothofagus</i>	Southern Beech	Tawhai/Tawhairaunui/ Tawhairauriki
<i>Plagianthus</i>	Ribbonwood	Manatu
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-
<i>Tilia</i>	Lime	-

#### H. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT/CITY RISE

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acer</i>	Maple	-
<i>Carpinus</i>	Hornbeam	-
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech	-
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Liriodendron</i>	Tulip tree	-
<i>Plagianthus</i>	Ribbonwood	Manatu
<i>Platanus</i>	Plane	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Tilia</i>	Lime	-

#### I. LEITH/NORTH EAST VALLEY

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Plagianthus</i>	Ribbonwood	Manatu
<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

#### J. FAIRFIELD/GREEN ISLAND

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
----------------	---------	-------

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle	-
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Wattle	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Pittosporum eugenoides</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Populus</i>	Poplar	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai

#### K. MOSGIEL/TAIERI TOWNS

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Acacia</i>	Wattle	-
<i>Acer</i>	Maple	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Fagus</i>	Beech	-
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	-
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Liquidambar</i>	Sweet Gum	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

#### L. MIDDLEMARCH

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Abies</i>	Fir	-
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cedrus</i>	Cedar	-
<i>Larix</i>	Larch	-
<i>Malus</i>	Apple	-
<i>Picea</i>	Spruce	-
<i>Populus</i>	Poplar	-
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak	-
<i>Sorbus</i>	Rowan/Mountain Ash	-

#### M. WALDRONVILLE/BRIGHTON

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Arbutus</i>	Strawberry Tree	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-

<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Griselinia</i>	Broadleaf	Papauma
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Metrosideros</i>	-	Rata
<i>Myoporum</i>	-	Ngaio
<i>Pittosporum eugeniodes</i>	Lemonwood	Tarata
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai

#### N. BLUESKIN

BOTANICAL NAME	ENGLISH	MAORI
<i>Alnus</i>	Alder	-
<i>Arbutus</i>	Strawberry Tree	-
<i>Betula</i>	Birch	-
<i>Cordyline</i>	Cabbage Tree	Ti Kouka
<i>Hoheria</i>	Lacebark/Ribbonwood	Hohere / Whauwhau
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry	-
<i>Sophora</i>	-	Kowhai