

Specialist input for notable tree related issues, Additional Limitations (maps) – Schedule of trees –inner islands of Auckland City District Plan: Hauraki Gulf Islands Section – Proposed 2006

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Thank you for requesting input into the review of the submissions to the Auckland City District Plan: Hauraki Gulf Islands Section – Proposed 2006 (“the Plan”). We have received your memo and the summary of submissions relating to this issue. In making the comments below we have reviewed the material supplied in addition to the full submissions.

Issue raised:

Map 10

Location: 372 Seaview Road, Waiheke

Clarification of heritage site notation related to 372 Seaview Road, Waiheke.

Submission numbers:

1097/1

Comments:

There are no heritage items on this site. The notation does not relate to a heritage item.

Issue raised:

Map 3-7

Location – 38 Tiri View Road, Waiheke

Stop all tree protection nonsense as recommended by Bill Birch (with particular reference to the scheduled tree at 38 Tiri View Rd, map ref 3-7)

Submission numbers:

545/1

Comments:

Trees are an important element of the islands’ resources. They contribute positively to the amenity values experienced by visitors and residents alike, and their retention helps enable the people and communities of the islands to provide for their social and cultural wellbeing.

By scheduling them, they are preserved as part of the heritage of the islands for the benefit of present and future generations.

Issue raised:

Map 11-6

Location – 43 Victoria Street South, Waiheke

No decision requested but seeks amendments. Expresses concern about notable trees (2 puriri, 1 kohekohe). Concern about a large puriri that needs a branch removed and whether the trees limit further extensions or alterations to the house.

Submission numbers:

54/1

Comments:

The scheduling of a tree does not preclude the owner of the tree undertaking regular minor trimming or the maintenance of any tree by hand operated secateurs or pruning shears, in accordance with accepted arboricultural practice. However, the substantially trimming of a scheduled tree would require resource consent.

Issue raised:

Map 11-6

Location – 43 Victoria Street South, Waiheke

Remove heritage tree protection (map ref 11-6) from 43 Victoria Rd South, Waiheke

Submission numbers:

2667/1

Comments:

The primary legislation and statutory documents relevant to the protection of heritage items are the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act), the Auckland Regional Policy Statement 1999 (ARPS), the Plan and the Historic Places Act 1993.

The purpose of the Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Resource Management Amendment Act 2003 included the protection of historic heritage in section 6 (matters of national importance). In doing so, it is considered that the Amendment Act demands more consideration and weight be given to the protection of historic heritage than was previously required. As required by section 6, it is considered that the council is ‘recognising and providing’ for historic heritage by proposing this tree for scheduling.

The scheduling of these trees will enable people and communities to provide for their cultural wellbeing by requiring consideration of the trees heritage values through any resource consent process. It will also meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations by helping to sustain physical resources, as well as possibly avoiding the adverse effects of activities on the environment (through the requirements in the Plan to assess any resource consent application against heritage specific assessment criteria). Therefore, it is considered that the proposed scheduling promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate use and development as required by the Act is also recognised in the Auckland Regional Policy Statement (1999). The Auckland Regional Policy Statement places considerable emphasis on the importance of the natural and cultural heritage resources and the way that these resources are of central importance in creating Auckland’s sense of place.

Part 6.0 of Appendix 4 of the Plan, outlines the criteria for determining whether a tree is worthy of protection. In considering whether tree(s) are worthy of protection as scheduled notable tree, any proposed tree or groups of trees are evaluated against a set of proven and standard heritage criteria, and in order to be eligible for scheduling a threshold score (40 or above) must be met. The heritage criteria outlined in Appendix 4 are as follows:

Arboricultural

- Spatial characteristic
- Form / visual appearance / character
- Occurrence of the species
- Provenance
- Age
- An assessment of the age of the tree.
- Environmental factors
- Health of tree

Community/amenity

- Public accessibility
- Visual importance to the site
- Visual contribution to the landscape
- Group significance

History

- Associated with a person
- Associated with an event
- Social context
- Natural history

The evaluation system used for the assessment of trees in the Plan involves an arboricultural assessment and if applicable, historical research. Following this, an evaluation sheet is prepared to 'score' the tree(s) against the criteria outlined above. A numerical 'score' is attributed to each of the criteria and then the 'scores' are collated. Any score over 40 point's warrants consideration for scheduling as a notable tree. In order to ensure consistency of assessments, the system involves peer review by other members of the Heritage Division. It is considered the system used by the Council leaves a transparent and accessible audit trail of the assessment and reasoning for scheduling trees. This tree has been evaluated and is considered to have sufficient heritage value to warrant its protection.

Issue raised:

Map 11-6

Location – 43 Victoria Street South, Waiheke

Allow the three trees on 43 Victoria Rd South, Waiheke (map ref 11-6) to be protected under general tree protection control as provided for under the operative plan and part 10c of the proposed plan and clause 10c.5.1.2

Submission numbers:

2667/2

Comments:

Scheduling these trees provides a mechanism whereby any substantial pruning work to a tree, or activities located underneath or over-top of the tree's root-zone, including its removal, will require a higher level of validation by the applicant and undergo stronger scrutiny by Council than what is applied to generally protected trees, as warranted for notable species, with a stronger emphasis on protection and retention of the heritage item without compromising its value. Scheduling a tree affords it the appropriate protection based on its heritage values.

The main thrust of the provisions for scheduled trees is to ensure that any works within the vicinity of the tree is undertaken in such a manner that the health and longevity of the tree is retained.

Issue raised:

Map 15-7

Location – 31 Omiha Road, Waiheke

That council delete the scheduled tree (map ref 15-7) as a heritage item.

Submission numbers:

1165/1

Comments:

Agree. The tree was initially evaluated in 2002 prior to notification. On re-evaluation in 2007, after pruning of the tree between these times, the tree no longer reaches the threshold for scheduling and is recommended to be removed from the schedule (Appendix 1g and the Planning Maps.)

Issue raised:

Map 11-11

Location – 8 Le Roy Road

That the phoenix palms on the property at 8 Le Roy Road, Onetangi are not classified as heritage items (map reference 11-11) in the proposed Plan.

Submission numbers:

1095/1

Comments:

Disagree. The phoenix palms are scheduled in the Operative District Plan. The assessment processes for scheduling trees is very rigorous. Those notable trees that are included in the schedules are considered notable because they have been evaluated in relation to detailed assessment criteria.

The trees were re-evaluated as part of the Proposed District Plan review and are considered to have sufficient heritage value to warrant their protection.

Note:

There are a large number of submissions that apply to two or more heritage disciplines. These have not been addressed by this report. The submissions addressed here are solely for the “Tree” discipline.

Both the heritage manager, Nicola Short and the Isthmus manager, Megan Tyler are aware of this and will be expecting the consultant planner preparing the submission report, Richard Osborne, to address them and contact any of the heritage leads as required.

Refer to G:\Planning\City Planning\data\District Plan Islands\HGI 1st Review\Background (hearing) reports\Parts 1-14\Part 7 - Heritage\Trees\HGIsubsTREES.xls