

# Petition: Officers' Response

**Title:** Native Plants in all Traffic Islands

**Primary Petitioner:** Amanda Barber  
**Total Signatures:** 16

**Presented by:** Amanda Barber  
**Contact officer:** Amber Bill  
**Director responsible:**

## Officers' recommendation:

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the petition.*
2. *Continue to support the use of native plants in traffic islands and other horticultural areas where appropriate*

## Background:

The ePetition "Native Plants on all Traffic Islands" was initiated by Amanda Barber on 29 November 2013 and closed on 1 March 2014.

The purpose of the petition is to request that the Council celebrate and protect native New Zealand plants by integrating them into the urban sprawl. The Submitter notes that native plants attract birds and are much more attractive than the annual plants the Council currently plants. It is a waste that the flowers quickly die and go to seed and are then pulled out and disposed of.

The petition was open to all members of the public with internet access to the Council's website. It received 16 signatures.

## Officers' response:

Officers report that the majority of traffic islands are now planted in natives – a high profile example is Jervois Quay which includes the threatened species *Muehlenbeckia astonii*. The most prominent traffic islands which have floral displays are Lambton Quay, Johnsonville roundabout, and two Tawa roundabouts. These floral displays have been retained due to local demand.

In general the Council has shifted to using native plants in horticultural displays over the last 10 years. As well as celebrating and protecting native plants, the native plants tend to be hardier and better for Wellington's conditions (particularly around the coast), and also provide good options for the low lying ground cover needed for traffic safety.

Council recently reviewed the species used within the horticultural sites within the CBD, and found that 91% of these sites are planted with predominantly native species.

This is consistent with Council's Biodiversity Action Plan which includes an action to enhance existing Council displays of indigenous vegetation to increase community awareness and appreciation of local plants.