

This entire chapter has been notified using the RMA Part One, Schedule 1 process ([P1 Sch1](#)).

Ngā Rākau Rangatira

Notable Trees

TREE	Notable Trees
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Introduction

Within Wellington City, individual and groups of trees are identified and protected for their significant historic heritage, ecological or amenity values. These trees may be notable as prominent natural features and landmarks, contributors to local identity, spectacular or rare specimens, or associated with special sites, events or people. It is important that these trees are identified, protected and cared for so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

Notable trees can be either indigenous or exotic species and located on either public land (such as road reserves or parks) or on private property. For a tree to be notable it must be evaluated against the ‘Standard Tree Evaluation Method’ (STEM) and score 110 points or higher or have significant cultural and historical value, taking into account potential STEM scores.

Notable trees are different to urban allotment trees which are trees that are part of significant natural areas (SNAs) in urban neighbourhoods.

SCHED6 lists notable trees.

Other relevant District Plan provisions

It is important to note that in addition to the provisions in this chapter, the following Part 2: District-Wide chapters may also be of relevance, including:

- **Subdivision** - The Subdivision Chapter contains provisions which manage subdivision of sites with notable trees.
- **Earthworks** - The Earthworks Chapter manages the adverse effects of earthworks on the environment, including within the root protection area of notable trees.
- **Infrastructure - Other overlays** - The Infrastructure - Other Overlays chapter manages repair, maintenance and installation of infrastructure within the root protection area of notable trees.

Resource consent may therefore be required under rules in this chapter as well as other chapters. Unless specifically stated in a rule or in this chapter, resource consent is required under each relevant rule. The steps to determine the status of an activity are set out in the General Approach chapter.

Objectives

TREE-O1	<p>Purpose</p> <p>Notable trees are recognised for their contribution to the city’s amenity, history, ecology and sense of place and cultural value to mana whenua.</p>
TREE-O2	<p>Protecting notable trees</p> <p>Notable trees are protected from inappropriate modification, subdivision, development and destruction.</p>
TREE-O3	<p>Maintaining notable trees</p>

	Notable trees are maintained to a safe and healthy standard.
Policies	
TREE-P1	<p>Identifying notable trees</p> <p>Identify notable trees having regard to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Tree health, condition and ecological value; b. Amenity value and community benefit; c. Notability and recognition; and d. Significant cultural and heritage value.
TREE-P2	<p>Support for landowners</p> <p>Support landowners to take long term care and maintenance of notable trees through the provision of education and advice.</p>
TREE-P3	<p>Allowing trimming and pruning of notable trees</p> <p>Allow the trimming and pruning of notable trees where the works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintain or improve tree health; 2. Prevent interference with footpaths, property or network utilities; or 3. Are essential due to a serious threat to people or property.
TREE-P4	<p>Other trimming and pruning</p> <p>Only allow other trimming and pruning of scheduled notable trees where it can be demonstrated that the works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will not compromise the values of the identified notable tree or group; 2. Will not compromise long term tree health; 3. Are consistent with best arboricultural practice; and 4. Will not increase the risk of the notable tree or group being subject to damage from wind.
TREE-P5	<p>Managing activities in the root protection area</p> <p>Require activities and development to be located outside of the root protection area of notable trees unless the works will not compromise:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The long-term health of the scheduled notable tree; and 2. The values of the notable tree.
TREE-P6	<p>Repositioning and Relocation</p> <p>Only allow the repositioning or relocation of notable trees where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repositioning or relocation is necessary to enable the efficient development and operation of infrastructure; and 2. Alternatives that would otherwise retain the notable tree in its current position have been explored but are not practicable; and 3. Methods proposed are consistent with best arboricultural practice.
TREE-P7	<p>Destruction <u>and removal</u></p> <p>Only allow the destruction <u>and removal</u> of notable trees where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The tree poses a serious and imminent threat to the safety of people or property; or 2. The tree is dead, or in a state of terminal decline; or 3. There are no reasonable alternatives including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Trimming and pruning; and

	b. Repositioning and relocation.
Rules: Land use activities	
TREE-R1	Trimming and pruning of notable trees
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The trimming and pruning is necessary to ; comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003; or b. The works are necessary to prevent interference with footpaths, buildings, structures or network utilities and are undertaken to the minimum extent required to prevent interference and TREE-S1 is complied with; or c. The works involve the removal of broken branches, dead wood and diseased vegetation and TREE-S1 is complied with; or d. The works are essential due to a serious and imminent threat to the safety of people or damage to property and TREE-S2 is complied with.
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: Restricted Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compliance with any of the requirements of TREE-R1.1 cannot be achieved. <p>Matters of discretion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The matters in TREE-P4. <p>Notification status: An application for resource consent made in respect of rule TREE-R1.2 is precluded from being either publicly or limited notified.</p>
TREE-R2	Activity and development within the root protection area of notable trees
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The works involve the planting of shrubs, flowers, ground cover, other small plants or covering ground in lawn or bark, or the mowing of grass; or b. The works are for the maintenance and repair of existing roads, ing, transport or other infrastructure; and c. TREE-S4 is complied with. <p>-</p> <p>Note: This rule does not apply to network utilities infrastructure within the root protection area of notable trees, <u>which are addressed in the Infrastructure – Other Overlays chapter.</u></p>
All Zones	<p>2. 4. Activity status: Restricted Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Compliance with any of the requirements of TREE-R2.1 cannot be achieved. <p>Matters of discretion are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The matters in TREE-P5; i 2. <u>The extent of compliance with TREE-S4; and</u> 3. <u>If the Notable Tree is a Kauri, measures to minimise risk of spread of Kauri dieback disease including containment and disposal of soil.</u> <p>Notification status: An application for resource consent made in respect of rule TREE-R2.2 is precluded from being either publicly or limited notified.</p>

TREE-R3	Destruction, relocation or removal of notable trees
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Permitted</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The tree is dead or is in terminal decline and TREE-S3 is complied with; or The tree poses a serious and imminent threat to people or property which cannot be made safe by trimming and pruning and TREE-S2 is complied with.
All Zones	<p>2. Activity status: Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance with any of the requirements of TREE-R3.1 cannot be achieved.
TREE-R4	All other land use activities
All Zones	<p>1. Activity status: Discretionary</p> <p>Where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The activity is not otherwise provided for as a permitted activity, restricted discretionary activity, or a non-complying activity.
TREE-R5	The storage or discharge of any toxic substance within the root protection area of notable trees
All Zones	1. Activity status: Non-complying
Standards	
TREE-S1	Certification by works arborist
All Zones	1. The works are undertaken or supervised by a works arborist and Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the work commencing.
TREE-S2	Emergency trimming or pruning work
All Zones	1. The works are undertaken or supervised by a works arborist and Council is advised at least 1 hour prior to the work commencing.
TREE-S3	Certification that a scheduled notable tree is dead or in terminal decline
All Zones	1. Certification is obtained from a technician arborist that the scheduled notable tree is dead or in terminal decline , and Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the work commencing.
TREE-S4	Works in the root protection area
All Zones	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> All works must be undertaken under the direction of a technician arborist; Excavation must be undertaken <u>by one or a combination of the following methods:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <u>trenchless methods at a depth of 1m or greater; or</u> hand-digging, air <u>excavation spade</u>, or hydro <u>excavation-vac or drilling machine, within the root protection area at a depth of 1m or greater;</u> The surface area of a single excavation must not exceed 1m²; Excavation must be undertaken by hand-digging, air spade, hydro vac or drilling machine, within the root protection area at a depth of 1m or greater; The surface area of a single excavation must not exceed 1m²; Works involving root pruning must not be on roots greater than 35mm in diameter at severance; Works must not disturb more than 10 per cent of the root protection area; Any machines used must operate on top of paved surfaces and/or ground protection measures;

9. Any machines used must be fitted with a straight blade bucket; ~~and~~
10. Measures to minimise risk of spread of Kauri dieback disease including containment and disposal of soil must be included if the tree is a Kauri; and
11. Council is advised at least 10 working days prior to the work commencing.

Note: Hydro excavation is not the preferred method of soil removal as it can cause damage to tree roots.