

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TREES ARE REMOVED WITHOUT A RESOURCE CONSENT?

Council often receives calls from concerned members of the public regarding tree removal. If you are unsure whether your proposal complies with the rules, contact the Resource Consents Department.

Where trees are modified beyond what the rules allow, and a resource consent is not obtained, then Council will take enforcement action. This could include an instant fine and a requirement to obtain a retrospective resource consent.



The rules are designed to avoid irreversible damage to our forest remnants, wetlands and heritage trees.

In some serious situations illegal tree modification can result in prosecution through the Environment Court.

If there are valid reasons why a protected tree needs to be removed, and the environmental effects of the removal of the tree are no more than minor, then it is likely that a resource consent will be approved.



### For further information contact:

The Resource Consents Department  
Kapiti Coast District Council  
175 Rimu Road, Private Bag 601  
Paraparaumu  
Phone (04) 902 7526  
Email: [resource.consents@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:resource.consents@kapiticoast.govt.nz)

## TREES FOR KAPITI

NZ native plants and trees have a distinctive look to them, having evolved in isolation for millions of years. 80% of our plants and trees are found only in NZ.



## KAPITI'S NATIVE TREE PROTECTION RULES

Trees are an important part of the Kapiti Coast District's ecology and amenity. Naturally occurring indigenous vegetation and Heritage trees are protected by the District Plan. In certain circumstances trimming of vegetation is permitted. **Know your rights and responsibilities. To find out more turn overleaf.**



## WHAT ARE THE RULES?

The rules regarding native vegetation in the District Plan are designed to protect naturally occurring indigenous trees/bush areas and Heritage trees. The rules are also designed to enable landowners, arboriculturalists and network utility operators to undertake trimming where it is necessary for health, safety and servicing needs without the requirement for a resource consent (i.e. as a permitted activity).

### THE RULES

The disturbance, removal, damage or destruction ("modification") of naturally occurring indigenous trees is a **permitted activity where it is limited to:**

- (1) Modification of trees less than 4 metres high or which have a trunk diameter less than 30cm measured at a height of 1.4 metres (excluding trees listed in the Heritage Register) provided the trees:
  - do not form a contiguous area of 100m<sup>2</sup>; and
  - are not within 20 metres of a waterbody; and
  - are not nationally or regionally rare or threatened. (A list of these is in Part I of the District Plan).
- (2) Removal of broken branches, deadwood or diseased vegetation; removal of

branches (**which are not part of the main structure of the tree**) that are within 1 metre of the external walls or roof of a building; removal of branches that are not part of the main structure of the tree to maintain access across existing farm tracks (including trees listed in the Heritage Register).

- (3) Modification of up to 2 hectares of vegetation in any 12 month period provided the vegetation is:
  - predominantly manuka or kanuka; and
  - the vegetation is less than 4 metres tall; and
  - the vegetation is not within 20 metres of a waterbody; or
  - the vegetation is not nationally or regionally rare or threatened.
- (4) Modification of vegetation provided it is limited to:
  - modification by any network utility operator to ensure the safety and integrity of the network utility or to maintain access to the network utility (**excludes trees listed in the Heritage Register**);
  - modification of vegetation where it occurs within an established production forest or where it occurs within two years of a production forest being harvested;

- modification of vegetation that has been specifically planted as a production forest.



## WHAT IS NATURALLY OCCURRING INDIGENOUS VEGETATION?

Naturally occurring indigenous vegetation includes all those species that grow within the Tararua, Foxton and Manawatu Ecological District's of Kapiti. That is, those native trees that occur within the District naturally.



## HOW DO I KNOW WHAT IS NATURALLY OCCURRING?

There are a number of native plants and trees that have been introduced to the District. The most common introduced natives are pohutukawa, kauri, and puriri. Under the rules in the District Plan these trees can be removed as of right, unless they are identified in the Heritage Register and have an official plastic 'protected tree' marker attached to them.

**If you are unsure if a particular specimen is a naturally occurring indigenous tree you should consult an arborist. The Council Resource Consents department can also assist you with the identification of trees where required.**