

**Chairperson and Committee Members**

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

7 AUGUST 2014

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**PROPOSED DISTRICT POLICY FOR TREES ON COUNCIL ADMINISTERED LAND**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks The Kāpiti Coast District Council's approval for the adoption of a District Policy for Trees on Council Administered Land (Appendix 1).

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 The Council receives a large number of calls and service requests concerning trees on public land.
- 4 The proposed policy outlines the principles of the approach Council will take in the future with regard to developing and maintaining the district's tree resource on Council administered land.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Issues

- 5 As Council currently has no approved policy for trees on Council administered land, responses are based on current law and best practices. However these responses are generally not based on a documented and approved Council position.
- 6 This draft policy outlines Council's principles for presenting a consistent methodology and response towards trees on Council administered land.
- 7 This draft policy was written with consideration to appropriate standards and principles including those referenced by other New Zealand Councils.

## 8 Summary

### General Policies and Objectives

- To protect and manage trees on Council administered land in compliance with established standards
- To establish a consistent procedure for dealing with tree related matters
- To establish a tree resource of mixed variety and mixed age stock to place 'the right tree in the right place' and to allow for a relatively predictable programme of replacement and maintenance
- To develop an on-going programme of enhancement and replacement planting
- To maintain all trees on Council administered land as appropriate, not allowing Council trees to become a public safety hazard
- To promote and support community based tree initiatives where resources and policy allow

### General points

- This policy is for trees on Council administered land, not private land
- This policy assesses and balances tree value with regard to resources, wider community value and individual considerations. Generally wider community benefits will take precedence over individual concerns
- Potentially large trees to be planted where possible to maintain scale with large buildings and balance ongoing land subdivision into smaller lot sizes
- Consultation will take place where appropriate at a level commensurate with the scale and location of planting
- Trees planted may be exotic or native
- Recognise and appropriately provide for the cultural and spiritual values of tāngata whenua when managing the district tree resource

## Financial Considerations

### 9 There are budgetary issues to be considered during the Long Term Plan process:

- Implementing a proactive planting and maintenance programme.
- Covering street tree maintenance to the acceptable industry standard.
- Council's responsibility for the on-going maintenance costs of trees in the vicinity of power lines. These changes are in line with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.
- Tree maintenance on parks and reserves is covered by individual parks maintenance budgets.

## Legal Considerations

10 There are no legal considerations.

## Delegation

11 The Environment and Community Development Committee has delegated authority to consider this matter under section 7.1 of the Council's Governance Structure and Delegations:

*7.1 Authority to develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community.*

## Consultation

12 The draft policy will be disseminated to all Community Boards and go out for public consultation which will follow a full consultation process. This is estimated to take a minimum of two months.

## Policy Implications

13 This would create a new Council policy.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

14 There are no issues for consideration relating to iwi or the Treaty of Waitangi as this Draft Policy relates only to trees on Council administered land.

## Publicity Considerations

15 A stakeholder plan, communications plan and user guide will be developed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

16 That the Committee recommends that the District Policy for Trees on Council Administered Land referenced in Appendix 1 of report CS-13-1088 be sent to Community Boards for feedback, distributed for public consultation and submissions considered within the framework of the policy prior to adoption.

Report prepared by:	Approved for submission by:	
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## ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1 Draft District Policy for Trees on Council Administered Land