

What if I want to do more work than what is listed as permitted to the tree or remove it?

If you wish to do more than minor work or remove the tree when it is not an immediate danger, then a Resource Consent will be required.

In your application you will need to outline why the tree should be removed or have work done to it and how you plan to mitigate any adverse effects.

It is recommended that you talk to Council staff and an arborist before submitting your application.

If you wish to do the work over several years, a management plan can be part of the application.



What if I want to have my tree listed in the District Plan?

Write to the District Plan team explaining:

- Where the tree is
- Who owns the property
- What type of tree it is
- Why you think the tree should be protected.

From time to time Council may renew its list of Protected Trees or add more trees. Council is obliged to do this every 10 years or sooner if appropriate.

The Council will get an arborist to assess the tree using STEM. The tree's condition, its impact on the landscape and any notable features will be considered before the Council decides whether to list it in the District Plan.

This pamphlet is one in a series published by the Whanganui District Council. It is intended to provide general information only. It is not intended as a legal document and may not be applicable in all circumstances. For specific information on any consent application please contact a Council Planner.



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Whanganui District Council



A guide to Protected Trees



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What is a Protected Tree?

Whanganui has a valuable tree collection. More than 100 trees have been identified as having visual, ecological or historical importance to the community and are therefore protected by the District Plan. About half of these are on private property.

Each tree listed in the District Plan has been evaluated using the STEM assessment (Standard Tree Evaluation Method) outlining why the tree is protected and its health at the time of the assessment.

How do I find out whether my tree is listed in the District Plan?

Check the District Plan on the Council's website:
www.whanganui.govt.nz
or phone (06) 349 0001.

This information will also show up on LIMs.



What work can I do on a Protected Tree?

Minor work to trees is permitted. This includes:

- trimming and clearance of foliage or branches from existing utility networks, which have the potential to compromise the operation of the network utility (or access to), street lights or land boundary encroachments that does not alter the shape or health of the tree;
- clearance of foliage or branches (no greater than 100mm in diameter) from roads, footpaths and driveways that does not alter the shape or health of the tree;
- removal of deadwood from trees;
- the removal of dead or diseased vegetation;
- clearance and clean-up after storm damage including broken branches;
- fencing of protected trees within the dripline when the location of the fence is approved by an arborist and the assessment submitted to Council;
- controlling pest plants and weeds within the dripline by methods not harmful.

Also work such as mulching around the roots is encouraged to protect the tree's lifespan.

What can harm the tree?

The following activities can harm the lifespan and health of the tree and are not permitted by the District Plan:

- Works to the tree that exceed what is listed above.
- Driving over the roots with car or lawn mower.

- Excavation of soil within the dripline.

What if the tree is dangerous?

If the tree is a danger to life or property, contact Council immediately. If work is required on the tree, or it has to be removed for safety reasons, you will have to employ an arborist to do the work. The arborist will also need to submit a report to Council confirming that the tree had to be removed for safety reasons.



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