COUNCIL POLICY

TITLE:	**MANAGEMENT OF STREET TREES**
EFFECTIVE DATE:	1 June 2016
REVIEW DATE:	June 2019
FILE REFERENCE:	408120

1 Background

Kawerau's street trees are considered by many to be an attractive asset of the town. It is therefore important that Council has a policy to guide the way in which they are managed.

2 Policy Objectives

The objective of this policy is to set out Council's approach to the selection, maintenance, removal and succession of street trees in the Kawerau District.

3 Principles

- Street trees are an important feature of Kawerau which should be preserved.

- Appropriate species of well-managed trees, planted in suitable sites, can enhance the look and feel of the town for residents and visitors.

- It is important to use best arboriculture practices to manage street trees.

- Inappropriate street trees can cause harm and nuisance to people and damage to property and infrastructure.

- The health and safety of people living close to street trees is the key consideration when making decisions about their management.

4 Definitions

Immediate vicinity means the area of the section or plot of land which a street tree is situated in front of, and the two adjoining sections or plots to the immediate left and right of that section or plot.

Inappropriate street tree means a street tree which can cause harm or nuisance to people, or danger to property or infrastructure.

Infrastructure means public services such as footpaths, kerbing, drains, overhead wires and underground services.

Property means public or privately owned buildings and vehicles, and privately owned landscape features such as fences, pergolas, driveways and footpaths.

5   Policy Statement

5.1   Selection

Council will identify the tree species it considers suitable for use on each street in the District.

Selection will be based on the species' appropriateness in terms of strength, longevity, colour, form, height, width, root structure, shading, and fall of leaves and other plant matter.

As part of the process of selecting street tree species, Council will engage with the residents and building occupants of the relevant street.

Once selected, trees of the chosen species will be used for first planting and succession planting in that street.

5.2   Maintenance

Street trees will be maintained to a standard which balances the following:

- Maximising tree health,
- Allowing the tree to grow true to form; and
- Minimising the potential for harm or nuisance to people, or damage to property or infrastructure.

5.3   Removal

Council may remove a street tree which is:

- Assessed by the Council arborist as an inappropriate tree for the site
- Diseased, dying or in an unattractive condition which treatment cannot effectively improve
- The subject of an unsolicited complaint by one or more neighbouring residents and building occupants because of harm or nuisance.

As part of making a decision about whether to remove a street tree, Council will engage with residents and building occupants in the immediate vicinity of where the tree is situated.

Council may give wood from a felled tree to the neighbour(s) in the immediate vicinity on request or to a Council-nominated community organisation for sale as firewood.

Council will dispose of all plant matter not suitable for firewood.

Tree stumps will be removed as soon as practicable and the site levelled and re-grassed.

5.4 Succession

Trees of the species selected for the relevant street will be used for replanting.

Tree planting will take place as soon as practicable after tree removal, subject to best arboriculture practice and the availability of tree stock.

Succession trees may not necessarily be planted in exact site from which a street tree was removed.

6 Delegated Responsibility

The Chief Executive Officer or his/her nominee has delegated authority for the implementation of this policy.

7 References and Relevant Legislation

Reserves Act 1977

Kawerau District Plan

Kawerau District Council Reserves Management Plan