

## 5. PAPANUI PRIMARY SCHOOL HEDGE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Parks & Waterways Manager	<b>Author</b> Kirsty Patten DDI 941-6702
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The purpose of this report is to reply to a deputation to Board from Paul Kingston, Principal of Papanui Primary School, regarding removal of the schools hedge.

### BACKGROUND

The Board may recall Mr Kingston spoke of the maintenance difficulties with the Macrocarpa hedge on the Cranford Street frontage of the school. Papanui Primary had recently been sent an advisory letter by the Environmental Services Unit (CCC), following a complaint that the hedge was obstructing pedestrian movement. Under the Local Government Act 1974, property owners must have overhanging branches, vegetation etc cut back so as not to cause an obstruction. Council Policy required (in this case) the hedge to be cut back to the edge of the seal and up to a height of 2.5 metres, information disclosed to the school within the advisory letter. The hedge has now been trimmed to fall within the tolerances for compliance. The school have since investigated options for the hedge removal, but cannot afford the quote of \$27,000 for extraction, and would look for possible sources of funding assistance from the Council.

### DISCUSSION

Council Officers have investigated three more options for removal as detailed below:

#### Option 1

An alternative quote for hedge removal including extraction, green waste dumping and stump grinding to 100 millimetres. The quote was \$19,500 for the above work, with an option of having the stumps ground to 300 millimetres below ground level for \$2,500.

#### Option 2

Removal of the hedge and chipping the green waste for eventual use on the Seafield Park horse trails. This proposal proved to be more expensive than option 1.

#### Option 3

Yearly maintenance and trimming back of the hedge. This option was estimated at \$2,000 per annum.

It is considered that the removal or maintenance costs for the hedge do not fall within the Board's Guidelines for financial support for schools.

#### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the information be received and that the school be advised of the various options and costs.

#### Chairperson's

**Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.