

## 6. MAIN ROADS AMENITY PLANTING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the work on the Main Roads Amenity Planting project and seek support for a consultation process.

### BACKGROUND

In April 2003 a report by Alix Newman (City Streets Capital Programme Team Leader) and Dennis Preston (City Solutions Team Leader – Landscape) was presented to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee seeking direction on the Main Roads Amenity Planting project.

That report referred to a budget set at \$75,000 per year to arrange for more planting of street trees along arterial roads.

A concept plan was tabled at the Committee meeting (see attached plan).

The Committee decided:

1. *That the City Streets Unit develop the City to Sumner amenity planting plan further and report back to the Committee, prior to consultation.*
2. *That the Committee direct a series of main roads in priority order that it would like to see this funding allocated to beginning with Ferry Road from Ferrymead to Sumner with special reference to the causeway.*

### CONCEPT

#### City to Sumner

Over the years there have been several initiatives to establish more trees on the route from the central city to Sumner. A 1990's celebration planting resulted in a number of Pohutukawas being planted in Peacocks Gallop. Upgrading of Woolston and parts of Ferry Road have resulted in more trees. The "Crimson Trail" initiative was also aimed at planting more Pohutukawas, especially at McCormacks Bay.

The Main Roads Amenity Planting project looks at the route in roughly two equal sections: Ferrymead to Sumner and Ferrymead to the city, building on some already established planting themes.

From Ferrymead to Sumner the use of Norfolk Pines and Pohutukawas is suggested. These trees have strong connections to the beach for many New Zealanders. The Norfolk Pine will grow to a good size in Sumner and is reasonably hardy to our conditions. Christchurch is stretching the Pohutukawa's southern limit but it will grow in more sheltered protected sites.

The section from Ferrymead to the city centre has been more problematic in getting extra trees established. By using a combination of private land ownership (for example, landscape setbacks) and public land more trees can be planted. Because there is already a number of oak plantings along the route, it is proposed to use Scarlet Oak. The tree is deciduous, which is important during the winter months in built up areas. It is also hardy and has a spectacular autumn display.

### DISCUSSION

The project team has visited the sites and feels that it will be possible to implement the concept plan in some areas but there may be complications in some other areas. It has decided to concentrate on the Ferrymead to Sumner section at this time (stage one).

The following consultation plan has been devised:

- Step 1 Talk to the Residents' Associations about the project and ask for their support of the overall concept.
- Step 2 Look at specific areas and work with those groups of residents or businesses to implement the concept in those areas.

This process would involve:

- 1 Continuing working with the Ferrymead business owners who have approached Andrew Craig (Urban Design Landscape Architect) with a proposal for planting trees in the landscape areas in front of their buildings.
- 2 Continuing with the options and proposals that Warwick Scadden (Parks and Waterways Area Advocate) is working through with the community including the Christchurch Yacht Club.
- 3 Approaching Redcliffs School with some possibilities for replanting the school frontage.
- 4 Adding to and possible repositioning of some of the Phoenix Palms in Peacocks Gallop.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Implementation of the concept plan will require input from several groups and will be done in stages. As each stage is undertaken Council Officers will report progress to the Board and the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee.

#### **Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received
  2. That the Board support the proposed consultation process and receive regular reports on the progress being made with planting.

#### **Chairperson's**

- Recommendation:** That the recommendation be adopted and a public meeting for the area from Ferrymead to Sumner be included in the consultation for stage one of the planting project.