

9. MAIN ROAD CAUSEWAY PLANTING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the results of the community consultation regarding new planting on the causeway from Mt Pleasant Community Centre to Beachville Road and to gain the Board's support for the project.

This report, together with a request for approval to proceed to final design, tender and construction will also be considered by the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee on 15 June 2004.

BACKGROUND

In February 2004 a report by Lorraine Wilmshurst was presented to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee giving an update on progress and detailing the proposed consultation plans for each section of the Main Road Amenity Planting.

The Chairperson's recommendation to that report was that "*the above plan with special reference to the beautification of the causeway be approved subject to the planned consultation process*".

Budget provision is:

2003/04 - \$161,504

2004/05 - \$87,134

2005/06 through to 2007/08 - \$87,975 each year for more planting of street trees along arterial roads.

The project's aims and objectives as set out in the Terms of Reference document dated 15 August 2003 are "*to increase the level of planting from the City to Summer*".

PROJECT STATUS

Request for Comments

In early April 2004 a publicity leaflet illustrating the proposal for the Main Road – Causeway – Proposed Planting was prepared and widely distributed to approximately 500 residents as well as residents groups, Estuary groups and associations in the area. Local papers and libraries were also given copies of the leaflet.

Comments on the proposal were requested by 16 April 2004 and were received by post, email and telephone up until 23 April 2004.

Results

A total of 259 comments were received in the following categories:

Unqualified	YES	52
Qualified	YES	48
	TOTAL	100

Unqualified	NO	11
Qualified	NO	148
	TOTAL	159

1. Qualified Yes Comments

•	Totally supportive comments	19
•	Generally supportive comments	17
•	No to Norfolk Pines, yes to Pohutakawas	9
•	No due to Norfolk Pines (loss of view)	3
	TOTAL	48

2. Qualified No Comments

Approximately 51 respondents declared non support on "loss of view" while eight comments were opposed to the Norfolk Pines for the loss of view.

There is support for Pohutakawas (11) and no support for planter boxes (16) for various reasons including loss of view.

Smaller numbers of respondents in this category cited cost, cyclist safety, car safety and present traffic volumes as issues.

ISSUES RAISED AND STAFF COMMENTS

1. Loss of View (reason not given)

The location of these respondents is as follows:

- McCormacks Bay Road	8
- Main Road	6
- Cliff Street	3
- 16 other streets (generally St Andrews Hill, Mt Pleasant and Sumner)	34
TOTAL	<u>51</u>

Staff Comment

The Norfolk Pines will have an impact on the McCormacks Bay Road properties but will not obstruct the view to the horizon.

The planter boxes with the Pohutakawas will have little or no effect on the view from the other properties in this group. The planter boxes will be grouped and there will be uninterrupted views between the groupings.

2. Loss of View – Norfolk Pines

Comment on the loss of view due to Norfolk Pines came from a total of 11 respondents, four of whom live in Rangatira Terrace and McCormacks Bay Road immediately south of the proposed plantings while the other seven came from residents of St Andrews Hills, Moncks Spur, Moncks Bay and Clifton.

Staff Comment

The Norfolk Pines will not obstruct views from properties on Rangatira Terrace. However, the trees would have an impact for the properties on McCormacks Bay Road. The trees are spaced 15 – 18 metres apart and there would be clear views between the trees. Also, the Norfolk Pines can have a “lifted” canopy which would not obstruct the view to the horizon.

A photo-montage showing the Norfolk Pines from outside No 2 McCormacks Bay Road will be presented at the meeting.

3. No to Norfolk Pines – Yes to Pohutakawas

A total of 11 respondents, seven of whom live in Rangatira Terrace and McCormacks Bay Road while the other four live in Ferrymead, St Andrews Hill, Mt Pleasant and Moncks Bay, commented in this way. The concerns of this group were the perceived loss of view (six) and the fact that Norfolk Pines were not native trees.

Staff Comment

Norfolk Pine was selected as one of the trees to be planted in the Main Road planting scheme because there is already a number of mature specimens along the route in private plantings as well as good examples in The Brae reserve and Sumner beachfront. Norfolk Pine is a tree that is often associated with coastal and beach landscape, for example Kaikoura, and it is a tree that will give a strong vertical scale and good visual connection along the route from Ferrymead to Sumner.

4. Other Concerns

The issue of cyclist safety and car safety (16 respondents in total) has been addressed in the scheme as it is and will be further considered as part of the final detailed design.

CONCLUSIONS

- The most common reason given for not supporting the proposal is “loss of view”.
- Most people who responded in this way will not have views obstructed from their properties.
- The proposed planting of Norfolk Pines at the west of the Community Centre will have an impact on the properties at this end of McCormacks Bay Road. However, there will be clear views between the trees.
- There is real support for the planting of Pohutakawas and some non support for the planter boxes.
- The groups of planter boxes with Pohutakawas will allow uninterrupted views between the groupings.
- Norfolk Pine, selected as a tree option associated with coastal landscape, will give a strong vertical scale and will provide a good visual connection from Ferrymead to Sumner.
- Not withstanding the number of respondents who do not support the work, the Transport and City Streets Unit recommends that the plantings be carried out according to the current plan, which will achieve the projects objective of “increasing the level of planting from the City to Sumner”.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board convey its support of the planting plan for Norfolk Pines and Pohutakawas on the causeway from Mt Pleasant Community Centre to Beachville Road to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee.

Chairperson's

- Recommendation:** For discussion.