

## 8 RESULTS OF REVIEW OF RIVERSIDE PLANTING SITES

<b>Officer responsible</b> Greenspace Manager	<b>Author</b> Anne Greenup, DDI 941-8701
--	---

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the results of the review of riverside planting at two sites chosen by the Board in March 2004.

### BACKGROUND

Following a deputation from the Merivale Precinct Society to the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee in February 2004 expressing concerns about the effects of native planting along the banks of the Avon River adjacent to Little Hagley Park, it was decided that all the Community Boards would choose two riverside planting sites in their area for review by an independent landscape architect. The sites chosen by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board were:-

Site 1: Peer Street Reserve, between Athol Terrace and Ilam Park

Site 2: Paeroa Street Reserve, off Paeroa Street, Riccarton

### Review

The review was carried out by Jenny Moore, ANZILA who carried out a site analysis, including river profile, vegetation character and site character. Jenny then proceeded to explore opportunities to mitigate, through design and maintenance, any detracting outcomes of the planting. The report includes photographs of the plantings, with notations.

The report has been circulated to members separately from the Order Paper.

### Site 1: Peer Street Reserve,

#### Issues:

- Views to the watercourse
- Density of planting
- Position of plants
- Inappropriate choice of plants

#### Conclusions:

The reviewer considers that there has been inappropriate plant choice in respect of:

- site conditions
- location and aspect
- form and growth pattern
- maintenance requirements

#### Opportunities for mitigation through design and maintenance:

- Consider thinning out certain plants and relocating to other projects within the city

### Site 2: Paeroa Street Reserve

#### Issues

- Dense planting around the head-wall to the waterway is creating a dangerous situation for children at play
- Access to the water is limited by dense vegetation
- Raupo (bull-rush) is choking the watercourse

## Opportunities for mitigation through design and maintenance

- Remove vegetation from around the head-wall, to allow access and opportunities to investigate moving water
- Encourage and develop dense vegetation to grow on the steep banks
- Remove Carex from the base of the steps and leave water margin clear. Introduce shingle to create a small shallow beach where children can safely access the water
- Monitor and control the spread of raupo so that it doesn't completely take over the watercourse

### Staff

- Recommendation:**
- 1 That the information be received
  - 2 That plant pruning, thinning and/or removal work be carried out on sites 1 and 2, being Peer Street and Paeroa Street Reserves respectively, as recommended in the report
  - 3 That the report conclusions be passed on to all designers who have an input into riverside planting projects in Christchurch
  - 4 That riverside planting at the two sites be maintained in such a way that the detractions outlined in the report are prevented in the future
  - 5 That the Community Board allocate discretionary funds for Paeroa Street Reserve (refer to paragraph – “opportunities for mitigation” – point 3 “remove Carex from the base ...create a small shallow beach ...”)

### Chairman's

#### Comment:

While I would recommend the first four recommendations listed above, I have concerns with the staff recommendation to create a small beach frontage onto the stream.

On the grounds of users' safety I would not support this recommendation.

### Chairman's

#### Recommendation:

That recommendations one to four inclusive above be adopted, but that recommendation number five be declined.