

## 19. OVERHANGING TREES

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The purpose of this report is to request funding to employ a casual worker to survey streets in Shirley and Papanui for overhanging trees and shrubs onto footpaths.

### BACKGROUND

The Council policy on overhanging trees states:

*“All trees and shrubs are to be trimmed back to the boundary for a height of 2.1metres (seven feet) above the footpath and five metres (16 feet) above the roadway.*

*While judicious pruning may be necessary, it does not entitle any person to carry out major cutting, or to remove protected trees without the Council’s authorisation.”*

### ISSUES

There has been a general increase in complaints relating to the problems of trees and shrubs overhanging or extending onto footpaths.

Some years ago the Board funded a student to survey all streets in Shirley and Papanui. Where properties were considered to be contravening the Policy, a notice was placed in the letterbox advising the resident of the Council’s requirements. This notice is in the form of a friendly reminder (see copy attached).

Past experience has shown that generally this notice is sufficient, with the majority of residents then attending to the matter. A note is taken of all addresses where a notice is left and a follow-up inspection is undertaken two to three weeks later. If the problem still exists, a note is taken of the address and referred to the Environmental Services Unit for further follow-up.

### PROPOSAL

It is proposed that a student through Student Job Search be employed for four to five weeks to check properties on foot in the Shirley and Papanui Wards and leave an advisory notice and pamphlet to all non-complying properties. A follow-up check would be made during the last week. Any enforcement measures required later would be the responsibility of the Council’s Environmental Services staff.

As this proposal has not been budgeted for, it is requested that the Board consider funding it from Discretionary Funds. The estimated cost for four weeks on the minimum adult rate would be \$2,100.

The person employed would work under the supervision of the Papanui Service Centre, Community Technical Adviser and would work from that office. Day to day support and assistance would also come from the Service Centre.

**Recommendation:** That the Board fund up to \$2,500 from 1999/2000 Discretionary Fund to allow the employment of a student to survey the streets in Shirley/Papanui for overhanging trees and shrubs on footpaths.

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the funding be approved and a suitable person be sought through Mature Employment Services.