

23. TREE SEMINAR – DECEMBER 2000

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcomes from the tree seminar that was held at Fendalton on 6 December 2000, and to seek a direction ahead for this Board in addressing any matters of relevance.

BACKGROUND

The seminar concluded with agreement that each of the respective outcomes would be referred to the relevant Standing Committee. In the first instance the attached report was referred to the February meetings of the Environment and Resource Management Committees.

The respective outcomes from the two Committees were as follows:

a) Environment Committee

- “1. That the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board be congratulated on its initiative for the hosting of the trees seminar.
2. That the report be presented to Community Boards for their information, including the outcomes from the Environment Committee/Council consideration.
3. That the recommendations in the table be adopted.
4. That consideration be given to the promotion of Arbor Day as also being a Garden City Tree Day”.

b) Resource Management Committee

“The Committee noted the matters referred to it by the trees seminar and has developed a plan for dealing with these items at the appropriate time, including:

- Item 1. Land subdivision retention of vegetation rules – placed on a City Plan Variation or plan change list at the appropriate time.
- Item 2. Tree database funding support – to be further considered after the City Plan becomes operative.
- Item 3. Notable tree pruning law review – to be added to the list of pending Variations, to enable a greater degree of routine tree maintenance, while retaining the integrity of the provision.
- Item 5. Tree replacement rule – not an appropriate matter for a Variation, due to enforcement difficulties.
- Item 6. Tree resources – appropriate support to be given during budget process.
- Item 7. Removal of trees from development sites – not an appropriate matter for a Variation, due to enforcement difficulties – refer Item 1.
- Item 9. Resource consents:
 - a) 10m building setback – currently included on the list of proposed Variations
 - b) Landscape plan planting – inappropriate planting of large tree species on small sites.”

At the Council meeting on 22 February however it was resolved that the clause be referred back to the Committee for further consideration (it having been suggested that the Committee might consider holding a seminar for all Councillors on this topic).

DISCUSSION

With the overall intention of achieving a better recognition for the value of trees in the city, the seminar and the Committees considerations have gone some way toward this.

As the prime concern of this Board has been the ongoing loss of trees, the further consideration of the Resource Management Committee is likely to be awaited with much interest.

In the meantime it is worth reviewing the Board's recent commitments, to explore any further planting opportunities in this community.

These commitments are as follows:-

- a) Submission to Resource Management Committee with request to acknowledge Board's list of trees suitable for adding to notable tree register (ie: City Plan).
- b) Ongoing commitment to opportunity for street tree planting (either in existing street environments, or with new kerb and channel projects).
- c) Consideration of report through 8 November 2000 Works and Traffic Safety Committee meeting (including site visits), and Board resolution calling for report on potential sites and locations for additional plantings.
- d) Allocation of 2001/02 project funding, including \$5,000 for tree planting at various locations.

Recommendation: That the information be received and the Board's commitments noted.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendation be adopted.