

14. TREES SEMINAR – 6 DECEMBER 2000



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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to advise of the outcomes from a seminar on trees, and to recommend further action arising from the discussions.

BACKGROUND

The idea originated from a recommendation by the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, which was later adopted by the Environment Committee.

The well-attended seminar for elected members was hosted by the Community Board at the Council’s Fendalton offices, and engendered a great deal of discussion.

The discussion is more particularly set out in the detailed report which is tabled.

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION

The principal outcomes of the seminar are detailed below, together with a series of recommendations for further action:

OUTCOMES	COMMENTS/RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Consider and amend the rules relating to the protection of vegetation when subdivision is undertaken.	To be referred to the Resource Management Committee.
2. Community Boards to fund and identify trees for a register to provide: (a) a tree data base (b) a Plan change following the City Plan becoming operative.	Two Boards (Fendalton/Waimairi and Spreydon/Heathcote) have already made this commitment. There is a danger that any list(s) will become inaccurate by the time any suggested variation becomes operative. To be reconsidered by the Resource Management Committee, and the Annual Plan Working Party to be requested to supplement the funding to enable the earliest conclusion to the City Plan process.
3. A review of the pruning laws for notable trees.	To be referred to the Resource Management Committee.
4. Tree cages for protection or the planting of more mature trees.	To be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee.
5. Two trees to be planted for every tree being removed.	To be referred to the Resource Management Committee.
6. Trees should be a top priority for the Council and resources found accordingly.	To be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee, and the Annual Plan Working Party.
7. On development sites, trees destined for clearance should be removed to other sites, rather than the scorched earth policy.	To be referred to the Resource Management Committee (in conjunction with outcome 5 above).
8. A city wide tree planting strategy be developed and its accompanying policy preparation be hastened including that of delegations to Community Boards.	To be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee. The authors note that some extensive work was carried out in 1997 on a draft policy for the central city area. It is also recommended that this report be updated, as a priority, and be considered by the Committee. The matter of delegation should be referred to the Director of Policy for the triennial review process.

<p>9. Resource consents:</p> <p>(a) Ten metre setback from building to be provided for in certain situations eg: Riccarton Bush</p> <p>(b) Staff vigilance required on landscaping plans to ensure provision of appropriate planting intention.</p>	<p>(a) to be referred to the Resource Management Committee.</p> <p>(b) To be referred to the Environmental Services Manager.</p>
<p>10. The City Council to lead by example to the private sector</p>	<p>Opportunities for promotion of the value/importance of trees to be considered by the Environment Committee.</p>
<p>11. A tree day to be commemorated with appropriate education to encourage better tree protection and planting.</p>	<p>Arbor Day is already allocated for this purpose. A report on this was submitted to all Community Boards in October 2000. It is recommended that this report be updated and presented to the Environment Committee.</p>
<p>12. Measures to counteract the undergrounding of services damage to trees.</p>	<p>To be referred to the City Services Committee.</p>

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board be congratulated on the 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 of this report.
 3. That the recommendations listed in the table be adopted.

Chairman's Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.