

20. REGISTER OF NOTABLE TREES IN BURWOOD/PEGASUS AREA

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Corporate Plan Output: Other Plans 9.4.40	

The purpose of this report is to respond to the Board's request to the Parks and Waterways Unit to establish a register of notable trees in the Burwood/Pegasus area.

The Fendalton and Spreydon areas together with a major part of Heathcote have been surveyed for trees worthy of protection as notable trees. Lists of tree details and positional information have been recorded. This work was funded to a large degree by the respective boards. There are no funds available in the Parks and Waterways budget for this activity. All work Parks staff have carried out in the past in relation to Protected tree surveys has been funded by the (then) Environmental Policy and Planning Unit.

Trees are added to the register of protected trees in the proposed City Plan by way of carrying out a 'variation' to the Plan. Although lists of trees suitable for protection have been compiled it may be some time before they can actually be protected as the Environment Committee have decided against proceeding with any more variations until such time as all outstanding submissions/appeals have been dealt with and the proposed City Plan becomes operative.

The person engaged to conduct the tree surveys, John Thornton, has recently been given full time employment by Jane Donaldson, Manager of the Environmental Services Unit. Jane has advised that she wishes to use John to complete an inventory, including accurate positional information of all the trees protected by the Council. This is to ensure that accurate and full information concerning protected trees is readily available to the public. This work is expected to take some time to complete. Jane has also indicated she would like to review the whole process for protecting trees to see if there is a more effective and economical way of achieving this.

As systematic tree surveys take a good deal of time to complete, it is advantageous to conduct them in advance so they are ready for the variation process as soon as the Plan becomes operative. If a decision is made to continue with the survey this year, funding would be required for the operation. The Board may wish to consider contributing towards the cost of a tree survey in their area if the opportunity arises.

Recommendation: That the Board contribute towards the cost of a tree survey in its area if the opportunity arises.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the Board in principle support a tree survey subject to an estimate of costs.