

7. CATHEDRAL SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) Seek Council approval to proceed with the replacement of existing trees and the planting of some new trees; and
- (b) Advise the Council that further investigation is required regarding the replacement/repair of pavers at the southern, eastern and western entrances to the Square.

INTRODUCTION

The Council at its meeting held on 24 May 2001 resolved:

1. *"That the Council authorise preparation of the Concept Design Report and further that Ian Athfield and James Lunday be engaged to prepare the Concept Design Report from already allocated budgets.*
2. *That the repair/replacement of pavers at the northern, eastern and southern entrances to the Square, and the selection and planting of additional trees proceed and that the Senior Professional Project Management prepare a report to the June 2001 Council meeting (through the Projects and Property Committee) addressing technical, planning, cost, funding and timing issues."*

REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF PAVERS

A number of meetings have been held with appropriate consultants to address planning, technical and cost aspects relating to the repair/replacement of pavers at the northern, eastern and southern entrances to Cathedral Square.

The consultant team recommends broadening the choice of paving systems and assessing the suitability of a range of alternative materials. To assess the suitability of the preferred material, it will be necessary to undertake a full range of tests.

Following selection of the preferred system and material it may be prudent to conduct a field trial to assess the accumulative effect of dust, dirt and oil on skid resistance once the chosen product has been in service for some time.

It is recommended that alternative paving systems and materials be investigated including the laying of a trial area.

It is further recommended that a specialist paving contractor/supplier be invited to join the investigation/design team.

A budget of \$7,500 is required to undertake the above work. This excludes the installation of a trial area.

TREES (refer attachment)

(a) Trees Outside Cathedral Square

Trees that are planted outside of Cathedral Square do not require a resource consent.

It is proposed to remove the remaining two pin oaks between Gloucester Street and Cathedral Square and plant six larger specimens of pin oaks. Pin oaks up to 6 metres in height and with 150mm diameter trunks are now available and could be planted over the next couple of months (July/August). The larger specimens will have a significant impact on the surrounding streetscape.

To help improve the vigour and health of the trees, it is proposed to install large, cast iron gratings. Irrigation is already in place to the existing four tree positions but requires extension to cover additional trees at the northern entrance. The estimated cost of this work is \$39,000.

(b) **Planters Near Godley Statue**

It is recommended that the bark be removed from the two tree planters west of the Godley Statue and be replaced with grass to match the two planters east of the statue. The cost of this work is considered to be maintenance.

(c) **Trees Within Cathedral Square**

The planting of trees within Cathedral Square requires a resource consent as the whole of the Square is listed in the proposed City Plan as a Group 1 heritage place.

As part of developing the concept plan for Cathedral Square, the consultant team will consider applying at the earliest possible date for a resource consent for the planting of the additional trees.

BOLLARDS

Preliminary estimates have been received for the new bollards proposed by Athfield Architects Ltd including establishment costs for bollard casting. It is proposed to set up a small budget to prepare two mock-ups, evaluate and report findings prior to implementing a replacement programme.

The average cost of a cast iron bollard is approximately \$2,500.

BUDGET

The proposed budget for the "expedited" work items is:

Pavement investigation	\$7,500
Trees: remove two existing trees, enlarge four existing tree pits, construct two additional tree pits, plant six large trees, extend irrigation into two additional tree pits and install six large gratings incl fees	\$39,000
Mock-ups of bollards	\$4,500
Total excl GST	<u><u>\$51,000</u></u>

FUNDING

The draft Financial Plan and Programme 2002 edition includes a provision of \$1,500,000 in 2001/02 for Stage V of the Square. There will also be some carry-forward from the current year's budget from the item 'Cathedral Square Stage V – Traffic measures'. There are thus adequate funds for these proposed works.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council agree to undertake further investigation of alternative paving systems for the repair/maintenance of pavers at the northern, eastern and southern entrances to Cathedral Square.
 2. That the Council approve the planting of six new trees in Colombo Street (between Gloucester Street and Cathedral Square).
 3. That the Council agree to have two mock-ups made of the proposed bollards.
 4. That the Council approve a budget of \$51,000 to undertake the work outlined in recommendations 1–3 above.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.