

**21. LINWOOD GLOUCESTER INTERSECTION  
PROPOSED RELOCATION OF TREES**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval to relocate six trees from the Linwood/Gloucester roundabout and adjacent median island east of the intersection. The only machine capable of doing this work is located in the North Island, it will however be in Christchurch for a week during late June. Sites suitable for relocating the trees will be identified in the Board's area.

**BACKGROUND**

The installation of traffic signals at the Linwood/Gloucester intersection has been identified as a network improvement capital works in the 2002/03 budget. A full report detailing the Board's next Works and Traffic Committee meeting.

For the project to achieve the preferred technical solution, six trees will be affected. These trees which have a maximum truck diameter of around 100 mm were planted in the late 1980s. Walter Fielding-Cotterell will be in attendance at the meeting to provide advice on the trees.

Three main options to address community concerns regarding the trees are suggested for consideration by the Board;

- a. Await the outcome of the "seeking the community views" on the traffic signal project before a decision on the trees is made. If the preferred technical option is adopted by the Council the trees will need to be cut down to allow the work to proceed. If approved by the Council It is likely that construction work would proceed during the Christmas holiday period to minimise disruption to traffic.
- b. Await a decision on "seeking the community views" on the Traffic signal project before proceeding. Should the community support the signal project construction could be deferred until after the trees are relocated. This is likely to require deferral of the project to the 2003/04 budget year. This may create a problem in the Council programme as a number of large projects are planned to commence during this period.
- c. Relocate the trees from the Gloucester/Linwood intersection to suitable sites within the Board's area while the machine capable of doing the task is available. This option requires the Board to agree to the tree relocation prior to the next Board meeting. A report on the Traffic Signal proposal is able to be prepared in time for a meeting of the Works and Traffic Committee. The meeting would be able to consider the issues associated with "seeking the community views" on the Traffic Signal project and identify the best time to the address trees planted at the intersection.

**CONCLUSION**

The 2002/03 budget identifies funding for the installation of traffic signals at the Linwood/Gloucester intersection. The preferred technical solution is expected to require the removal of up to six trees. A machine able to relocate the trees is available to do the work in late June. A report on the proposed Traffic Signals can be prepared for the Board's Works and Traffic Committee. This committee will then need to identify the best option regarding the trees

A decision on the trees will need to be made within the next 3 weeks. Deferring relocation of the trees beyond this time will result in the trees being cut down or the project being deferred at least 12 months.

- Recommendation:**
- 1. That this matter be referred to the Board's Works and Traffic Committee and that the Committee also receive a report on the Traffic Signal proposal for Linwood Avenue/Gloucester Street and the relocation of up to six trees, at the same time so that the issues can be considered together.
  - 2. That the Works and Traffic Committee have power to act on this occasion.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the recommendations be adopted.