



PROPOSED  
**KAIPARA**  
DISTRICT PLAN

## DISTRICT-WIDE MATTERS

# Notable Trees

## General Overview

**We are reviewing and updating our current District Plan – looking ahead to the next 10 to 15 years. The Kaipara District Plan is essentially the ‘rule book’, which is applied to manage development, activities and the environment within the district.**

The District Plan influences the future shape and feel of our district, which is why it's important for Kaipara communities to be informed and get involved. Its purpose is to protect our environment, historic locations and cultural tāonga for future generations, through sustainable management of our resources, while supporting our communities to develop and grow.

We're seeking input on the Proposed District Plan from Monday 28 April to Monday 30 June 2025.

## How much is changing?



NOT  
MUCH

A LOT

## Trees play an important ecological, environmental, and cultural role within our district.

Notable trees have been identified as prominent natural features and landmarks that add character and identity to different areas of the district, are rare species or spectacular specimens or are associated with special sites. Notable trees are identified to save them from harm or destruction resulting from development or activities. They may be located on public land (such as the road reserve or within parks) or on private property.

One of the district's notable trees (the Moreton Bay Fig tree at Pahi Domain) is subject to a Heritage Order.

We have adopted the New Zealand Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM)<sup>TM</sup> to assess all trees on an equal basis and against objective criteria. Trees are assigned points on three major aspects of tree character; condition evaluation; amenity evaluation; and notable evaluation. A tree must meet or exceed a threshold of 180 points to be considered notable. Thirteen trees which have a score of 180 points or above are proposed for scheduling.

## What are we proposing?

Provisions in the Proposed District Plan are clear and show a desire by Kaipara District Council to protect the notable trees within the district. New policies and rules provide flexible guidelines for maintaining the trees.

Notable trees must be maintained within strict parameters, so the tree remains healthy and worthy of protection. The rules provide for this to occur. Rules restrict the work that can occur within the root protection zone of the tree to

ensure the tree is not unduly compromised while work is being carried out, for example during landscaping or installation of infrastructure. A tree should only be removed when it is a danger to the public or has reached the end of its natural life.

The following activities would normally be permitted:

- Maintenance and pruning
- Earthworks within guidelines
- Work located close to power lines
- Removing an unsafe notable tree under specific criteria.

The following may need a resource consent:

- Buildings or structures within the root protection zone
- Removing a notable tree
- Subdividing where land contains a notable tree.

### How much is changing?

Notable Trees were protected in the Operative District Plan, and these were reassessed under the STEM criteria with ten of these reaching the 180 points threshold. These were rolled over for protection in the Proposed District Plan along with three newly identified trees. Four of the

scheduled trees are on private land with the remaining nine on public land. There is more emphasis on the activities that can occur around a Notable Tree with a practical approach to how these activities can affect a Notable Tree. These new provisions are ensuring the protected trees continue to provide for public amenity of the district.

# Notable Trees Key FAQs

### Can I still nominate trees?

Yes, you can. You can nominate trees during this submission process.

### Can I object to the notable tree rules?

Yes, and you can lodge a submission detailing your concerns.

### Can trees on private land be protected?

Yes, they can. Landowners with exceptional trees on their properties can nominate them for assessment to see if they meet the threshold for scheduling. This would help protect them for future generations.

### Who covers the cost of maintenance?

The landowner does. There is currently no fund within Council to cover the cost of regular tree inspection or maintenance.

### Can exotic trees qualify for protection?

Yes - Trees can be either native or exotic. We would welcome the opportunity to have good examples of native trees protected.

## Summary

- Trees play an important ecological, environmental, and cultural role and it is important to protect the district's most significant trees from activities and development.
- Provisions have been updated to include best practice methods.
- Rules guide which activities are permitted and which require resource consent.



**We'd love to hear  
your views:**

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