



# Notable Trees

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 our initial draft ahead of the statutory process, scheduled to commence in mid-2023. This Draft District Plan does not have any ‘legal weight’ and the Operative District Plan must continue to be relied upon.

## 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. They are rare species or spectacular specimens, associated with special sites or commemorate key events in the district’s history and/or have special historical or cultural values.

Notable trees and groups of 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) 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 130 points to be considered notable.



## What are we proposing?

Provisions in the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013 are out of date and do not provide enough direction for anyone that has a notable tree on their property. Provisions in the Draft District Plan are clearer and show a strong desire by Kaipara District Council to protect the notable trees within the district.

New policies and rules provide flexible guidelines for maintaining heritage 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 area 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:

- Building or structure in notable tree area
- Removing a notable tree
- Subdividing where land contains a notable tree.

The Notable Tree schedule in the Operative Kaipara District Plan 2013 has been reviewed and reassessed. All trees retained their heritage score levels and have been rolled over into the Draft District Plan.

We are hoping the public will nominate further trees for investigation through the Draft District Plan consultation, which could lead to more notable trees being added to the District Plan.

## How much is changing?



NOT MUCH

A LOT



### Can I still nominate trees?

Yes, you can. Send your nominations to [districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz](mailto:districtplanreview@kaipara.govt.nz)

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

Please provide feedback on the draft plan and advise us of 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. Many of the trees on the current and proposed schedule are exotic. We would welcome the opportunity to have many more native trees protected.

### Are views from a private property considered when scheduling trees?

Views from private property are not protected under the RMA and rules do not provide for trees to be removed because the tree is impacting on a person's view.



## 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.
- To date, no new trees have been added to the Notable Tree schedule. The community is invited to nominate significant trees for consideration.
- We'd love to hear your views