



Ref: s.7(2)(a) -  
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Civic House, 110 Trafalgar Street  
PO Box 645, Nelson 7040, New Zealand

25 May 2021

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nelson.govt.nz

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Dear s.7(2)  
( )

**OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST RELATING TO THE TWO TREES THAT HAVE BEEN PLANTED ON THE ALTON STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT GRASS MEDIAN.**

I refer to your official information request dated 10 May 2021 and follow up on 11 May 2021 for the information regarding the *Two trees have been planted on the Alton St Heritage Precinct grass median. That land is tapu, blessed by Kaumatua Andy Joseph. The iwi has not been consulted? The heritage precinct has not been consulted; the residents 29 Alton St don't want them. Depending on what type of trees they are may be able to be moved outside 33 -37 Alton St.*

(and follow up on 11 May 2021)

*I have spoken with the residents of Alton Street Heritage Precinct and none of them are happy with any more trees being planted on the Dun Mountain Railway site. The sleepers denote a railway. We have all had past problems with trees blocking our drains as the drains cross Alton St to the main drain running along under the footpath by the school. We have in the past asked for the scruffy looking tree outside number 29 to be removed as well. We can't understand why someone has returned today to install stakes. Please remove stakes and new trees. Central School might like them.*

The information you requested is enclosed.

Councils' Parks team has a progressive tree planting programme focusing on both replacement planting and enhancement planting within Nelson City streets. The current trees within the road berm in upper Alton Street are in decline; the newly planted trees will grow to eventually take their place, maintaining and enhancing the urban landscape amenity. The trees are *Pyrus calleryana* 'Candelabra' (Ornamental Pear) - a small growing pyramidal shaped tree considered suitable for this site.

Council recognises the importance of the Heritage Precinct of Alton Street. The Heritage Precinct design guide relates to the building on the eastern side of the street and acknowledges the "*attractive landscaped median strip down the centre of the street*", however this does not extend to preventing tree planting within the grass median.

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Iwi consultation is not a requirement for tree planting and is not identified by iwi as a significant project for engagement, Therefore, no iwi consultation occurred for the two trees planted in the grass median of Alton Street.

In 2020, as part of the development of the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031 iwi representatives were consulted on each of the Activity Management Plans. This included the Parks and Reserves Activity Management Plan where Council received iwi feedback and recommendations. We will continue to engage with iwi on Strategic Plans.

While we do acknowledge your comment that the residents on the street are not in support of the two new trees, Council needs to consider the wider community, climate change adaptation methods, and the amenity value that trees provide.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [rosie.bartlett@ncc.govt.nz](mailto:rosie.bartlett@ncc.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rosie Bartlett', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and 'B'.

**Rosie Bartlett**  
Manager Parks and Facilities