

LGOIMA

When releasing responses to previous LGOIMA requests, names of individual requestors may be withheld to protect their privacy.

Information requested by the media, from public sector organisations and MPs will always be published while information specific to an individual or their property will not generally be published.

**Request
from:**

For: Notable Trees protected by District Plan

**Response
by:**

Mike Scott
Planning Advisor

Venus Sood

From: Mike Scott
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2019 11:27 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Your LGOIMA request re: Notable Trees to Nelson City Council

Hi [REDACTED]

Your request has come through to me, as the Planning Adviser responsible for notable trees. I've copied your questions below, along with the answers:

1) Does NCC protect trees in its District Plan using Section 76 of the RMA?

Yes we do protect Notable Trees in the plan.

2) What term does NCC use to describe trees protected within the District Plan?

We currently have four categories: Heritage trees, Landscape trees, Local trees and woodlands. We are undergoing a complete plan review at the moment and we will probably drop the "Local trees" category and rename the woodlands as "Notable groups of trees"

3) What evaluation process or method does Council use to determine whether trees are of sufficient importance to be protected within the D Plan?

STEM

4) If NCC uses the Standard Tree Evaluation Methodology (STEM), does it differ at all from the original 1996 mode and if so how?

STEM score contains the same criteria and uses the same scoring system as in 1996.

5) If NCC uses STEM what is the threshold STEM score used to determine whether a tree should be protected.

100

6) If NCC uses another method or process to protect trees what is the threshold score for inclusion and/or any other requirement?

NCC offers free regular tree health assessment and pruning to notable tree owners.

7) Is a landowner's consent required to protect a trees under any circumstances?

Generally if a tree is recommended as a Landscape tree (the lower category) and the landowner opposes listing, we will not pursue it. If it is assessed as a Heritage tree, we will.

8) Under which provisions of the District Plan are trees protected, Heritage, General, or something else?

Currently heritage, but in the plan review we are moving more towards objectives and policies that value them for their aesthetic, scientific and arboricultural values, as their values are based on their contribution to urban amenity, rather than any heritage values (although an heritage values would increase the STEM score).

9) Are District Plan protected trees categorised within a list, if so what terms are used and how?

Yes. Heritage trees are those with a STEM score of 128+ or 100+ and noted as regionally significant for any of the Notable Evaluation criteria. Landscape trees are those with a STEM score of 100-127.

10) What year did the protected trees provisions of your District Plan become operative?

Originally in about 1996. They have since been reviewed. The most recent Heritage Trees plan change was made operative on 12 March 2012.

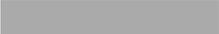
11) Contact details of the officer

Mike Scott, Mike.Scott@ncc.govt.nz 03 5460281

I hope that answers your questions. Feel free to contact me if you require anything else.

Kind regards
Mike

Mike Scott
Planning Adviser
Kaitohutohu Mahere

Nelson City Council | Te Kaunihera o Whakatū
P 03 546 0281 | 
nelson.govt.nz

Venus Sood

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 2 December 2019 9:14 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Official Information Act Request - Trees protected by District Plan

Dear Sir/Madam

Under the Official Information Act I request the information outlined in the questions below. Please send this information to me by email within 20 working days. I anticipate that Council should not need to charge to supply this information as it should be readily accessible, but if there is a charge please let me know before sending the information.

I am happy to answer any queries or discuss the information requested.

Ngā mihi



Arboricultural Association Member

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Certified



Professional Indemnity Insurance
underwritten by Lloyd's

Please supply the information requested by answering the following questions:

- 1) Does your Council protect trees in its District Plan using Section 76 of the Resource Management Act?
- 2) What term does Council use to describe trees protected within the District Plan? Councils use terms such as Notable, Heritage and Significant.
- 3) What evaluation process or method does Council use to determine whether trees are of sufficient importance to be protected within the District Plan?
- 4) If your Council uses the Standard Tree Evaluation Methodology (STEM), does it differ at all from the original 1996 mode and if so how?
- 5) If your Council uses STEM what is the threshold STEM score used to determine whether a tree should be protected in the District Plan? If your Council has no record of the STEM threshold last used, please supply the lowest STEM score for a District Plan protected tree.
- 6) If your Council uses another method or process to protect trees what is the threshold score for inclusion and/or any other requirement?
- 7) Is a landowner's consent required to protect a trees under any circumstances? If yes, please explain?
- 8) Under which provisions of the District Plan are trees protected, Heritage, General, or something else?

9) Are District Plan protected trees categorised within a list, if so what terms are used and how?

10) What year did the protected trees provisions of your District Plan become operative?

13) Please supply the position title, name and contact details for the person who deals with protected tree issues at Council?