

Policy:	Street Trees
Department:	Assets
Approved by:	Policy and Services Committee
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## 1. Purpose

To provide guidelines on how Council will manage and maintain street trees in order to enhance the streetscape within the Stratford urban area.

Street trees are those located within the grass verge or berm along streets or, occasionally, within the footpath or road carriageway. They have been planted with the intention of providing amenity value to the neighbourhood and can have both positive and negative impacts. Council needs to manage street trees to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects while maximising their amenity value.

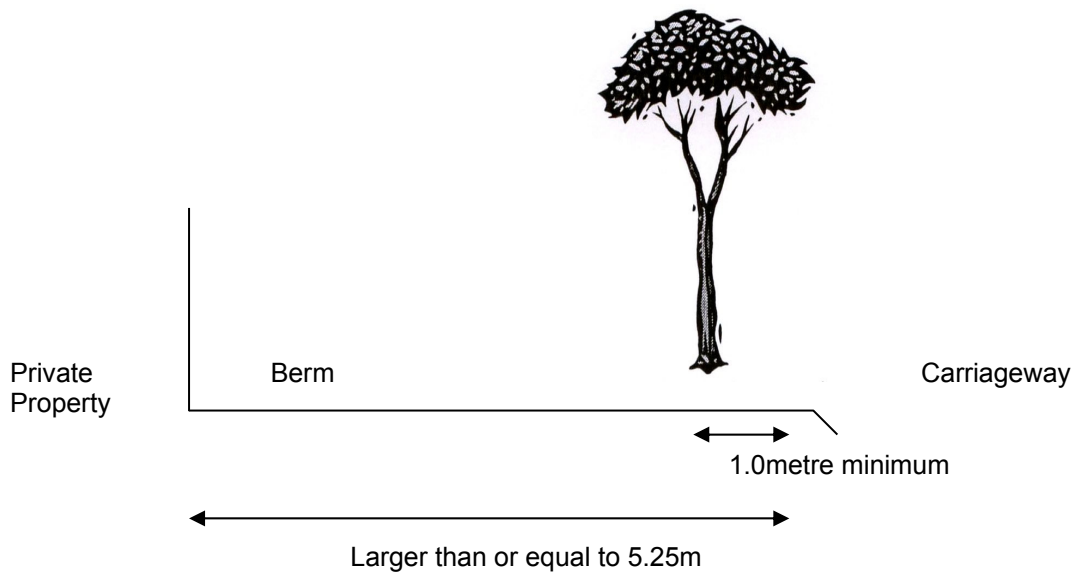
## 2. Planting new trees

Stratford District Council supports the planting of trees in streets in order to improve the aesthetics and the ecological health and sustainability of the urban built environment and retains the sole right to carry out such planting. Adjoining private property owners must not carry out any planting within the street corridor, however any request for Council to carry out such planting will be considered on a case by case basis provided it meets the approved criteria herein.

When assessing the feasibility of planting new or replacement trees in street berms or anywhere within street corridors, the following shall apply:

- 2.1 Trees shall not be planted in any location where there is a possibility of their encroaching into overhead utility services or impeding access to such services for maintenance purposes. Generally speaking, this would mean that trees will not be planted on the same side of a street where such services exist.
- 2.2 Trees shall not be planted in any location where there is a possibility of their roots causing damage to footpaths, kerb and channel or underground utility services.
- 2.3 Trees shall not be planted in such a location whereby the safety or convenience of pedestrians is likely to be compromised, visibility for vehicle drivers at intersections or vehicle crossings is likely to be impeded, any kerb overhang of branches will affect vehicle movements (particularly rubbish collection or other service trucks) or future road improvements are likely to be compromised.
- 2.4 The consent of both the Roading Asset Manager and the Services Asset Manager shall be obtained before any street tree planting takes place.
- 2.5 Owners of property immediately adjacent to any proposed street tree planting sites will be consulted as part of the planning process.
- 2.6 Only trees listed in the Stratford District Council Street Trees List of Approved Species (refer Appendix 1) will be used in any street tree planting program.

The diagram below provides guidelines for the location of trees to be planted within a street berm, subject to the above conditions.



Trees should not be planted closer than:

- 1 metre to underground services
- 6 metres to a light standard
- 3 metres to a private entrance crossing
- 15 metres from a street intersection

### 3. Management and maintenance of street trees

Street trees will be maintained to ensure their continued health and pruning only conducted to remove dead or broken branches, basal growth or branches obstructing vehicle or pedestrian traffic or to retain or improve the form of the tree. Pruning shall only be carried out under the direction of a qualified arborist.

Any maintenance work on those trees that are listed in Appendix 5: Notable Trees Identified for Protection in the Stratford District Plan, must be assessed against the requirements of the District Plan prior to work being carried out. Unless the work is such that it is required for the health of the tree, and does not affect its form, or the work is required for the immediate restoration of power or telecommunications, then a resource consent will be required before the work is carried out.

### 4. Removal of trees

Individual trees will be removed if they are unhealthy, pose a hazard to safety, have been previously planted in such a location that their branches are continually encroaching into overhead power or telecommunication lines or their roots are damaging footpaths, kerb and channel or underground services or they cannot be successfully pruned so as to mitigate any vehicle or pedestrian obstruction.

Any significant, multiple tree removal program will require consultation with residents of the subject street and any other identified affected parties and approval by resolution of Council prior to implementation.

In order to maintain street amenity, where any unhealthy tree is removed it will be replaced provided its condition was not due to any adverse environment in which it was growing and the criteria under Section 1 above are met.

## 5. Appendices

### Stratford District Council Street Trees

#### List of Approved Species

For a consistent pattern of planting the species of street trees regarded as suitable for the Stratford environment as listed below will be considered:

#### **Small:**

##### Native:

1. *Pseudopanax lessonii* – Houpara coastal five finger, evergreen (3 meters).
2. *Pseudopanax ferox* – Horoeka, toothed lancewood, evergreen (3 meters).
3. *Lophomyrtus bullata* – Ramarama, evergreen (4 meters).
4. *Myrsine australis* – Mapou, red matipo, evergreen (4 meters).
5. *Toronia toru* – Toru, evergreen (4 meters).

##### Exotic

1. *Pyrus calleryana* “aristocrat” –Ornamental pear, deciduous (5 meters).
2. *Camellia japonica* - camellia, evergreen (3.5 meters).
3. *Camellia sasanqua* – camellia, evergreen (3 meters).
4. *Olea europaea* – olive, evergreen (4 meters).
5. *Prunus campanulata* – Taiwan cherry, deciduous (4 meters).

#### **Medium:**

##### Native:

1. *Sophora microphylla* – Kowhai, evergreen (5 meters).
2. *Sophora tetraptera* – large leaved Kowhai, evergreen (5 meters).
3. *Metrosideros excelsa* “Maori princess” - Pohutukawa, evergreen (7 meters).
4. *Hoheria populnea* – Houhere, lacebark, evergreen (5 meters).
5. *Pittosporum colensoi* – Rautawhiri, evergreen (5 meters).

##### Exotic

1. *Acer Palmatum* – Japanese maple, deciduous (5 meters).
2. *Michelia doltsopa* - sweet michelia, evergreen (6 meters).
3. *Betula pendula* – silver birch, deciduous (8 meters).
4. *Magnolia grandiflora* - southern magnolia, evergreen (7 meters).
5. *Magnolia* hybrids, deciduous (5-7meters).

#### **Large:**

##### Native

1. *Knightia excelsa* – Rewarewa, New Zealand honeysuckle, evergreen (10 meters).
2. *Vitex lucens* – Puriri, evergreen (10 meters).
3. *Podocarpus totara* “aurea – Golden Totara, evergreen (10 meters).
4. *Libocedrus plumosa* – Kawaka, evergreen (10 meters).
5. *Alectryon excelsus* – Titoki, evergreen (10 meters).

##### Exotic:

1. *Fagus sylvatica* – beech, deciduous (10 meters).
2. *Ginkgo biloba* – Maidenhair tree, deciduous (10 meters).
3. *Quercus rubra* – northern red oak, deciduous (10 meters).
4. *Acer platanoides*, Norway maple, deciduous (10 meters).
5. *Platanus acerifolia* – London plane, deciduous (15 meters).

*Disclaimer: Stratford District Council considers this a guideline to be used when considering planting new street trees. Stratford District Council reserves the right to add or change the above list from time to time as it sees fit.*