

Addendum to Plan Change 48 Hearings Report: Additional tree proposed for protection



Existing Tree Number: (None)

Proposed Tree Number: 96

Background

The hearing for Plan Change 48 (Protected Trees) will be held on Wednesday 4th May 2016. In advance of the hearing, the hearings report and associated material has been sent to submitters, the elected members and uploaded to the Council website. Additional information has since been presented to Council, consequently an addendum to the hearings report is necessary.

Purpose

The addendum relates to the proposed inclusion of an additional tree in Schedule 3 of the District Plan due to further information being supplied about the tree.

Reasons for inclusion

The tree in question, an English Oak located at Te Aroha Domain, was assessed by Arbor Care in April 2016 and received a Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) score of 129. The STEM assessment was carried out in response to a further submission (8) which stated that the tree had particular historical significance to the district. However, at the time of assessment, evidence from the submitter on the notability of the tree had not been provided.

As a result of further information since supplied by the submitter, the Oak in question has had its STEM assessment score recalculated by Arbor Care. Due to an increased score in the Notability Evaluation section for "Association", the tree now has a STEM score of 144 and is thus eligible to be included in Schedule 3 as a protected tree.

The submitter's additional information confirms that the Oak tree is associated with the former Governor of New Zealand, Lord Onslow. This is supported by evidence from the New Zealand Herald, dated 18 March 1891, which provides details of Lord Onslow planting the tree.

It is considered that the new information supplied is within the scope of Submission 8 and Further Submission 8 as the submitter requests Council make formal recognition of highly significant trees in Submission 8, and requests the formal recognition of the Onslow Oak in the Te Aroha Domain in Further Submission 8. The submitter states in the Further Submission that they will provide "further detail later".

Council's Community Facilities Planner, Mark Naude, has confirmed that there is no objection from Council to protecting the tree on Council property and a letter of support has been received confirming that the Assets, Strategy and Policy team is comfortable with the inclusion of the tree in Schedule 3. As the tree is located on Council owned property at the Te Aroha Domain, it is also afforded an additional level of protection through the Reserves Act 1977.

Recommendation

Based on the above information which has been supplied by the submitter, Council staff recommend that this tree is included in Schedule 3 of the District Plan as protected tree #96.