



GREAT LAKE TAUPŌ
Taupō District Council

Draft Tree and Vegetation Policy

Fences, Reserves and Dogs Committee

Report on Submissions

17 June 2014



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REPORT OVERVIEW

This report by the Fences, Reserves, and Dogs (FRED) Committee considers the 20 submissions on the draft Tree and Vegetation policy. The report will accompany the Committee's recommendation to Council, seeking adoption of the Tree and Vegetation Policy.

Draft Tree and Vegetation Policy Structure

The draft Tree and Vegetation policy is an operational policy to assist Council in managing trees and vegetation on council land. While the policy is operational in nature, it is noted that policy documents are high level and provide guiding principles for decision making. A policy document is distinct to an operating procedure - which generally provides more detailed and step-by-step advice.

The draft Tree and Vegetation policy is structured with an overarching purpose and four objectives. Within each objective is a set of policies and references that seek to achieve each objective. Each objective and policy is accompanied by explanatory text to assist in the understanding of its parent objective or policy.

The explanatory text is most effective when it includes information that is relevant to its parent provision. Explanatory text that contains information relating to other policies, or introduces additional policy direction can lead to ambiguity and confusion of the objective or policy. For these reasons any amendments to the explanatory text as a result of submissions remain aligned with its parent objective or policy.

Submissions

Of the 20 submissions received, no submitters are seeking change to the purpose or the four objectives. Of the 27 policies in the document, submitters are seeking amendments to five of the policies, and seeking three new policies. In this regard, the draft purpose, four objectives, and 22 of the policies are largely accepted and supported. The remaining submission points seek amendments to the explanatory text of each objective and policy.

In summary, the main themes raised in submissions are:

- Trees and views
- Replacement of trees that are removed and funding for replacement
- Erosion and foreshore protection planting
- Tree removal - concerns for policies and procedures not being followed
- Inclusion of a glossary
- Tree species list
- Service requests

Structure of this Report

This report considers each submission point as it relates to the relevant sections of the draft Tree and Vegetation Policy. Each section lists;

- the relevant policy provision,
- the number of submissions received,
- summary of the submission points and relief sought, and
- FRED Committee recommendation on whether or not to amend the policy text.

Recommended amendments to the policy text are shown in *italics* using 'track changes' (new text is shown using 'underline' and deleted text is shown using ~~'strikethrough'~~). This report is also accompanied by a 'track changes' version of the policy showing the FRED Committee recommended changes.

GENERAL SUBMISSION COMMENTS

10 submitters made general comments;
(3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20)

Submission Summary

Ten submitters expressed overall support for the draft policy, and the user friendly structure and reduced bulk of the document.

Overall support noted.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Make no changes as a result of these submissions.

INTRODUCTION

3 submitters commented;
(7, 16, 17)

Submission Summary

Specific submission points are:

- The benefit of trees to wildlife (birds) is noted, agree with council support for community groups e.g. Greening Taupo in helping restore appropriate trees and vegetation on council land.
- Add a note on trees as an essential component of ecological processes, and remove reference to providing shade. Suggested grammatical changes.
- Have more regard to the overall landscape, and reserves that aren't in an urban or suburban setting.

Use of the Word 'Shade'

The word 'shade' is considered appropriate. Trees provide shade to popular open spaces where people gather, i.e. beaches and parks.

Ecological Processes

The suggested grammatical changes help to clarify the intent and purpose of the Tree and Vegetation Policy. In response to trees being an essential component of ecological processes, the words 'are part of' are recommended to be added, as not all ecological processes are tree related.

Reserves Non-Urban

The draft tree and vegetation policy is largely aimed at the urban setting however its policies are district wide. Some nature reserves impact on landscape vistas from private property, however the reserve status or relevant protection status must be considered. For example, if the reserve in question is identified as a Significant Natural Area in the Taupo District Plan, there is a process through the District Plan to decide on how the vegetation is to be managed (reference to this is made

in the draft Tree and Vegetation policy 2.11 Protected Trees and Vegetation). In this instance, such provisions take precedence over the draft Tree and Vegetation policy. No change to the introduction as a result of this submission point.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend introductory text as follows as a result of the submission.

Trees are a real asset to the Taupō district providing landscape amenity, shade, [habitat for fauna](#), timber, and purification of the air. They have a significant positive impact on the environment through the enhancement and softening of the urban buildings, providing shade, seasonal colour and amenity. Trees ~~also contribute positively to the environment;~~ [they by aiding](#) climatic control, and [are part of ecological processes](#). ~~providing for bird life.~~

Despite all their positive attributes, trees can also cause nuisance and damage and at times [lead to considerable](#) disharmonies between neighbours, residents and council. Trees ~~occasionally may can create divided community~~ opinion [and disagreement](#). ~~between owners and those affected by the impact resulting in conflict and~~ [On occasion such disagreement can result in](#) unauthorised pruning and removal.

OBJECTIVE 1 – PROVISION OF TREES AND VEGETATION EXPLANATION

4 submitters commented;

(7, 13, 16, 20)

Submission Summary

Four submitters are seeking change to the explanatory text. Three submitters support the objective addressing erosion and are seeking an accompanying policy.

Specific submission points are:

- Insert “wildlife” or alternatively “birds”_into first sentence after the word amenity, and note in the third paragraph; “council support for community groups like Greening Taupo in planting on council land where appropriate.”
- Insert “*exotic trees and shrubs which flower in winter can be selected to provide valuable food sources for native birds, to supplement native vegetation*” into paragraph 2.
- Insert a note on certain types of reserves gazetted under the Reserves Act where indigenous vegetation is to be retained, maintained and enhanced, and a new policy on Wetland and Geothermal Vegetation.

Wildlife and Flowering Trees

The suggested amendments on wildlife and flowering trees help to clarify the intent of the objective. Addition of note that council supports community groups in planting on council land is accepted; however the Committee’s preference is for specific groups not be stated in the objective explanation text, as there are many groups that the council supports. Reference in the policy to specific groups is considered appropriate where the policy specifically address council’s partners (i.e. policy 2.10).

Wetland, Geothermal, Reserve Status

The submission on a new policy to deal with wetland and geothermal vegetation is provided for in policy 2.11 Protected Trees and Vegetation – these areas are identified as Significant Natural Areas in the Taupo District Plan and are subject to provisions in the Waikato Regional plan. The policies and provisions relating to those areas take precedence over the Tree and Vegetation Policy. Specific reference to wetland and geothermal vegetation is suggested in the explanation to policy 2.11 – protected trees and vegetation. Similarly reference to indigenous vegetation to be retained and maintained in accordance with reserve status is dealt with in the Reserves Act section under objective 4. No changes to this section as a result of the submission.

Erosion Control

The request to add a policy on erosion control is recommended and discussed under “Erosion” in this report and under Policy 1.4 Planting Considerations and Species Selection.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanation text as follows:

Objective 1 provides the overview that council aims to provide trees and vegetation to maintain and enhance amenity, wildlife, and character in the district. The objective also seeks to ensure that planting of trees considers site suitability, budget commitments and effects on neighbouring properties. Streets, parks, gullies, and esplanades/foreshore areas are some of the key public spaces that provide opportunities for trees and vegetation. These areas tend to be multiple purpose areas; plantings must be appropriate for the location.

*With its colder climate the Taupō district lends itself well to a deciduous tree character providing colourful autumn displays. This provides an attractive contrast to indigenous vegetation areas particularly around the lake, **and along** river edges and on the mountain ranges. Native tree and vegetation plantings are **particularly also** common in the district’s town centres. Exotic trees and vegetation which flower in winter can be selected to provide valuable food sources for native birds, to supplement native vegetation*

Trees also have a role in maintaining and enhancing the environment, and the Council supports community groups in planting on council land where appropriate. Foreshore and erosion work is undertaken by Taupō District Council and Waikato Regional Council. Trees and vegetation have a key role to play in erosion protection ~~to~~ of both the foreshore of Lake Taupō and gullies that convey flowing and ephemeral water drainage, as well as enhance amenity and provides recreation corridors.

POLICY 1.1 – APPROPRIATE TREES AND VEGETATION

2 submitters commented;

(1, 12)

Submission Summary

- Keep street trees to a height no higher than adjacent houses.
- The focus of the policy is for planting within the CBD, there needs to be more action with the outer reaches of town.

Street Tree Height

Submissions to the draft Tree and Vegetation Policy support policy 2.3 on ‘no topping’, ‘no pruning for views’ and ‘grow true to form’, and the Committee’s preference is to retain this policy. An additional policy to keep street trees to a height of no higher than adjacent houses would be in contradiction and

is not recommended, as limiting tree species selection to those that only grow to a height of adjacent houses will limit the amenity value that is generally supported by submitters to the draft Tree and Vegetation Policy (see General Comments).

CBD Planting and Outer Reaches of Town

Policy 1.1 is worded at a district wide level and does not only relate to CBD planting. The submission outlines areas of the district's trees that require attention. These matters are discussed under Service Requests in this report and the Committee recommendation is to forward the requests to the appropriate staff members.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change to this policy as a result of these submissions.

The Committee recommends a change to the explanation text, second paragraph, last line, change the word '~~often~~' to 'can'

POLICY 1.2 – MAINTAIN CURRENT PLANTING LEVELS

3 submitters commented;

(8, 11 16)

Submission Summary

- Include a time line when council will replace trees being removed, in order to maintain current planting levels. The time line should include new planting of trees before the existing trees are removed to enable new stock to be established.
- Policy 1.8 Tree Replacement 'subject to funding' is at odds with policy 1.2.
- Add the words; current tree stock be "*determined through the Reserve Management Plans and other Asset Management Plans*".

Replacement Tree Timeline

An ongoing replacement timeline is not always possible in practice, as tree removal will depend on a number of factors outside of council's knowledge. For instance, unpredictable severe weather patterns that may irreversibly damage or fell trees, along with unforeseen disease, accidental damage, or vandalism. It is not always possible to know which trees will be removed or when.

Similarly it is not always possible to replace trees before they are removed, for instance removal of a large tree may damage the newly planted one when being felled. Council will replace trees prior to removal where possible (and has in the past); bearing in mind that the policy on tree replacement notes that the tree may be replaced in a different location.

Council will continue to improve its communication to the public on tree removal and replacement, and notify as appropriate where trees are to be removed (see policy 3.5). Council's brochure on the Tree and Vegetation Policy will be updated on how public can obtain further information on council's trees.

Enhancing Current Tree Stock

Reserve management plans do not generally determine the current tree stock; this is more appropriately achieved through the Parks Asset Management Plan.

Maintain Current Planting Levels and Funding

The words 'subject to funding' in policy 1.8; are recommended to be retained. Replacement planting

will vary year to year depending on tree issues. For instance a severe weather occurrence may have a significant impact on the tree stock requiring a greater level of planting. The size and age of a replacement tree will have a significant impact on the cost. Council needs to operate within its financial limits, therefore the policy wording is recommended to be amended to reflect this in policy 1.2, and to ensure it is not at odds with policy 1.8.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy as follows:

Policy 1.2 – Maintain Current Planting Levels

The current tree stock levels on council land will be maintained or enhanced where practicable, with a mixed age tree stock on each reserve.

Update council's brochure on the Tree and Vegetation Policy.

POLICY 1.3 – PLANTING RESPONSIBILITY EXPLANATION

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

One submission is seeking to amend the explanatory text, paragraph 5 to re locate the words 'on council land'.

The suggested change assists in explaining the policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend paragraph 4 as follows:

In situations where trees and shrubs have been established on council land by organisations or individuals ~~on council land~~ the trees and vegetation will be managed in line with this policy. The organisation or individual responsible for planting the tree/s will receive no special degree of consultation unless council has previously agreed to do so.....

POLICY 1.4 – SPECIES SELECTION EXPLANATION

8 submitters commented;

(3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18, 20)

Submission Summary

2 submitters support clarification of the term view obstruction as being total blocking of a view.

Individual submission points include:

- Make addition to the third bullet point; "Safety, visibility, and potential damage to infrastructure e.g. ensure trees are not planted under or near power lines".
- Care is needed when defining a 'view' – a tree might be part of the view.

- Do not allow planting of trees that can grow to dangerous heights on private or public land, e.g. poplars, douglas fir, rimu, silver birch. Exclude trees that cause danger to buildings and people.
- Plantings need to accommodate a wide range of valued birds and insects, not just bees.
- Support for not removing trees for views
- Third paragraph insert more context around council retaining trees for the public interest.
- Third paragraph, add a note that it is not the intention to remove trees from public places for views, prior to discussing council as a good neighbour and wishing to be sensitive to adjoining neighbours.
- Concern for trees growing in excess of height restrictions on subdivisions, and no uniform policy for existing property with no height restrictions.
- Trees should only be allowed to grow on the sides of gullies. Most suitable plants for the gully floor are flaxes, grasses or plants.
- Management of foreshore vegetation for erosion control purposes is referred to in Objective 1 but is not expanded upon by specific policy to address foreshore erosion.
- Develop a tree species list which staff, developers, and community groups can refer to.
- Include veneer timber trees e.g. walnut for production and long term investment.
- Drought resistant species should be favoured. Arrange by tree location.
- Include seasonal food sources for birds, fruit and nut trees for public, shade.

Planting Under Power Lines

The relief sought to add to the general planting considerations “ensure trees are not planted under or near power lines” introduces new directive explanatory text that is more restrictive than the policy and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations. The regulations ensure that trees do not encroach into specified distances from the electricity lines but do not seek to ensure that trees are not planted under or near power lines. It is considered more appropriate to add a point under general considerations to take into account the effects that trees may have on the supply of electricity, in accordance with the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. See recommended change.

Views

The submission point to take care when defining a view is noted. The policy aims to avoid trees being planted that may eventually obstruct a view. In the context of the policy, it is referring to views from property to the lake and mountains. A general note on the types of views being referred to is recommended to be added as a result of the submission.

The submission point to add a note that council intention is not to remove trees to achieve private residential views is consistent with the overarching approach by the draft Tree and Vegetation policy. The context of this policy however is not on tree removal but on suitable species selection. Amendment to the explanatory text is recommended as a result of this submission point, to clarify it relates to planting of trees, not removal.

High Growing Trees

The submission point seeking the policy address planting of trees that grow to dangerous heights on private or public land is noted. The policy can not address private trees unless they are impacting on council services (policy 2.10), and disputes relating to trees on private land is a matter dealt with through the District Court. For trees on council land, council employs two arborists who regularly inspect and assess tree health to minimise damage and impact on safety. The species selection policy seeks to ensure that trees planted on council land are appropriate for the location. No changes are recommended as a result of this submission point.

Plantings to Accommodate Birds and Insects

The submission point to ensure trees accommodate more than bees, but also birds and other insects is consistent with the policy and therefore considered appropriate to add in the fourth paragraph of the explanation. Change to the explanatory text is recommended as a result of this submission point.

Property Law Act and Public Interest

The submission point seeks to add that Council has a responsibility to be concerned for the establishment of an aesthetically pleasing environment. The submission seeks direct inclusion of section 336 of the Property Law Act 2007 into policy. Section 336 refers to matters that a court determining a tree application must have regard to (not the council).

The Property Law Act provisions do not apply if the Council makes a decision to remove a tree. Council's legal opinion on the matter recommends that the council should retain wide discretion to resolve conflicts of tree disputes, rather than being limited to an analysis that applies to the court. The legal advice is that objective 4 - Property Law Act reference in the policy is the most appropriate place to refer to section 336.

Uniform Policy for Height Restrictions

Council does not generally place height restrictions on plantings on council land. Developers may choose to do so to market the subdivision as retaining views. There are many reasons for vegetation to be covenanted and managed; some is for mitigation purposes which require taller growing species. No change to the explanation as a result of this submission.

Gully Planting Considerations

The submissions relating to large trees on gully floors are accepted – council is planting to its approved gully planting plans which do not include large trees on the gully floors. It is recommended that the list of considerations for planting in gullies includes a note to avoid planting large trees on gully floors. See recommended change.

Foreshore Erosion Planting Considerations

It is considered appropriate to insert a new policy on foreshore erosion planting. A new foreshore erosion section on planting considerations is also recommended to be added to this section, after gully planting. This should include a note on vegetation not suitable for erosion control such as willows.

Tree Selection List

Council has a tree list which can be requested. Other lists are available from other sources such as Greening Taupo, Department of Conservation. Ensure information is available to the public on how to request tree species, such as the tree brochure. Update the brochure to changes associated with this policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the explanatory text as follows:

As a good neighbour, the Taupō District Council will be sensitive to the desires of adjoining neighbours ~~in terms of when planting trees and vegetation.~~ For instance, by aiming to avoid planting trees that may blocking views, light, or planting ~~trees~~ at a density that would potentially cause difficulties to adjoining neighbours or users of the reserve. It is acknowledged that there is a desire by people to maintain views from their property to natural features and open landscapes. Trees which are likely to obstruct views, cause shade problems or have invasive roots will not be planted. (Obstruction of views is deemed to be the total blocking of the view, not the creation of a disrupted view).

Within reserves, council staff may consider trees not only for their amenity purposes but also for fruiting value and ~~bee~~ attractiveness to other flora and fauna, such as native mistletoe, bats or bees as appropriate. Planting selection for street trees will consider those that provide good street amenity and form, and for reserves those that provide good food source to bees and habitat to native wildlife. The use of native trees will also be considered along with trees that are attractive to bees and native birds. Council staff has a range of possible tree species suitable for council land, which is available

[on request](#). Other lists may also be considered, such as those held by Greening Taupo, and Department of Conservation.

The Taupo District Code of Practice for Development of Land outlines minimum requirements for development matters, on some of which trees and vegetation may have an impact – for example, vehicle ~~site~~[sight](#) lines, overhead.....

.....

General planting considerations include:

- Desire for views from private property,
- Views from public land
- Safety, visibility, and potential damage to infrastructure
- [The effects that growing trees may have on the supply of electricity when growing under or near powerlines, in accordance with the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003.](#)
- Current and future budget commitments in terms of ongoing maintenance.
- Local amenity
- Soil type
- Drainage
- Local climate
- Width of berm
- Location of services
- Suitability of species in terms of growth habit
- Proximity to property (shading issues)
- Existence of other trees on both private property and berms
- Attractiveness to bird feeding on a seasonal basis

In particular for gullies, planting considerations include:

- Stability of gully and watercourse within the gully
- [Trees and vegetation that are able to provide erosion protection, and that convey ephemeral water drainage.](#)
- [Planting of trees are directed to gully sides, avoiding gully floors. Flaxes, grasses and shrubs are intermittently grouped on gully floors.](#)
- Other council planning documents and design practice codes
- Potential or likely residential growth in the catchment.
- Advise neighbouring properties intention to plant the gully
- Removal of weed species in conjunction with the Regional Council Weed Pest officer.
- Identify trees and shrubs (if any) to be retained.
- Where the gully receives substantial drainage catchments, maintain a layer of vegetative matter on the surface of the ground, which will ensure storm flows traversing the gully are minimised.
- Gully plan developed for the restoration project, identifying planting, primary infrastructure within the gully, egress points from roading infrastructure, potential transportation links (e.g., recreational paths) that could be incorporated
- Initial area of gully (phase 1) identified and a community project or contractors are established to undertake clearance, and weed pest eradication
- [Planting of large canopy type trees \(phase 2\), 2 years after phase 1 planting.](#)

[In particular for foreshore areas, planting considerations include:](#)

- [Selection of vegetation to improve slope stability and bind sediment together](#)
- [Enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems and foreshore amenity.](#)
- [Treat stormwater and road runoff.](#)
- [Avoid taller specimen trees on the foreshore edge to minimise potential impact on erosion.](#)
- [Avoid vegetation that can exacerbate localised erosion such as willows.](#)
- [Limit public access to parts of the foreshore during establishment of new planting \(as done in coastal sand dune systems\)](#)
- [Other council planning documents and design practice codes](#)

POLICY 1.5 – PLANTING NEAR BOUNDARIES

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Correction to the of the policy spelling of “land”.
- Support for the ‘5 metre’ no planting distance from property boundaries, if the policy applies to reserves but not road berms or foreshore areas. 5 metres does not work for road berms.

Correct the spelling of “land”.

The intent of the policy relates to parks, reserves (not road berms), and gullies, and should be clarified through the policy wording and explanatory text. It is recommended that the policy still relates to reserves in foreshore areas, as the policy relates to tree species not vegetation, and planting of tall trees is typically avoided in foreshore erosion works. Smaller vegetation used for erosion stability can still be planted within 5m of a boundary. The policy includes a process for trees to be planted closer than 5m, where agreement has been reached with adjacent property owners – this point is recommended to be clarified in the text. In order to remain consistent with previous wording on views, inclusion of the words ‘*obstruction of*’ is recommended.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend policy heading as follows:

Policy 1.5 – Planting Near Boundaries on Council Land (excluding road reserve)
New trees on council land are planted at least five (5) metres from property boundaries.

Amend the explanatory text as follows:

Plantings on council land including parks, reserves, foreshore reserves and gullies (but excluding the road reserve) will be designed so that in maturity they do not impact significantly on adjoining properties, such as including obstruction of views, leaf debris and shade.

New Large growing species ~~in parks, reserves, and gullies~~ will be located a minimum of five metres away from adjoining property boundaries unless agreement has been reached with affected property owners, through consultation, to plant closer to boundaries.

POLICY 1.6 – STREET TREE DENSITY

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- The policy is accepted providing policy 1.5 is distinguished as reserves not street berms. Suggested text amendment to third paragraph to clarify wording.

- Figure one is too restricting and should be extended to several diagrams that provide for smaller, lower trees.

Clarifying policy 1.5 as not applying to street berms is recommended, and clarification of 1.6 a applying to street berms is recommended.

Figure 1 is a diagrammatic representation of the explanatory text to show the preferable conditions where council will permit a street tree, i.e. on berms at least 5.25m wide and located at least 1 metre from the kerb, subject to the location services. It is not related to tree heights or tree shape, rather the policy is on tree density. For these reason the suggestion to have several diagrams is not considered necessary.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend policy as follows:

Policy 1.6 – Street Tree Density within the Road Reserve

Where appropriate the general street tree density within the road reserve is;

- *residential berms at least 5.25m wide - one tree per road frontage, and*
- *low density residential berms – one tree per 30 metres of road frontage.*

Amend third paragraph of the explanatory text as follows:

In low density residential areas as described in the District Plan, one tree per 30 metres of property boundary will be considered, subject to the site being suitable in terms of services, sight lines and berm width.

POLICY 1.7 – TREES AND POWER LINES EXPLANATION

1 submitter commented;

(4)

Submission Summary

Add to the end of this section: “Trees and vegetation are planted and managed by Council’s arborists who will ensure the vegetation is kept clear of the power lines. Vegetation will be managed to ensure all vegetation is kept clear of the power lines as specified in the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and or any future amendments to the Regulations. Any tree that is planted on Council land will fall under this policy, regardless of whether the tree was planting by an authorised person.

It is considered appropriate to add reference to the Schedule of Growth Limit Zones in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the explanatory text as follows, add:

Trees and vegetation on council land are planted and managed by council to ensure the vegetation is kept clear of the power lines, in accordance with the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, and or any future amendments to the regulations.

POLICY 1.8 – TREE REPLACEMENT

5 submitters commented;

(2, 3, 11, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

Three submitters are seeking changes to the policy; removal of the words “subject to funding”. One noted that it is at odds with Policy 1.2.

Individual submission points include:

- Concern over lack of replacement of removed trees e.g. in Omori, Lions Walk, production trees in Owen Delany Park
- Replacement trees/shrubs should be planted before others are removed.
- A replacement plan should be in place and funding available before trees are removed.
- Why remove ‘recently established’ trees?

Scope of the policy

The policy intent relates to street and reserve amenity tree planting. Council also maintains production forestry planting on council land, and the submitter is correct in noting that the policy as written may be interpreted as apply to council’s production planting. For these reasons it is recommended to clarify the policy intent as applying to street and reserve amenity tree planting.

Subject to Funding

The words ‘subject to funding’ are recommended to be retained. Replacement planting will vary year to year depending on tree issues. For instance a severe weather occurrence may have a significant impact on the tree stock requiring a greater level of planting. The size and age of a replacement tree will have a significant impact on the cost. Council needs to operate within its financial limits, therefore retaining the words ‘subject to funding’ is recommended.

Replacement Plan

A replacement plan can be useful for communicating to the public when trees will be replaced; however it is not always possible to foresee when trees and vegetation will require replacement. Similarly it is not always possible to replace trees within the same location before they are removed, for instance removal of a large tree may damage the newly planted one when being felled. Council will replace trees prior to removal where possible (and has done so in the past); considering that the policy on tree replacement notes that the tree may be replaced in a different location. The Committee has accepted a recommendation from staff to provide a performance report at the Committee’s ordinary meetings, as required, on tree and vegetation management.

Replacement of Recently Established Trees

Clarification to the explanatory text is recommended to explain why recently established trees may need to be replaced – i.e. loss due to being sick or dying, diseased or vandalised.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy as follows:

Policy 1.8 – Street and Reserve Amenity Tree Replacement

Established street and reserve amenity trees that are removed will be replaced in a similar location if suitable, subject to funding.

Amend explanatory text, paragraph 2 as follows:

Where established trees have died or are to be removed, they will be replaced in a suitable location

with an appropriate tree species. The new tree may not be the same species as the removed tree. Where recently established trees are to be replaced, [for instance due to being sick, dying, diseased, or vandalised](#), they will be replaced with similar species where possible. Replacement planting will take into account the requirements of any adopted reserve management plan or adopted tree-planting plan for the reserve.

POLICY 1.9 – DONATED AND SPONSORED TREES EXPLANATION

4 submitters commented;
(8, 11, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- In support
- That an area be set aside for public memorial plantings.
- Add words to end “(presently being developed)” to the explanatory text.

Support is noted. In response to setting aside an area for public memorial plantings, this will be addressed through council’s commemorative guideline which is currently being developed. The words “presently being developed” are not recommended, as the guideline has been given approval from council to be produced, and once it is adopted, the suggested wording would then become out of date in the policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No changes to the policy and explanatory text as a result of these submissions.

POLICY 1.10 – PLANTING PROGRAMMES EXPLANATION

4 submitters commented;
(5, 6, 15, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Restore the Lake Taupo water front to its original flora, reintroduce native species.
- Support for joint projects with DoC and Greening Taupo.
- Add “Taupo Botanical Society and other ecological community groups” to the list of community planting projects supported by Council.

Support is noted.

“Taupo Botanical Society and other ecological community groups” are not partners that council works with on community planting projects. Along with DoC and Greening Taupo, council also works with the Waikato Regional Council, and this is recommended to be added to the text.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the explanatory text as follows:

Council recognises and supports the long term environment and community benefits from organised community planting projects subject to council approval. Council also works with our partners encouraging community planting projects, including the Department of Conservation (DOC), [Waikato Regional Council](#), and Greening Taupō. DOC has established an annual week, where revegetation plantings are encouraged on public land. Greening Taupō seeks to improve the Taupō environment for people and native wildlife and will involve undertaking restoration planting and pest control to create ecological corridors and increase the number of native birds.

OBJECTIVE 2 – MANAGEMENT OF TREES AND VEGETATION EXPLANATION

5 submitters commented;

(3, 15, 17, 16, 18)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Support.
- Management of trees and vegetation should be recorded for transparency.
- The policy does not deal with view loss from vegetation growth in unmanaged reserves.
- Add “Funding may periodically be a short term constraint, but the long term intention is maintenance of the District’s treescape”.
- Does council have a policy to assist tourism ventures in retaining lake views? One policy for all.

Support noted.

Record of Tree and Vegetation Management

Council continually maintains and manages its trees and vegetation in the district. Members of the public are able to request information from council on management of the vegetation. Decisions by council on major tree removal are recorded through minutes of meetings, and the information is also available to the public on request, and on council’s website. The Committee has accepted a recommendation from staff to provide a performance report at the Committee’s ordinary meetings, as required, on tree and vegetation management.

Unmanaged Reserves

In response to managing trees and vegetation on reserves, the status of the reserve may have specific vegetation requirements – some for instance are subject to tree and vegetation protection in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977, such as scenic or historic reserves. Some have significant natural area overlays in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991.

Tourism Ventures

Council does not have a policy to assist tourism ventures in retaining lake views. Members of the public that are unsure of the reasons for tree removal are able to request information from council’s operations staff regarding decisions leading to removal of trees. Council has a brochure summarising the Tree and Vegetation policy and outlining how the public can gain information on council trees. It is recommended that once the draft Tree and Vegetation policy is adopted, that the brochure also be updated accordingly.

Funding

Funding is not usually periodically a short term constraint. Operational budgets do not vary greatly

from year to year, and the existing wording accurately reflects council's need to ensure it works within budgets.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No changes to the objective and explanatory text as a result of these submissions.

POLICY 2.1 – ROUTINE MAINTENANCE EXPLANATION

6 submitters commented;

(3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Support for the table.
- Include weeding and mulching to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- A spread sheet record should be kept of all work done to trees and vegetation.
- Use the chipped organic waste matter to mulch newly planted species.
- Council to practice what is stated in the policy.
- There should be at least two checks on plantings in the first five years. The table should include weeding and mulching on the list. May not require annual fertiliser.

Support is noted.

Table 1 – number of checks per year

Council staff undertake maintenance and checks on trees not just within the Taupo township but over the entire district. Council must work within its budgets, while ensuring the health and survival of its tree stock. The maintenance table provides a guide to the general level of maintenance required over the district. Council staff will provide additional work if required and if budget is available. Table 1 provided in the policy is operational in nature rather than at policy level. The Committee considers the table is better utilised within the Parks Asset Management Plan rather than at policy level. For this reason the table is recommended to be removed from the policy, included in the Parks Asset Management Plan, and reference to the table in the Asset Plan be made in the policy explanation. Use of fertiliser is noted in the table as being where required, therefore considered appropriate to remain.

Weeding and Mulching

~~Weeding and mulching is undertaken as required and therefore appropriate to add to the Table 1.~~

Record of Tree and Vegetation Management

Council continually maintains and manages its trees and vegetation in the district. Members of the public are able to request information from council on management of the vegetation. Decisions by council on major tree removal are recorded through minutes of meetings, and the information is also available to the public on request, and on council's website. The Committee has accepted a recommendation from staff to provide a performance report at the Committee's ordinary meetings, as required, on tree and vegetation management.

Leaf drop removal

A submission point to policy 2.5 – berm vegetation management; requested inclusion of information relating to council contribution to leaf removal. This is considered more appropriate to added to policy 2.1.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Council arborists will inspect and undertake routine maintenance of trees and vegetation in accordance with ~~table 4~~ [the Parks Asset Management Plan](#).

Delete Table 1

~~*NZ Transport Agency is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the state highway network; however trees and vegetation within the urban portion of state highways is managed by council.*~~

Council staff in conjunction with an arborist, assumes the responsibility to make decisions with regard to tree maintenance and removal on rural and urban road berms. Arborist advice is sought for recommendations on maintenance, street tree issues relating to views, services, tree health and appropriateness of particular trees. Where necessary tree removal requests may be referred to Council's elected members for a decision (refer to policies in section 3). [Where residents are affected by leaf fall from deciduous council trees, such as in Turangi, council will consider assistance to remove fallen leaves.](#)

[NZ Transport Agency is responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the state highway network; however trees and vegetation within the urban portion of state highways is managed by council.](#)

POLICY 2.2 – NON-ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

3 submitters commented;

(8, 11, 13)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Support for the policy.
- The title of the person should be included in the policy.
- Staff and councillors are not adhering to the policy, needs to be implemented every time.
- Include a dispensation for low-income residents, e.g. holders of community services cards, or those who qualify for rates rebates.

Support and request for staff and councillors to adhere to the policy is noted. A staff title is not recommended to be added as council positions and titles can change over time and become out of date in the policy.

Dispensation for low-income residents

The policy intent is to enable requesters to have approved non-routine maintenance undertaken sooner if the council is unable to deliver the service immediately. Council undertakes routine maintenance to a programme, and may not have the capacity to undertake non-routine or non-urgent requests immediately. Where requests for non-routine maintenance are approved, but can not be undertaken by council staff immediately, policy 2.2 enables the requester to either pay for another arborist to undertake the work, or contribute the additional cost required by council to undertake the work.

If the request is approved but is deemed to be non-urgent and non-routine, and requesters are not able to contribute to the cost for more immediate work, then the approved request will still be undertaken by council staff at the nearest available date, free of charge to the requester. For these reasons a dispensation for low-income residents is not considered necessary. It is accepted that the

intent of the policy may not be clear and further clarity is recommended.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy as follows:

Policy 2.2 – Non-Routine Maintenance

Requests for non routine maintenance, thinning or pruning that is approved by council but not deemed to be essential may be undertaken by council or approved contractors, on the basis that the requester meets at least 50% of the cost.

Amend the explanatory text as follows:

The Taupō District Council wishes to be a good neighbour in terms of maintenance of its trees and vegetation, but does not prune trees to enhance views. Policy 2.2 is intended to enable requesters to have approved non-routine and non-urgent maintenance undertaken sooner, if the council is unable to deliver the service immediately. Council staff undertakes routine maintenance to a programme, and may not have the capacity to undertake non-routine or non-urgent requests immediately. Where requests for non-routine maintenance are approved, but cannot be undertaken by council staff immediately, the policy allows the requester to either pay for a council approved arborist to undertake the work, or contribute the additional cost required by council to undertake the work. ~~Council may undertake non-routine maintenance requests from members of the public, if those members are~~ In this instance requesters will be asked prepared to meet at least 50% of the costs.

Reasons for Council undertaking non-routine maintenance on council trees may include:

- trees interfering with ~~pedestrian, vehicle access, or~~ house aerial antenna reception,
- minor interference with pedestrian, or vehicle access
- non-urgent broken branches or damaged trees
- minor damage from branches ~~damaging on~~ private property.

POLICY 2.3 – PRUNING TECHNIQUES EXPLANATION

3 submitters commented;

(8, 11, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Support for the policy not to top trees.
- Concern that pruning techniques and foreshore vegetation management are both suffering – ensure there is potential for different ecological regimes to exist, particularly fragile foreshore areas and erosion prone areas, and the maintenance of indigenous stands of trees.

Support and concern noted. A new policy on foreshore vegetation is recommended to address appropriate management. (Refer to the section in this report on erosion).

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No changes as a result of these submissions.

POLICY 2.4 - ENCROACHMENT

3 submitters commented;

(1, 4, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Amend the policy to include the date of the General Bylaw.
- Footpaths should be kept completely clear of vegetation and owners should be responsible for the clearance.
- Add "The application of this policy will be default ensure that council trees and vegetation are compliant with the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003".
- Second paragraph correct the word 'tee' to 'tree'.

Schedule Growth Limit Zones

Add reference to the Schedule Growth Limit Zones in the explanatory text.

General Bylaw

In response to adding the General Bylaw date to the policy, adding the year of the bylaw is recommended, however adding the amendment date as requested by the submitter will lead to the policy being out of date when the bylaw is next amended. Correct the word 'tee' to 'tree'.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy and explanatory text as follows:

Policy 2.4 – Encroachment of Trees and Vegetation

Encroaching private trees and vegetation on council land may be removed in accordance with the Taupo District Council General Bylaw No. 1 [2008, \(including the latest amendments\)](#).

Council may remove trees and vegetation encroaching over [council infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, or other services](#). [Council will also manage its trees that may have an effect on the supply of electricity when growing under or near powerlines, in accordance with the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003.](#)

Initially a letter will be issued requesting that the property owner undertake appropriate action for the encroaching [tree](#) or vegetation.....

POLICY 2.5 – BERM VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Add to the start of the policy that Council will manage trees and vegetation on berms before adding the policy that residents are responsible for lawns.
- Incorporate a leaf removal sub policy for areas similar to Turangi.

The policy intent relates to residents maintaining the lawns in the berms. The suggested wording to add 'council will manage trees and vegetation' is correct but is already provided for in objective 2, and creates potential for the policy to be less direct in its intent. For this reason the existing policy wording is recommended.

The leaf collection reference is better made in policy 2.1 routine maintenance.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No changes to the policy as a result of this submission.

POLICY 2.6 – GULLY VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

4 submitters commented;

(3, 10, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Remove trees at the bottom of water courses. Trees should only be allowed to grow on the sides. Most suitable plants for the bottom are flaxes, grasses or plants.
- Can PD workers be used to maintain the developed gully areas and other walking/biking tracks?
- Important to keep weeds on gully floor removed.
- Modify the policy to read "Gully and Foreshore Vegetation Management" – the two issues are related through erosion.

Trees on gully floor

Removal of trees on gully floors is accepted and consistent with Council's planting practices in gullies. Council is planting gullies in accordance with plans that have been prepared for these areas, which avoid large trees in the bottom of gullies. The policy supports removal of weeds and planting with native species. Clarification in policy 1.4 Species Selection is recommended.

PD Workers

Use of PD workers to maintain gullies is a good idea to reduce labour costs, however due to health and safety issues associated with workers operating machinery and supervision, council does not have the ability to engage such work.

Modification of the policy to include erosion

A policy on erosion is accepted, and recommended to be added as an additional policy to gully vegetation – there are some differences between the two issues that require separate attention. A separate policy for gullies and foreshore areas enables policy to be specifically tailored to each issue rather than an encompassing generic policy. No change to this policy as a result of the submission, however the next section on Erosion outlines suggested new policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No amendment to the policy as a result of these submissions.

EROSION

5 submitters commented;

(6, 10, 11, 16, 20)

Submission Summary

- Plant with natives to contain erosion.
- There needs to be policies relating to erosion and appropriate management of riparian vegetation. Refer to other relevant policies and plantings eg TDC lakeshore erosion/vegetation trials at 5 Mile Bay.
- Foreshore erosion needs to be addressed – of particular concern is the control of ‘weeds’ such as lupins which limit erosion. Spraying is not ideal. 5m boundary setback (policy 1.5) should not apply.
- Insert “Foreshore vegetation within the 20m foreshore protection area will be managed to limit erosion. Add paragraph “Council will manage foreshore vegetation to.....” (add bullet list).
- Add new policy to objective 2 that specifically deals with vegetation management on Lake Taupo foreshore and provides guidelines around vegetation management, re-planting, and restrictions on clearance.

Foreshore erosion

A policy on foreshore erosion is recommended with suggested wording below, and additional planting considerations list in policy 1.4. Trials are ongoing to determine appropriate planting for erosion prone areas. In general it is accepted that lower growing dense vegetation is more appropriate for erosion prone areas rather than large trees. For these reasons erosion planting is recommended to be shrub vegetation, with larger trees set back. Refer new proposed policy below.

Foreshore Protection Area

The request to add foreshore vegetation protection within the 20m foreshore protection area (FPA) is not recommended. The FPA is a 20m wide corridor identified within the district plan as a building setback, not as a 20m vegetated corridor. For these reasons inclusion of a policy on foreshore erosion planting and vegetation management is recommended to only relate to the foreshore area where it is prone to erosion (which is different to the ‘foreshore protection area’ identified in the district plan).

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Insert new policy and explanatory text as follows:

Policy 2.x Foreshore Vegetation Management

Vegetation on council land within the foreshore of rivers and Lake Taupo is managed to reduce the impact of foreshore erosion.

Parts of the foreshore are susceptible to erosion. This erosion tends to occur irregularly and is related to severe weather events. Once exposed, foreshore areas can become increasingly vulnerable to successive erosion events. There is a range of ways that Council can respond to this erosion risk. For the lake foreshore, the Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood Strategy (2009) emphasises that the favoured approach is to use more natural options like beach replenishment and revegetation. The strategy highlights a series of principles which include respecting the natural river and catchment processes and promoting the protection of natural defences.

The planting of vegetation along the edge of the foreshore can be an effective part of the overall strategy to mitigate the erosion risks by creating natural defences. Vegetation can improve the slope

stability and bind sediment together; it also has other benefits such as contributing to the enhancement of ecosystems, and the treatment of stormwater and road runoff. When planting is well planned and managed it can significantly enhance the amenity for foreshore areas for all users.

The use of vegetation to help manage the risks of foreshore erosion can potentially impact on the use of the foreshore area. To protect planted areas it may be necessary to limit access to parts of the foreshore much like access through dunes systems on the coast has become an accepted management practice. Taller specimen trees are likely to be appropriate further back from the foreshore edge where they can provide amenity and shade without potentially impacting on erosion of the foreshore, considering other policies within this document on species selection (policy 1.4) and planting near boundaries (policy 1.5).

Council will manage vegetation along the foreshores of Lake Taupo to:

- Help protect the foreshore from erosion
- Contribute to indigenous biodiversity and enhance ecosystems
- Avoid vegetation that can exacerbate localised erosion such as willows creating natural groynes.

POLICY 2.8 – MANAGEMENT OF WEEDS

4 submitters commented;

(2, 10, 16, 19)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Spraying should be banned.
- Change name of policy to “Management of weeds and wildling vegetation” – the two issues are related and both concern pest species. Insert ‘control wildling vegetation’ and “Wildling vegetation e.g. wind blown pines and other ‘pest’ species of trees or shrubs will be removed and or managed as appropriate to the locality and best ecological processes.”
- Care be taken when removing weed trees with native mistletoe e.g. Pukawa / Omori

Spraying

Council undertakes spraying of weeds in accordance with its policy on pest species (“Taupo District Council Management of Plant Pests, Unwanted Fungi, and Unwanted Insects as they Pertain to Vegetation on Council-Owned Property Policy – May 2009”). Council takes care with its application of spray and takes measures to minimise use where practicable.

Care when removing weeds that provide native habitat

It is recommended that care should be taken when removing weed species with native mistletoe or provide habitat to native animals such as bats, and inclusion is made in the explanation.

Wildling vegetation

The submission seeks additional wording to the policy that council will control wildling vegetation. It is considered appropriate that council has the ability to manage wildling vegetation when required, however it is not recommended to change the policy wording to generally control wildling vegetation – as council does not have the capacity to actively manage all wildling weeds in the district. Care is needed when using the term ‘wildling’ as it can be interpreted as being native species which are naturally regenerating. For this reason the use of the ‘weed’ is recommended to be added to ‘wildling’ in this policy and also policy 3.2 where the term is used.

Some wildling pines have shade value in reserves that may be desirable to retain. There may also be ecological value such as roosting habitat for native bats. It is considered appropriate that council has the ability to remove wildling weed species, and this is already provided for in policy 3.2 – removal of healthy trees. Further amendment to the explanation of policy 2.8 will help enforce this.

The policy intent is about active management of noxious weeds, and for this reason the title is recommended to be amended so that it is consistent with the policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy as follows:

Policy 2.8 Management of Noxious Weeds

Council will manage noxious weeds on council land in accordance with Regional Council Weed Pest controls.

Amend the explanatory text as follows:

Identification of noxious weed control will be undertaken by an experienced parks officer in conjunction with advice from Regional Council Weed Pest Managers. Care is required when removing weed trees or vegetation that provide habitat to native flora (such as mistletoe) and fauna (such as native birds and bats). Clearing of weeds in the gully areas will be undertaken as and when ~~community~~ resources allow or as drainage asset maintenance is required. Spraying is undertaken in accordance with council's policy on management of pests; "Taupo District Council Management of Plant Pests, Unwanted Fungi, and Unwanted Insects as they Pertain to Vegetation on Council-Owned Property Policy – May 2009". Weed trees and vegetation on council land may also be removed as required.

Update the policy number from 2.8 to 2.9 as a result of adding new policy 2.7 Foreshore Vegetation Management.

POLICY 2.9 – ADORNMENT OF TREES

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Addition of the words “for limited periods of time” to the policy text.

Adding the words ‘Limited periods of time’ to the policy is not considered necessary as the time will depend on the application, and the current policy enables an application to be considered on its merits when seeking approval from council. The time limit if required can be specified at the time of council making a decision on an application.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change to the policy or explanatory text as a result of this submission.

Update the policy number from 2.9 to 2.10 as a result of adding new policy 2.7 Foreshore Vegetation Management.

POLICY 2.10 – PRIVATE TREES AND VEGETATION EXPLANATION

2 submitters commented;

(4, 16)

Submission Summary

- Concern for forestry trees near power lines. Add “Forestry trees need to be kept clear of power lines as specified in the Schedule Growth Limit Zones printed in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and or any future amendments to the Regulations and council will become involved when this policy is being breached.”
- Add to end of first bullet point; “or other statutory provision.”

Forestry Trees on Private Land

The purpose of the policy is to address private trees and vegetation that may impact on Council services. Private forestry trees may have an impact on power lines, however these are not matters that the Council has control over if they are not interfering with council services, therefore the requested amendment is not considered appropriate to this policy.

Other Statutory Provision

Addition of the words ‘or other statutory provision’ to the first bullet will ensure other statutory provisions are considered.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

District Plan requirements (for example but not limited to:.....resource consent condition) [or other statutory provisions.](#)

Update the policy number from 2.10 to 2.11 as a result of adding new policy 2.7 Foreshore Vegetation Management.

POLICY 2.11 – PROTECTED TREES AND VEGETATION EXPLANATION

4 submitters commented;

(3, 8, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Council to encourage public to register Notable Trees and Groves of Trees on public and private land. Registration process needs to be simplified.
- Heritage and Notable trees should have a plaque indicating their status.
- Provision of tree protection must be made during development.
- The notable and amenity gum trees on Lake Terrace (NT7 and AT1) need to be considered as a hazard. The process of adding trees is not easy. Why does it need to be part of the District Plan?

- That trees or groves of trees which are significant /notable are listed on the District Plan.
- Support for not removing trees for views – insert comment that WRC has established a “no net loss” policy” of indigenous vegetation. Minor word tweaking.

Process for Notable and Amenity Trees

The process for identifying, managing, adding and removing notable and amenity trees from the District Plan must be done as a formal plan change process in accordance with the legal requirements of the Resource Management Act. Members of the public are able to initiate a private plan change to the district plan; however it is a timely and costly exercise. The existing notable and amenity tree provisions in the district plan will be due for review in 2017, and members of the public will have the opportunity then to submit on these provisions. The Committee’s recommendation is to not require plaques on notable and amenity trees. No change to this policy as a result of the submission.

WRC No Net Loss Policy

The policy referred to by the submitter in the Waikato Regional Policy Statement can not simply be described as a ‘no net loss policy’. Rather it is about promoting positive indigenous biodiversity outcomes with particular focus on a number of matters, one of which is working towards achieving no net loss at a regional scale. The regional council biodiversity policy is not about no net loss at any location, rather it is about working towards achieving not net loss regionally, meaning some vegetation may be removed if it is gained else where in the region. The method that the Regional council is seeking District councils to implement the policy is through a biodiversity strategy – which will be a separate document to this policy. It is recommended that relevant strategies be referred to in Objective 4.

Include reference to geothermal and wetland vegetation, and vegetation protected by reserve status, as per recommendation to Objective 1.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Various trees and vegetation within the Taupō District and on council land are formally protected above this policy. The provisions of formal protection take precedence above this policy. ~~to which~~ ~~Proposed~~ activities such as removal or modification to or within the locality of the trees and vegetation is subject to their formal protection provisions.

The Taupō District Plan contains specific rules, policies and objectives relating to activities to protected trees (notable and amenity trees) and protected vegetation (significant natural areas). Notable and amenity trees and significant natural areas are identified on both private and public land. They are mapped in the Taupo District Plan and require a formal process under the Resource Management Act 1991 for inclusion into the district plan. Notable and amenity trees may be native or exotic individual or groups of trees that contribute to the amenity and character of an area. Significant natural areas are mainly indigenous bush and forest areas, but also include wetlands and geothermal sites with ecological value. The Waikato Regional Plan also contains relevant provisions to consider relating to wetland and geothermal vegetation.

Update the policy number from 2.11 to 2.12 as a result of adding new policy 2.7 Foreshore Vegetation Management.

OBJECTIVE 3 – TREE REMOVAL EXPLANATION

2 submitters commented;

(3, 16)

Submission Summary

- There should be a record of trees cut down, reasons, person authorising, what replacement planted.
- Insert new policy “Matters of Public Interest” – have regard to the five matters of public interest S336 Property Law Act 2007, for council to consider when making decisions to remove trees in the district.
- Insert in explanation – a note that trees will not be removed to provide or restore views.

Record of Tree and Vegetation Management

Council continually maintains and manages its trees and vegetation in the district. Members of the public are able to request information from council on management of the vegetation. Decisions by council on major tree removal are recorded through minutes of meetings, and the information is also available to the public on request, and on council’s website.

Property Law Act and Public Interest

The submission point seeks to add that Council has a responsibility to be concerned for the establishment of an aesthetically pleasing environment. The submission seeks direct inclusion of section 336 of the Property Law Act 2007 into policy. Section 336 refers to matters that a court determining a tree application must have regard to (not the council). The Property Law Act provisions do not apply if the Council makes a decision to remove a tree. Council’s legal opinion on the matter recommends that the council should retain wide discretion to resolve conflicts of tree disputes, rather than being limited to an analysis that applies to the court. The legal advice is that objective 4 - Property Law Act reference in the policy is the most appropriate place to refer to section 336.

Reference to removing trees for views is outlined in policy 3.2 removal of healthy trees.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change to the objective as a result of these submissions.

POLICY 3.1 – REMOVAL OF UNHEALTHY TREES EXPLANATION

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Reword the text in the explanation, paragraph 1.

The suggested wording further clarifies the intent of the policy.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text first paragraph as follows:

Trees on council land that are unhealthy and presenting a hazard to public or private property may be removed ~~in order to~~ eliminate any danger or threat that they pose. Council's arborist will determine the most appropriate action required.

POLICY 3.2 – REMOVAL OF HEALTHY TREES

3 submitters commented;

(3, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

Individual submission points include:

- Support for list of occasions when healthy trees may be removed, however concern that healthy trees are not being removed in exceptional circumstances but for other reasons in contradiction with the policy.
- Reword of text to include 'people'.

Support and concern for tree loss is noted.

Amendment to Policy 2.8 re Wildling Weeds

In response to a submission on policy 2.8 relating to wildling, the use of the 'weed' is recommended to be added to 'wildling'.

Inclusion of 'People'

Submission point to add 'people' to the text is considered appropriate, given the list of considerations includes impact on property or persons.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend the policy as follows:

Healthy trees on council land will be retained, and their removal will be the exception. Instances where council may consider removal of a healthy tree include:

- *street redevelopment is to be implemented and options to retain the tree have been investigated and discounted,*
- *severe hardship is being experienced (trees which inhibit views or drop debris are not considered to be causing severe hardship),*
- *other community assets are impacted by trees or vegetation,*
- *the trees or vegetation are grown ~~wildling~~weeds and not intentionally planted, or*
- *the removal is part of a planned replacement programme.*

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Council recognises that the urban environment is a place where people, services and infrastructure are in higher concentrations, and the ability for large trees to grow true to form can be limiting. In some instances trees can cause hardship to people, property and services. In some situations inappropriate trees have been established which may have contributed to difficulties people are experiencing.

Correction to the explanation text, paragraph 2, bullet point 4, correct the word '~~but~~' to 'by'.

POLICY 3.3 – MAJOR TREE REMOVAL / CONFLICT OF OPINION

2 submitters commented;

(13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Re order as policy 3.4.
- Add to end of the policy “or an appropriate committee thereof, for decision”.

Re order the policy

The request to reorder the policies so that tree removal notification is located before decisions on major tree removal is not recommended. Notification will happen once a decision has been made, and the current ordering is considered more appropriate for the process. It is also noted that policies do not have a hierarchy with other policies, and they can be equally considered regardless of their location. No change to the policy as a result of this submission.

Council elected members decision

The request to add 'or appropriate committee' to the policy is not considered necessary as the issue will still be referred to elected members. It will then be up to the elected members as to whom they have delegated authority to consider the matter.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change as a result of these submissions.

POLICY 3.5 – TREE REMOVAL NOTIFICATION

4 submitters commented;

(3, 8, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Support for notifying tree removal. Notification should be in the following places; TDC website, reserve entrances, on the tree itself, in the window of a neighbouring dairy, at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Consultation should include all users, not just neighbours within a 50-metre radius
- Re order as policy 3.3.
- Consultation should include 'interested community groups e.g. conservation education and ratepayer groups, and e.g. sporting clubs.
- Change text Notification will include information..... and any other relevant information.

Method of notification

The policy is to notify using the most appropriate method for the situation. This needs to be within

council's resources and budgets for notification, which is done in accordance with statutory requirements. Media releases are also included on council's website, therefore a reference to the website is recommended in the explanatory text.

Include relevant plans

It is not considered necessary to always include with notification information plans to make tree replacements if the tree removal is hazard related it may need urgent action. The policy is to notify using the most appropriate method for the situation.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Decisions to remove trees and the reasons to do so will be appropriately notified and may include:

- Notification to surrounding neighbours, and /or reserve users
- Media release – these also appear on council's website
- Public notice if required

Notification ~~should also~~may include information on any plans to make tree replacements.

POLICY 3.6 – TREE VANDALISM AND WILFUL DAMAGE EXPLANATION

3 submitters commented;

(8, 11, 16)

Submission Summary

- The policy needs some defined fines / specified deterrents for TDC to enforce.
- Reword of text.

Defined fines

The policy is clear that guilty persons are liable for prosecution. This relies on council having evidence of a person committing an offence. The policy is considered effective, as it has previously enabled council to report guilty persons to the police for prosecution, where there has been evidence of that person committing the offence. No change recommended.

The reword of amendment text is supported to clarify its intent.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Occasionally, trees on public land are deliberate targets of vandalism which includes poisoning, breaking of tree limbs and damage to tree bark. Council compliance officers will investigate complaints of damage to trees ~~damage-complaints-to-trees~~ on Council land and to trees and vegetation that are formally protected under Taupō District Council provisions. Enforcement and reparation will be sought by the Council where persons responsible are identified.

OBJECTIVE 4 – RELEVANT INFORMATION GUIDE

EXPLANATION

4 submitters commented;

(4, 13, 16, 20)

Submission Summary

- Eighth bullet point, replace 'Power Standards' with "Electricity Distribution Businesses"
- Page 21 replace 'Power Standards' with "Electricity Regulations", and first sentence, replace the word 'Power' with "Electricity". Amend the last sentence to remove the words, "~~contain provisions relating to the planting and management of trees and vegetation.~~"
- Support for listing the relevant documents.
- Add to the list "Listed Notable Trees".
- Reference to the Conservation Act.
- Add reference to the "Lake Taupo Flood and Erosion Strategy 2009".
- Add reference to Tuwharetoa where relevant.

The support is noted.

Power Standards

The suggested amendment provides an appropriate update to current terminology.

Listed Notable Trees

Adding to the list 'Listed Notable Trees' is not considered necessary in this section as the topic is covered under policy 2.11, and reference to the District Plan is made under objective 4 – which specifically addresses notable trees.

Conservation Act

The Conservation Act is relevant to the Department of Conservation (DoC) in exercising its functions, and not territorial authorities. Council's involvement with DoC reserves is mainly in the southern part of the district where there are a number of DoC reserves adjacent to Council reserves. In these instances when council is mowing grass on its reserves, council will continue mowing onto the adjacent DoC reserve to maintain access and continuity between the different land holdings. Mowing is the only vegetation management that council undertakes on DoC reserves. Because of this relationship, it is recommended to add reference to the Department of Conservation and also Regional Council provisions in the list of matters to consider.

Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood Strategy

The study is relevant to management of trees and vegetation on the foreshore and its inclusion will assist when referencing and considering relevant information. It is recommended that 'Strategies' be added to the list of Management Plans, to which reference to the erosion and flood strategy sit within. This will also cover relevant biodiversity strategies.

Relevant Iwi Information

The Committee requested additional relevant information about iwi is added to the Tree and Vegetation Policy. This has been added to the bullet list and also a new reference section on Iwi Information outlining the relevant sections.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Objective 4 provides guidance to other relevant documents or statutes considered when managing trees on council land. The relevant provisions to be taken into account include (but are not limited to):

- Local Government Act 2002
- Taupō District Plan and Resource Management Act 1991;
- Taupō District Council Code of Practice for Development of Land 2009;
- Council Bylaws;
- [Regional Council and Department of Conservation provisions](#)
- Property Law Act 2007;
- [Strategies and ~~Asset, Gully, or Reserve~~ Management Plans, e.g. biodiversity strategies and Lake Taupo Erosion and Flood strategy;](#)
- Reserves Act 1977, and Reserve Status;
- ~~Power~~[Electricity Distribution Businesses, Transport and Communications Company legislation and standards regulations;](#)
- National Environmental Standards;
- [Litter Act 1979;](#)
- [Relevant iwi information, for example; Ngati Tuwharetoa Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2003, and joint strategies and agreements, for example; Joint Management Agreements, 2020 Taupō-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan .](#)

Add new reference section as follows:

[Relevant Iwi Information](#)

[Plans such as the Ngati Tuwharetoa Environmental Iwi Management Plan 2003, and 2020 Taupō-nui-ā-Tia Action Plan, contain actions and goals for iwi and council to work towards achieving. For instance, the Iwi Management Plan notes an issue under 'Land' as; "limited involvement from tangata whenua with regard to the management of reserves, recreation areas". Methods include promoting and supporting the practice of erosion control that is consistent with Tūwharetoa tikanga and kawa. Relevant consideration of these documents should be undertaken, with further consultation with iwi as required.](#)

TAUPO DISTRICT PLAN AND CODE OF PRACTICE

2 submitters commented;

(13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Trees should be part of essential infrastructure just as drainage, energy, or access are.
- Reword of text, correct spelling of 'site' to 'sight', relocate the word 'on'.

Essential Infrastructure

The Code of Practice contains landscaping requirements for any subdivision or development that results in the provision of additional road or reserve, and works alongside the Tree and Vegetation Policy. Requirements include the minimum planting size of a street tree; 2m tall at the time of planting with a trunk diameter of at least 50mm when measured at 1400mm. The Taupo District Plan also contains requirements for amenity planting, for example activities that are subject to a resource consent, or in special development areas such as new industrial or new residential. Within these two documents, and where relevant, trees are an essential part of the council asset.

Reword of Text

Accept relief sought to clarify the intent of the text.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend text second paragraph as follows:

The Taupo District Code of Practice for Development of Land outlines minimum requirements for development matters, on some of which trees and vegetation may have an impact ~~on~~ – for example, vehicle ~~site~~ sight lines, overhead.....

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Reword of text from 'enables' to 'provides' and add 'should', along with reference to 'benefit and appreciation of the community'.

The intent of the policy statement is to highlight relevant information in particular the purpose of the Local Government Act. The suggested change of wording from 'enables' to 'provide' is recommended as it is consistent with the Act. The words 'benefit and appreciation of the community' are not consistent with the purpose of the Act and therefore not recommended for inclusion.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change or change wording to provides:

The Local Government Act 2002 ~~enables~~ provides that councils ~~to~~ meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, and local public services.

RESERVES ACT AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Change name to "Reserves Act, Reserve Management Plans and Asset Plans" – suggested rewording of the text to refer to specific section references, add reference to asset plans.

Reserves Act

The suggestion to add reference to provisions on scientific reserves, as well as nature and scenic reserves, is noted, however Taupo District Council does not manage any scientific reserves, therefore specific reference to the section in the policy is not considered relevant. Clarification of the Reserves Act and Reserve Management Plans taking precedence over the Tree and Vegetation Policy is recommended. A correction to the sections referred to in the text is recommended.

Asset Management Plans

The suggestion to add reference to asset management plans is considered appropriate to considering relevant information about tree stock and levels of service in reserves. It is recommended that the relevant plan – i.e. the parks asset management plan is referred to.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

Reserves Act, ~~and~~ Reserve Management Plans, and Parks Asset Management Plan

The Reserves Act 1977 contains various protection requirements for reserve status, such as scenic - which may protect vegetation that contributes to the scenic nature of the reserve, or scientific - which may protect rare or endangered species. The provisions of the Reserves Act and Reserve Management Plans take precedence over this policy. Of relevance to Taupo, sSections 20-19 and 204 Nature and Scenic reserves – contain provisions on protection of trees and vegetation in accordance with the purpose of their reserve status, Section 42 - protects trees or bush from cutting or destruction unless necessary for the proper management of the reserve, safety or harvesting; Section 94 – identifies offences relating to reserve tree and other vegetation.

The parks asset management plan is the tool for combining management, financial, engineering and technical practices to ensure that the level of service required by customers is provided at the lowest long term cost to the community.

PROPERTY LAW ACT EXPLANATION

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Reword the explanation to include sections 332 to 338, and reference to section 336. Define what section 336 outlines.
- State that council therefore needs to consider these factors when making decisions on trees.

The first set of requested amendments outlined above is considered appropriate to provide relevant information relating to the Property Law Act, and is consistent with the Act. The second set of requested amendments outlined above is not considered appropriate, as the provisions are not relevant to council.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend explanatory text as follows:

The Property Law Act 2007 sections 332 to 338 contains provisions and ~~a~~-processes to resolve issues relating to trees including~~and~~ view blockage, ~~or~~ undue hardship to a complainant's land for reasons of leaf fall, branches, roots, shade, and interference to light. Section 333 outlines reasons for an applicant to applying for an order to remove or trim trees, ~~and~~ section 335 outlines matters that the court may consider in making its decision. Section 336 outlines the matters of public interest that the court must have regard to in making a decision.

REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1 submitter commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Change name to “Regional Council: Biodiversity and Management Strategies” – to give effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement.

The suggested amendment to the title will assist in increasing awareness of relevant information, and therefore giving effect to objective 4, and is recommended to be extended to Regional Council Provisions. In addition it is considered appropriate to highlight that the Taupo District falls under four Regional Councils.

Department of Conservation provisions are also recommended to be referred to as council will mow grass on DoC reserves where they are adjacent to council reserves to maintain access and continuity between the different land holdings. Therefore DoC provisions relevant to maintaining grass are therefore considered.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Insert recommended action.

Regional Council ~~Pest Management Strategy~~ and Department of Conservation Provisions

Regional councils have provisions that have relevance to the way in which council maintains its trees and vegetation on council land. The Taupo District falls under four Regional Councils – Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, and a small portion of Horizons. Relevant provisions include: regional plans and policy statements, pest management strategies.

Department of Conservation (DoC) is responsible for managing all conservation land using Conservation Management Plans. There are instances where council will maintain and mow grass within DoC reserves where they are located adjacent to council reserves. This is done in order to maintain continuity, amenity value, and where appropriate, access. Council will continue to work with DoC when managing grass on DoC reserves.

~~are responsible for managing established pests in accordance with pest management strategies.~~

~~While the Regional Council undertakes direct pest control in priority pest control areas, under the Regional Pest Strategy, it is also landowner's responsibility to meet their obligations for pest management on their property. For these reasons the district council has responsibility for pest control work within council land.~~

TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, POWER STANDARDS

1 submitter commented;

(4)

Submission Summary

- Replace ‘Power Standards’ with the words “Electricity Regulations”
- Insert a short appendix of network utility providers and their contact phone numbers. Unison is 0800 2 UNISON (0800 2 864 766)

The amendment provides an appropriate update to current terminology.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend text as follows:

Transport, Communications, ~~Power Standards~~ Electricity Regulations

Transportation, communications and ~~electricity~~~~power~~ providers have safety ~~regulations~~~~standards~~ regarding trees and vegetation. In all instances the ~~regulations~~~~standards~~ and provisions of these services must be adhered to. The Government Roadway Powers Act 1989 No75, Sections 55 and 57, and Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 contain provisions relating to the planting and management of trees and vegetation.

At the time of writing this policy contact phone numbers for the overhead and underground utilities in the Taupō district are:

- Unison – 0800 2 UNISON, 0800 2 864 755 (power central Taupō district),
- The Lines Company – 0800 367 546 (power Turangi, Western Bay, Mangakino
- Telecom – 0800 800 123 (telecommunications residential) or 0800 287 463 (faults),
- Chorus – 0800 4 NETWORK, 0800 463 896 (telecommunications)
- TelstraClear / Vodafone – 0508 888 800 (telecommunications customer care and faults).

ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE

1 submitters commented;

(16)

Submission Summary

- Re-word and add in reference to “significant natural areas”.

The policy reference relates to council land, and therefore reference to reserves along side council gullies is appropriate. The majority of significant natural areas are in private ownership therefore a general inclusion of these areas in the wording is not considered relevant. To clarify, it is recommended the policy be reworded to relate to Council gullies, significant natural areas, and reserves. Wording on dumped garden waste is considered appropriate and recommended for inclusion

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Amend text as follows:

Dumping of garden waste in council reserves ~~gullies~~ is a breach of the Reserves Act 1977 and Litter Act 1979 as appropriate, and is not permitted. Gullies and significant natural areas within council land are particularly prone to illegal dumping of waste. Such actions~~and~~ will be treated as a statutory or bylaw breach and dealt with by council accordingly. ~~Through dumping of garden waste introduced weed, trees and vegetation can establish as well as the possible infestation of rodents~~Dumped garden waste can lead to establishment of weeds, unwanted trees and vegetation and possible rodent infestation. The Taupō District Council intends that council gullies and significant natural areas are managed to ensure their natural geological and geographical character is not compromised; their amenity and recreational values are enhanced.

APPENDIX 1 – TREE ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

3 submitters commented;

(3, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Develop criteria which any arborist can apply to ensure advice and recommendations are open and public can have access to.
- Refer to the Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture (RNZIH) evaluation method used to assess the contribution of a tree in the landscape, using points to determine health, condition and monetary value.
- Use ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Tree Hazard Evaluation Method to identify hazard rating of trees.
- Additional amendments sought in submission 16 – add reference to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement, adding criteria to determining if tree is encroaching onto pathways, erosion potential, reference to policy on tree protection, public issues factors, attached copy of complaint, list unresolved issues as a result of action.

The tree assessment checklist in appendix 1 is for an arborist to complete and is based on the health and condition of the tree. It is a technical form on the status of the tree, which may accompany a report to council if considering tree removal. Reference to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement is not relevant to the form.

It is considered appropriate that the assessment sheet remain focused on technical information about the tree and not attempt to make a judgement on matters such as public interest or community value. These are matters to be considered by Council's elected members when making a decision on major tree removal. Similarly it is not considered necessary to attach a copy of a complaint to the form – this will be addressed in any report presented to Council for consideration, and will be held on file.

It is recommended that any impact of a tree on adjacent services should also be considered – such as damage to footpaths, roads, and underground services and this is recommended to be added. The potential for erosion from tree or vegetation removal is relevant when making a decision on a tree removal, but is not relevant to assessing the condition of the tree.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Add new assessment item 2.8 as follows:

[2.8 Is the tree adversely impacting on adjoining services, e.g. footpaths, roads, underground services Yes/No](#)

[2.9 Is there erosion potential if the tree is removed? Yes/No](#)

GLOSSARY

2 submitters commented;

(3, 13, 16)

Submission Summary

- Insert a glossary of terms.

Inclusion of a glossary is considered appropriate to assist in understanding of the policy, and is recommended for inclusion. The suggestion to ensure the glossary is consistent with already defined relevant terms is accepted.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

Insert glossary of key terms, ensuring their definitions are consistent to other relevant terms already defined as follows:

Appendix 2 – Glossary

Amenity Values

Natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.

Arborist (Qualified)

A professional tradesperson with a recognised arboricultural degree, diploma or certificate; and relevant practical experience.

Berm (Road Berm)

The part of the road property between the back of the kerb line and the boundary of the adjacent properties. Generally grass covered in urban areas with a footpath, and either grass or bush covered in rural areas.

Biodiversity or Biological Diversity

The variety and diversity of all life on land, in fresh water and in the sea, including the places or ecosystems where they live and the genes they contain.

Character

The combination of qualities which make an area unique or distinctive; these include the landscape type, dominance of vegetation, the absence or subservience of man-made structures, and the type of structures.

Council Elected Member

A member of the governing body of the Council elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001, including the Mayor and Councillors.

Council Staff

A person employed by the Council to perform council's duties and functions, and also referred to as a council officer.

Deciduous Tree

A tree, which in autumn, the leaves will start falling until the tree shows bare branches, and it will remain so until new leaves emerge in spring.

Ecological Processes, Ecosystems

The relationship of organisms (plants or animals) to their natural or developed environment, and the processes that occur.

Environment

The same meaning as in the Resource Management Act 1991.

Ephemeral Water

Streams that flow continuously for at least three months between March and September but do not flow all year.

Erosion

The removal of material which has often already been weathered. The key agents are rivers, moving ice (glaciation) and the sea.

Exotic Trees and Vegetation

Trees and vegetation of foreign origin, which have been introduced and are not occurring in their natural environment. They are not native, indigenous or endemic to the location.

Fauna

The animal life of any particular region or time.

Flora

The plant life of any particular region or time.

Foreshore

A strip of land margining a body of water; the part of a shore that lies between the highest and lowest watermarks.

Geothermal feature/site

A surface manifestation of geothermal processes or discharges; includes steam-fed features, geothermal water-fed features and remnant features such as hydrothermal eruption craters and ancient sinters.

Gully

A channel or small valley, especially one carved out by persistent heavy rainfall. May be used for natural storm water drainage in urban areas.

Habitat

The natural conditions and environment in which a plant or animal lives.

Indigenous, or Native Trees and Vegetation

Trees and vegetation native to or occurring naturally in New Zealand as opposed to being introduced or exotic.

Iwi

Māori group or tribe.

Landscape

The visible features of an area of land, including the physical elements of landforms such as mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.

Native Wildlife

Animal life that is naturally occurring in a particular location, as opposed to being introduced.

Natural Features

Any occurrence that does not have any human intervention in its process, such as rivers, lakes waterfalls, and mountains.

Obstruction of Views

The total blocking of the view, as opposed to a disrupted view

Protected Trees and Vegetation

Trees and vegetation formally and legally protected. In the Taupo District this includes; Significant Natural Areas, Notable and Amenity Trees, QEII covenants, Nga Whenua Rahui, consented mitigation planting or conditions of subdivision and development.

Pruning

A horticultural and silvicultural practice involving the selective removal of parts of a tree, such as branches, buds, or roots.

Street and Reserve Amenity Trees

Trees planted for the purposes of providing amenity value, as opposed to trees planted solely for production purposes.

Tangata Whenua

Indigenous people of the land.

Tikanga and Kawa

Procedure and protocol.

Topping of Trees

Removing whole tops of trees or large branches and/or trunks from the tops of trees, leaving stubs or lateral branches that are too small to assume the role of a terminal leader.

Tree Stock

The amount of trees currently planted on council land.

True to Form

Growth that is allowed to occur to its natural form and growth pattern.

Weed

An unwanted plant, especially a wild plant, growing where it is not wanted. In this policy; does not include indigenous or native trees and vegetation.

Wetland

A permanent or intermittently wet area, shallow water, and land/water margins that support a natural ecosystem of plants and animals that are adapted to wet conditions.

SERVICE REQUESTS AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS

9 submitters commented;

(2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 18)

Submission Summary

- Douglas firs in gully south of Grace Crescent should be removed – trees on gully floor are dangerous.
- The lakefront at Kinloch needs new planting. Continue planting in CBD. Roundabouts in entrance to town look disgraceful if they can't be maintained they should be replaced with stone/rock.
- Remove blackberry, gorse and all other weeds from Taupo Yacht Club to 5 Mile Bay, Kinloch water front, shores of the Waikato River between the lagoon and Huka Falls, and replant with natives typical of the region.
- What is the delay replacing the amenity and shelter trees in Owen Delany Park?
- The trees near the cycle sculpture are dead and have never been attended to – ties and rails need attention, gorse growing. Trees in Vaucluse have never been attended to for at least 5/6 years.
- Trees in Ventoux Way / Luberon St have died and not replaced.

- Replace missing dogwoods in Fairview Terrace – would council like a financial contribution?
- Can the sick Redwood in the Fairview gully be removed?
- Concerns for tree removal in the Kuratau area – specific details outlined in the submitter’s oral submission (16).
- Kuratau-Omorī rabbit problem, freedom camping, beach replenishment.

The requests for tree work and comments on operational matters are noted and will be forwarded to operational staff for consideration. Responses to submitters on their individual queries will be sent by letter.

FRED COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

No change to the policy as a result of these submission points.