



**August  
2022**



## Proposed Plan Change 83 Information Sheet

# Plan Change 83 - Notable Trees

**In August and September 2022, Auckland Council is inviting submissions on changes to the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP) – our city’s planning rulebook – to allow for greater building heights and densities in urban Auckland. This is known as Proposed Plan Change 78 - Intensification.**

**This information sheet explains Proposed Plan Change 83 to the AUP, which seeks changes to Schedule 10 Notable Trees Schedule and Chapter D13 Notable Trees Overlay to support Proposed Plan Change 78.**

### **The government’s approach to well-functioning urban environments**

The government’s National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD) came into force in August 2020. To deliver the NPS-UD the council is required to publicly notify changes to the AUP by 20 August 2022.

The NPS-UD directs Auckland Council to, among other things, make decisions that contribute to well-functioning urban environments.

The concept of a well-functioning urban environment as set out in Policy 1 of the NPS-UD and covers:

- enabling a variety of homes
- enabling sites for business
- ensuring good access to facilities and services by active modes and public transport
- supporting the operation of land and development markets
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- being resilient to effects of climate change.

The NPS-UD also introduces the concept of qualifying matters, and these are also addressed in detail in Proposed Plan Change 78 information sheet #7 and #8.

## **Notable Trees**

The AUP identifies, manages and protects notable trees across the region and recognises their values. This is because subdivision, development and consents for removal/alteration as well as emergency works affect the description of listings on the schedule.

Given that there are nearly 3000 listings in Schedule 10 Notable Trees Schedule in the AUP, representing 6-7000 trees across the region, errors will continue to be identified and further updates will therefore be required. It is important that these inaccuracies and inconsistencies are addressed to ensure the correct application of Schedule 10. To update Schedule 10 requires a plan change.

As it is currently written the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) requires urban notable trees be specifically identified by reference to the property address and/or legal description of the property on which it is situated. Otherwise, it cannot benefit from protection when property addresses/legal descriptions change as a result of subdivision and no longer match what is listed in the Schedule.

A long-term approach is also required, to enable those changes which are of neutral effect to be made outside the RMA Schedule 1 process. It is also important that notable trees do not lose protection as a result of legal descriptions/addresses changing through the subdivision process and that those trees which have been removed are not unnecessarily managed by the Notable Trees Overlay.

Notations in Schedule 10 will continue to be affected as development and subdivision continues across the region. The introduction of an automatic update clause to capture future subdivisions and allow for schedule updates where trees have physically gone will improve the management of the schedule in the future by allowing amendments to the schedule in a timely manner.

Members of the public can nominate trees for inclusion on the schedule. In order for nominated trees to be considered for scheduling they must meet the Notable Tree criteria set out in Regional Policy Statement B4.5.2. An evaluation of each proposed addition against these criteria must determine that they meet the threshold for inclusion in the schedule.

## **Our proposed changes**

The council has begun to evaluate the database of nominations and those nominated trees which have so far been assessed as meeting the Notable Tree criteria are ready to be scheduled. Further, staff have identified that the schedule would benefit from an update which addresses a number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies.

The scope of the plan change is limited to the following:

- Scheduling of 24 individual and four groups of those nominated trees which have been found to meet the Notable Trees criteria and adding them to the Notable Trees Overlay in the AUP. These additions ensure the provisions of the AUP apply, including the Notable Trees Overlay provisions.
- The introduction of an automatic update clause which ensures all future subdivisions are captured and amendments as a result of removals can be undertaken outside the RMA Schedule 1 process.
- Amendments to 64 listings that:
  - update legal descriptions and/or addresses where they have changed as a result of development and subdivision
  - correct minor errors such as spelling and grammar
  - improve the location of symbology in the Notable Trees Overlay to ensure the trees are accurately identified where the location has been verified
  - update the number of trees for different species where this has been omitted
  - improve species descriptions where these are not specific enough
  - remove 51 notable trees (27 listings in full and 11 partial listings) where there is evidence they have been physically removed as a result of consents (often development or subdivision related), emergency works and/or deteriorated health.

## Further information

- To learn more about how Auckland Council is planning for growth and development, visit [ourauckland.nz/growingtogether](https://ourauckland.nz/growingtogether)
- For detailed information about the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) visit the [Ministry for the Environment website](#).
- For more information on the RMA and the amendments made to it in 2021 including the MDRS requirements [visit the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development website](#).

**Please note:**

**This information sheet is a summary document to assist with understanding Proposed Plan Change 83 - Notable Trees**

The proposed plan change to the Auckland Unitary Plan was publicly notified by Auckland Council on 18 August 2022.

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