

Plan Change 113 (PC113)

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are the answers to some questions that you may have as a customer or submitter in relation to PC113. If your question is not answered below, please contact us via email: unitaryplan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or call us on 09 365 3786

Why have I been sent this letter?

Council is undertaking a plan change (PC113) to add trees and groups of trees to the Notable Trees Schedule of the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP). These trees have been nominated by various members of the public and have been found to meet the criteria for scheduling. You have been sent the letter because you either live in or own a property on which a nominated tree/trees or group are located, or you live in or own a property adjoining a property on which a tree/trees or group are located. For this reason, you are considered a directly affected party (someone who may have a direct interest in the scheduling of the tree.)

Why is council doing this plan change?

An amendment to the Resource Management Act in 2013 removed the use of general tree protection in urban areas. Scheduling trees is therefore an important tool to enable the ongoing formal recognition of Auckland's important trees, which are a valuable natural and physical resource. Council has held several hundred nominations for potential scheduled trees in its database for the last few years. This is a long-awaited plan change that assesses those nominations with a view to adding them to Schedule 10 of the Auckland Unitary Plan. New trees can only be added to the Schedule via a plan change. While there have been several other plan changes previously which added some trees to the Schedule, PC113 is the first one which comprehensively looks at all of the nominations in the database, up to and including June 2024.

I agree, or do not agree, that this tree (or trees) should be added to the Schedule

Anyone can make a submission in support or against the inclusion of any tree that has been proposed to be listed. The link to the submission form and the process for making a submission is here:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/plans-projects-policies-reports-bylaws/our-plans-strategies/unitary-plan/auckland-unitary-plan-modifications/proposed-plan-changes/Pages/auckland-unitary-plan-submission-form.aspx?itemID=351>

Please be aware that the closing date for submissions for PC113 is Monday, 23 June 2025.

Can someone add more trees as part of this plan change?

PC113 considered nominations for trees and groups up to and including June 2024. There is no opportunity now to add any further trees to the Schedule as part of this plan change. Council is happy to accept more nominations at any time, but there is currently no timeframe for a future process for adding additional trees to the Schedule. If you would like to nominate a tree or trees, council has a specific form on its website for you to fill out and send in. The link is here:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/building-and-consents/working-on-around-trees/Pages/what-is-notable-tree.aspx>

What rules apply to Notable/Scheduled trees?

If a tree is added to the Schedule, it means that a resource consent may be needed to prune it, work within its root area, or remove it. Minor pruning can usually be carried out with no consent. There are no charges for consent applications to prune or undertake works within the protected dripline of a notable tree.

Consent applications for the removal of a notable tree have a charge of \$670, unless the application is publicly notified, in which case the fees may be more.¹

I believe the details of the tree/s are incorrect

If you believe that any aspect of a tree or trees that have been identified for scheduling as part of PC113 are incorrect, then please make a submission and let us know the reasons for this, including the correct details if possible.

¹ These fees are current at the time of notification of PC113. The fee structure for resource consent applications can be found here: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/building-and-consents/resource-consents/Pages/resource-consent-fees-deposits.aspx>