GREENSCENENZ

ENHANCING AND PROTECTING
LIVING ENVIRONMENTS

Wellsford North Structure Plan

Arboricultural Assessment

Version 1.2
March 2023

Document Status

Responsibility	Name
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Revision Status

Version	Date	Reason for Issue
1.1	20 March 2023	First Draft
1.2	23 March 2023	Draft for client review
1.3		Final Report following client review

Acronyms

Acronym/Term	Description
PRZ	Protected Root Zone
TPZ	Tree Protection Zone
SRZ	Structural Root Zone
CR	Crown Radius
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height
TPM	Tree Protection Methodology
VTA	Visual Tree Assessment
AC	Auckland Council
AUP-OP	Auckland Unitary Plan Operative in part 2016
RC	Resource Consent
TOA	Tree Owner Approval
LOA	Land Owner Approval
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
SEA	Significant Ecological Area
RPMP	Regional Pest Management Plan 2019-2029
DOC	Department of Conservation
VTA	Visual Tree Assessment

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

GreensceneNZ Ltd has been engaged by the *Wellsford North Structure Landowner Group* and *Barker and Associates* to survey and assess the trees within and immediately adjacent to the proposed site at Wellsford, *see figure 1 below*.

This report provides an assessment of the arboriculture associated with *the proposed Plan Change.* This assessment has been prepared to inform the Wellsford North Structure Plan and Plan Change. This report has been compiled with reference to the proposed Structure Plan and Plan Change site boundary, see figure 1 below:

The key matters addressed in this report are as follows:

(a) Identify and categorise the existing trees within and encroaching into the Project site that would be suitable to access as a notable tree;
(b) Identify trees that are protected under the **AUP-OP**.

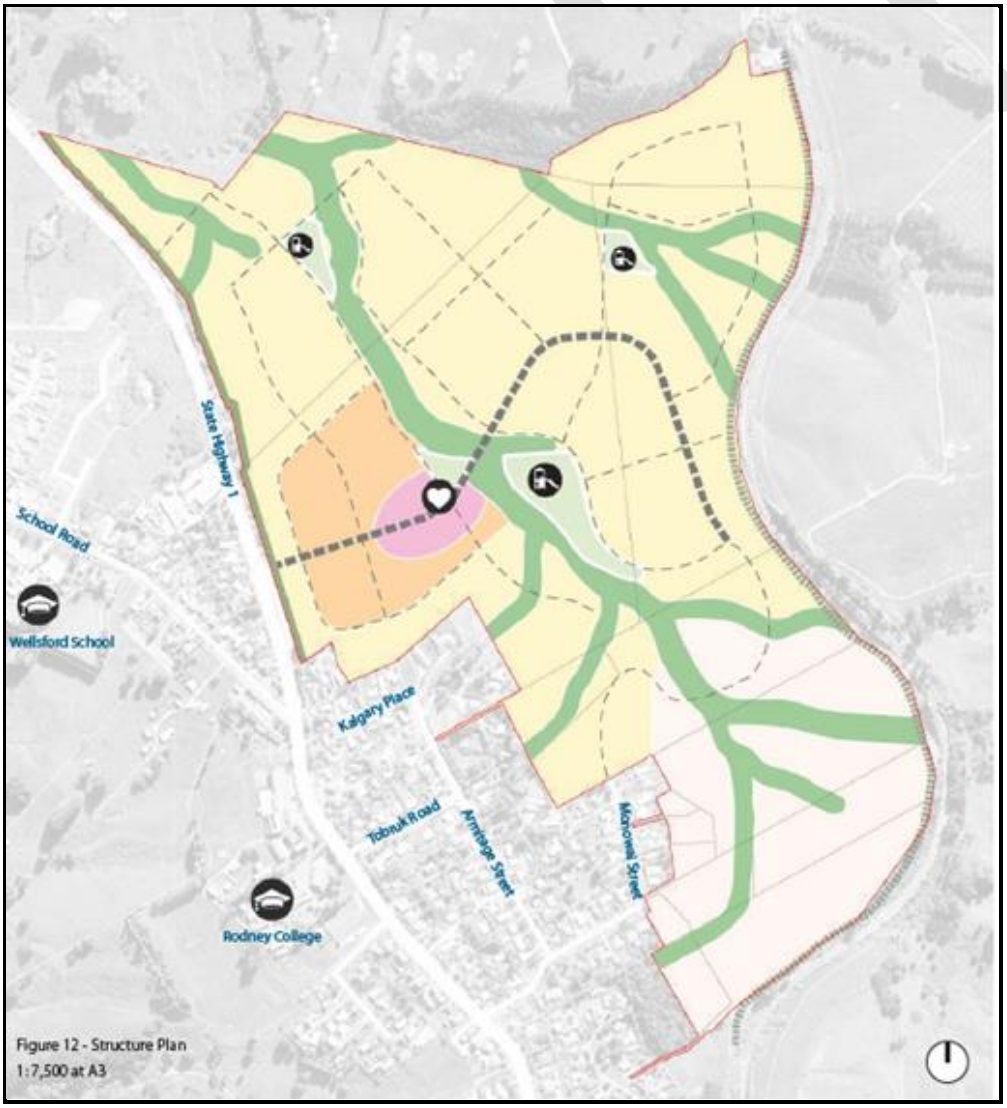


Figure 1: Wellsford Proposed Wellsford Structure Plan area outlined in red.

1.2 Project Description

GreensceneNZ Limited has been engaged by the *Wellsford North Structure Landowner Group* and *Barker and Associates* to survey to provide an assessment of the trees on the 78.5ha of sites coved by this plan change for Wellsford Structure Plan and Plan Change area, Wellsford, and to provide the details on the trees that could be considered suitable to be included in the notable tree schedule for the AUP-OP. It is proposed that the 78.5ha area is changed from a combination of Future Urban Zone, Rural Production Zone and Rural Countryside Living Zone to a combination of Residential Large Lot Zone, Residential Single House Zone, Residential Mixed Housing Suburban Zone, Business Neighbourhood Centre Zone, Rural Country Side Living.

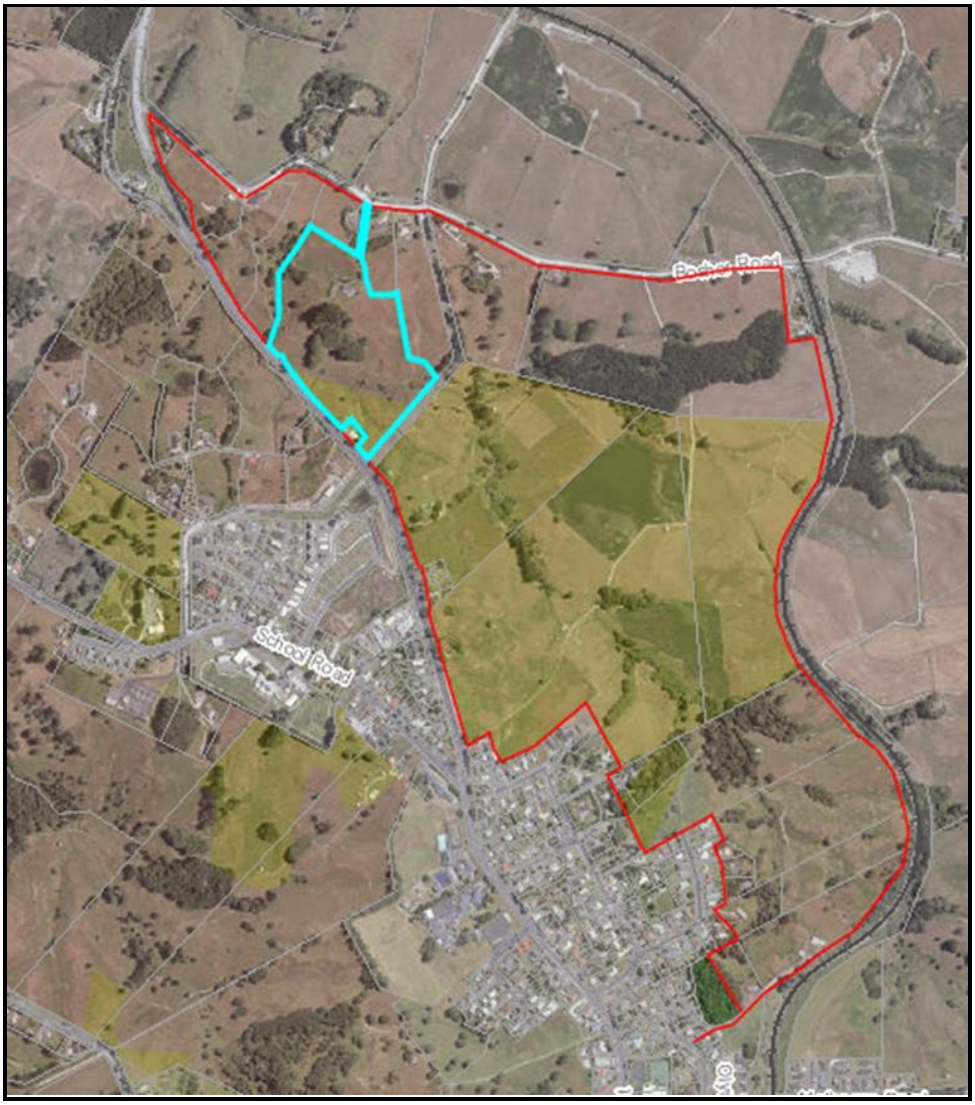


Figure 2: Wellsford Proposed Plan change area outlined in red.

1.3 Site Features

The site comprises of multiple single family dwellings, garages, sheds and out buildings, the use of the land is typical for the area being farmland and lifestyle blocks that are also used for residential purposes. On the land there are, forestry, tree crops, cropping, dry stock and there are numerous established linear shelter belts, wind breaks and boundary plantings to provide protection to the land and buildings behind. Individual exotic and native trees can be found scattered within the site.

The eastern boundary within the railway corridor there is a collection of mainly weed species such as wattle, privet and pine which are managed to be kept clear of the rail lines. The plan change area is relatively clear of trees possibly because the railway is at the high end of the site and provides its own protection to the adjacent area without the shade associated with a tree canopy.

Figure 3: Looking east across the plan change area to the railway lines.

The northern end of the site has a large area of mid to late 20yr old pine trees that appear to have been planted as a forestry/commercial crop and have been fenced to keep stock away from the trees.

Figure 4: Looking south into the pine forest block

To the north and west of the pines there are passive plantings of poplar and willow trees that have been located to provide protection from the wind to the dwellings in this area and or farm buildings and most are located in the valleys or wet areas of this portion of the site. Poplar and willow are well known for their ability to thrive on wet lands and to draw water from the soil helping to dry it out.

Figure 5: Looking south towards the pine block and poplar trees.

To the south of the pine tree block there is a large area of open space/grass with two areas of cropping being maize fields that are again fenced to keep stock out.

Figure 6: Looking north into the pine forest block across the maize fields.

To the south of these areas there are multiple groups of trees mainly located along the valley that are located around the water course. It is difficult to determine if they are planted or self-seeded. The groups of trees are a mixture of native and exotic trees and while they appear to have developed quite well, they are also suffering from the canopy competition with each other. The totara have done the best where they are located on the edge of the group although they are not large or dominate trees. Tree 2 assessed for scheduling is from this area and while it has the age and form desired it does not have the size or visibility to be a notable tree.

Figure 7: Looking east, through the valley south of the maize fields.

2 Statutory Context

2.1.1 Native Fauna and Flora

Trees provide a source of food, habitat, breeding and dispersal methods for native fauna as well as potential habitat for native flora e.g. epiphytes such as mistletoe, orchids and lichen. Native fauna which includes birds, bats, lizards and some invertebrates are protected under the Wildlife Act 1953. Management of natural resources including any significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna are covered under the **RMA**. This provides sustainable management for the use and development of natural resources by avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects.

2.1.2 Auckland Unitary Plan- Operative

Under the **AUP-OP** assessment criteria for trees and vegetation include rules, activities and standards covered in a number of chapters most notably;

- **D13**: Notable Trees Overlay
- **E15**: Vegetation management and biodiversity
- **E16**: Trees in open space zones
- **E17**: Trees in roads
- **E26**: Infrastructure

Any discretionary or restricted discretionary activities will require **RC**, while permitted activities do not. Notwithstanding any trees affected by proposed works which **AC** maintains a regulatory interest (such as open space trees or trees in roads) will require a **TOA**.

2.1.3 Pest Plants

Where appropriate invasive plant species have been identified that are listed in the **RPMP**, this also includes animal pests and diseases such as kauri dieback (*Phytophthora agathadicida*). While pest species may be recommended for removal they also provide habitat and ecosystem services, control of pest plants should be part of a management plan to ensure the ecosystem services they provide are not compromised by removal.

3 Arboricultural Planning

3.1 Approach to Arboricultural Planning

A key objective of the Project is to provide a sustainable, liveable, compact and accessible place with successful centres and residential options close to a variety of employment opportunities. That is well connected to the wider Auckland region through the rail and road networks where cultural and heritage values are respected.

Table 1: AUP-OP planning chapters, activities and standards

Planning chapters and assessment standards	
D13: Notable trees	• *There are no scheduled notable trees within or encroaching into the site.* • *There are 5 sites with Notable trees as detailed below* • *NTO 2363 Pōhutukawa 3 Monowai Street* • *NTO 2368 Pōhutukawa 7 Monowai Street* • *NTO 2352 Cypress 42 Armitage Road* • *NTO 2353 Hoop Pine 44 Armitage Road* • *NTO 2366 Pōhutukawa 6 Batten Street*
E15: Vegetation management and biodiversity	• *There are no Significant Ecological Area (SEA) overlay to be considered.* • *There is no Wetland Management Area overlay to be considered.*
E17: Trees in roads	• Rodney Street at the north western end with Bosher Road and south to almost School Road there are numerous trees that appear to be located within the site that are actually located within the road reserve and this includes the third and fourth tree, both Norfolk Island pine trees, assessed for scheduling in this assessment.

4 Methodology and Analysis

4.1 Assessment Methodology

4.1.1 Surveying

As recognised by the New Zealand Arboricultural Association, GreensceneNZ utilise the British Standard BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction on development sites for tree surveying.

Except where permission to gain site access had been obtained, surveying was undertaken from publicly accessible sites using the following equipment:

- Nikon Forestry Pro Rangefinder
- Million Diameter Tape
- PLS laser
- Thor 710 Hammer (as appropriate)
- 450mm probe (as appropriate)

Tree biometric data included tree height, crown radius, diameter at **DBH** and relevant basal diameters were collected from the four trees considered most appropriate to be considered for assessment for the notable tree nomination. These four trees were inspected from the ground level, utilising the Visual Tree Assessment (**VTA**) method expounded by Mattheck and Breloer 1994 and Lonsdale 1999.

All observations including dieback, obvious signs of defects or pathogenic fungal associations were recorded and investigated where deemed necessary. Individual tree life stages were determined as either young, semi mature, mature, over mature or veteran, post survey. Life stage is based upon the maximum achievable size and age recorded for each native species in New Zealand, (J. Dawson, R. Lucas New Zealand's Native Trees 2011).

This tree assessment is a snapshot of the trees at the time of surveying, as trees are dynamic living organisms they are subject to change. It is possible that some changes may occur throughout the course of this proposed development.

4.1.2 Tree Categorization

All trees were classified as either category A, category B, category C or category U in accordance with the British Standard method for trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (BS5837:2012). A numerical subcategory denoting the trees arboricultural, landscape, cultural and conservation value was also designated to the trees, *see appendix 2.*

Trees are categorized according to British Standard BS 5837:2012 and fall under four categories:

- **Category U**: Trees in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained for longer than 10 years
- **Category A**: Trees of high quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years
- **Category B**: Trees of moderate quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 20 years
- **Category C**: Trees of low quality with an estimated life expectancy of at least 10 years or young trees with a DBH of <150mm

The category A, category B and category C trees are of a high, moderate or low quality respectively and are a material constraint. Category U trees are deemed unworthy of being a material constraint and cannot be realistically retained due to their severe decline, associated biosecurity issues, high risk or excessive nuisance. It is recognised that there may still be some cultural or ecological value, however this falls outside.

4.1.3 Neighbouring and Non-protected Vegetation

A duty of care will apply in relation to neighbouring privately owned trees. In respect of neighbouring trees, a similar tree protection methodology afforded to generally protected trees should apply and, in particular:

- Identification of the tree (vegetation) protection zone;
- Consultation with the neighbouring property owner(s), should any adverse effects be identified or removal required;
- All works within the TPZ should be under the direction of a qualified arborist;

4.1.4 Limitations

The British Standard BS5837:2012 for the assessment of trees in relation to design, demolition and construction is not a tree hazard assessment, therefore this survey does not constitute a quantified risk assessment.

5 Conclusion

- According to the AUP-OP there are no protected trees within the Structure Plan and Plan Change area.

- There are no significant trees located within the Structure Plan and Plan Change area that have been assessed as being worthy of protection as a Notable tree. Neither of the four trees assessments achieves a score qualifying to be nominated as a Notable Tree under the AUP-OP.

While there are several larger trees or trees that you would think would make the criteria to be included in the notable tree schedule over these sites, the notable tree assessment criteria is very tight and is quite restrictive in its application.

As detailed in the Auckland Council Guideline for Nominating a Notable tree, a tree can be scheduled as a notable tree if it achieves a score of 20 or more which is quite difficult to achieve without the tree being both older and having a visual contribution as three of the four scoring elements have a mid-value of 5. The first element has a matrix of vigour and vitality against age and health from which to draw a score with the value rage between 2 and 10. To keep with a score of 5 the tree needs to be 41-60 years old and have a vitality and vigour top score to get the 5 points.
Tree size is also a limiting factor as only those trees that are up to 25% larger than average are able to be scored at a 5. Less than 24% get 0 and greater than 25% get 10 points

Within the Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation, this document provides the following Special Factors
A Heritage,
B Scientific,
C Ecosystem service,
D Cultural,
E Intrinsic,
F Negative effects
Where there are no special factors values provided by the above table to be added to the scores from the tree specific factors table there will be no change to the score of each tree accessed.

Appendix I

Individually assessed trees

Tree Id	Life Stage	BS5837 Category	Common name	Botanical name	Location Description	Height (m)	DBH (mm)	Canopy radius (m)	AUP (OP) Protection status
1	Mature	C1	Pine	Pinus sp	Farm	31	1767	15.0	Not Protected
2	Young	B1	Totara	Podocarpus totara	Farm	11.8	1400	7	Not Protected
3	Young	B1	Norfolk Island Pine	Araucaria heterophylla	Road Zone	23	1200	8	Protected
4	Young	B1	Norfolk Island Pine	Araucaria heterophylla	Road Zone	25	1800	8	Protected

Appendix 2

Notable Tree Assessment

Tree 1 of 4

Heritage Tree Nomination No. 1

Tree Species Pine

Section 6: Tree-specific factors (see following page for scoring)

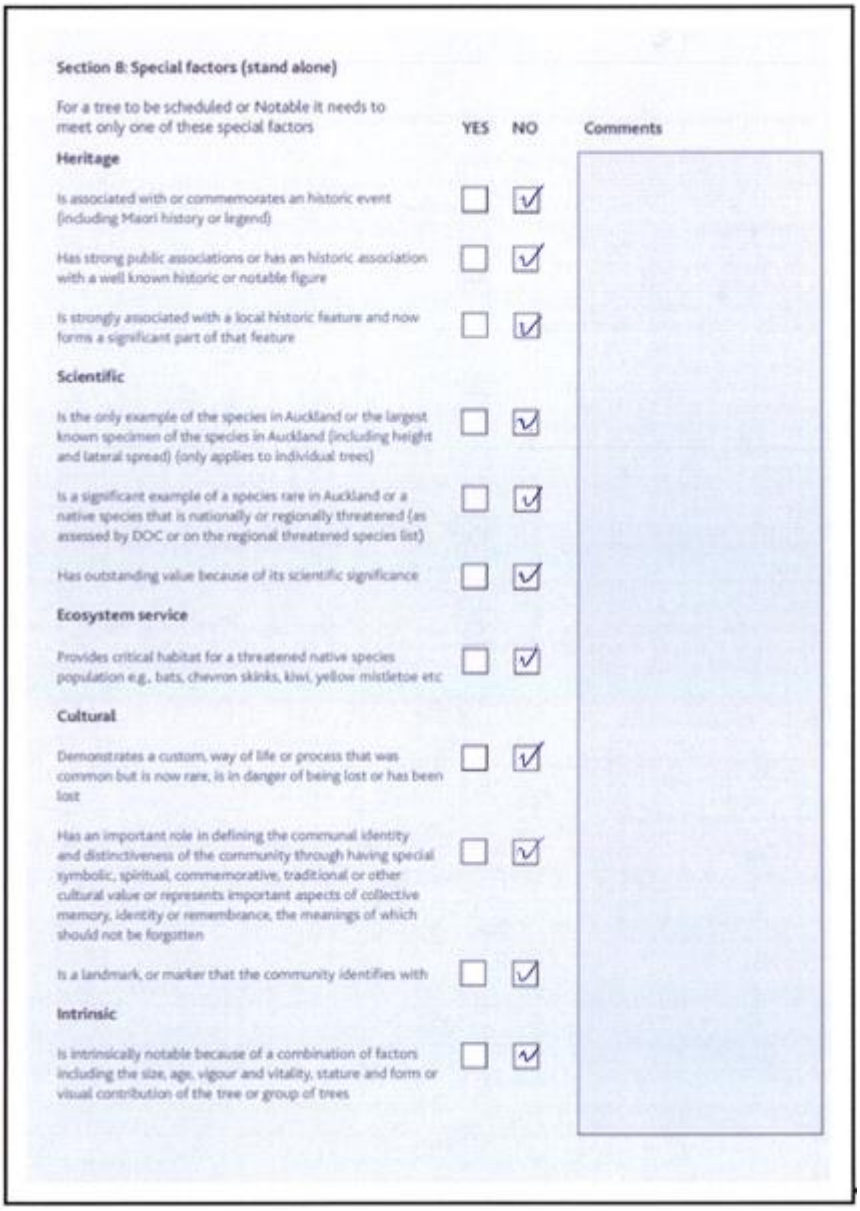
A tree can be scheduled as Notable if it achieves a score of 20 or more

	Score (see explanatory notes)	Comments
Age and health Is notable because of its age (e.g., the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)	4	41-60yrs old Sparse Canopy
Character and form Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., text book shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique	5	larger of the Pine trees on site
Size It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)	0	Typical for the area
Visual contribution It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland	5	100 – 5000 people

Section 7: Negative effects

Are there any matters that weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?

Hazard and negative effects	YES	NO	Comments
Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?	☑	☐	Dead wood
Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?	☑	☐	
Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?	☐	☑	



Section 8: Special factors (stand alone)

For a tree to be scheduled or Notable it needs to meet only one of these special factors	YES	NO	Comments
Heritage			
Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Maori history or legend)	☐	☑	
Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure	☐	☑	
Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature	☐	☑	
Scientific			
Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)	☐	☑	
Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by DOC or on the regional threatened species list)	☐	☑	
Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance	☐	☑	
Ecosystem service			
Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, chevron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc	☐	☑	
Cultural			
Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost	☐	☑	
Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten	☐	☑	
Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with	☐	☑	
Intrinsic			
Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees	☐	☑	

Tree Location

Comments

Photo of the Pine tree

Within the Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation, this document provides the following Special Factors

A Heritage, this is not known for this tree and or site at this point.

B Scientific, this is not the largest pine tree in Auckland.

C Ecosystem service, it is not known if this tree provides a critical habitat for threatened species and it is an exotic tree.

D Cultural, It is not known if this tree meets this criteria.

E Intrinsic, This is the main reason for accessing this tree, its size, age, vigour, vitality and visual contribution.

F Negative effects

There are several factors that could weigh against this trees long term protection and they could be considered negative impacts on human health and or property with shade, leaf fall and root development of the tree, which are all manageable through arboricultural management with shade being the most difficult to achieve with an evergreen tree.

There is also deadwood through the tree canopy, but this could be removed.

G Age and health

This is a tree that is not greater than 60 years old and has a sparse canopy.

H Character and form

This tree is one of the larger pine trees on site.

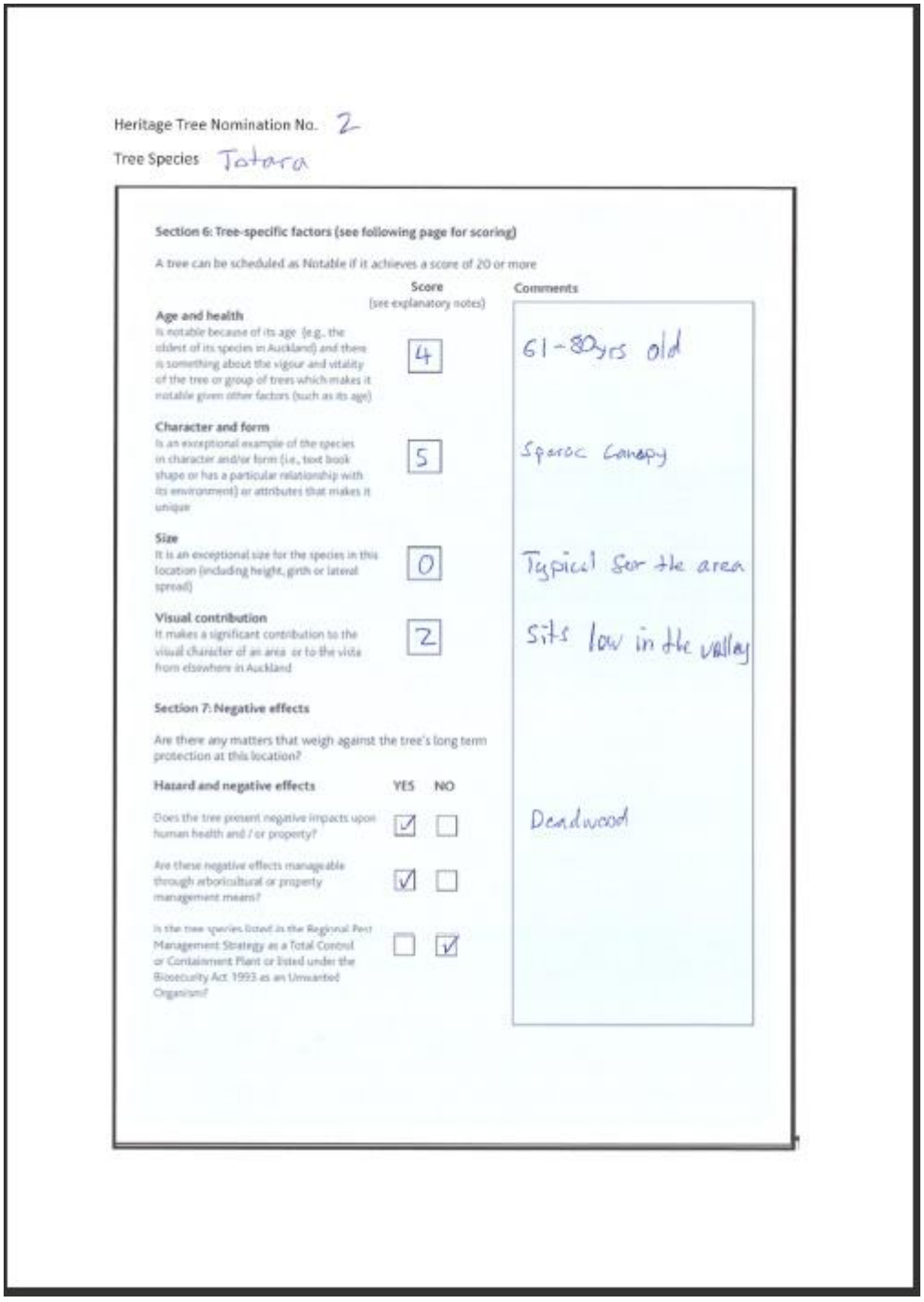
I Size

This tree is typical sized pine tree for the area.

J Visual contribution

This tree is highly visible from a main road where between 100 and 5000 people will see the tree daily

Tree 2 of 4



Heritage Tree Nomination No. 2

Tree Species Totara

Section 6: Tree-specific factors (see following page for scoring)

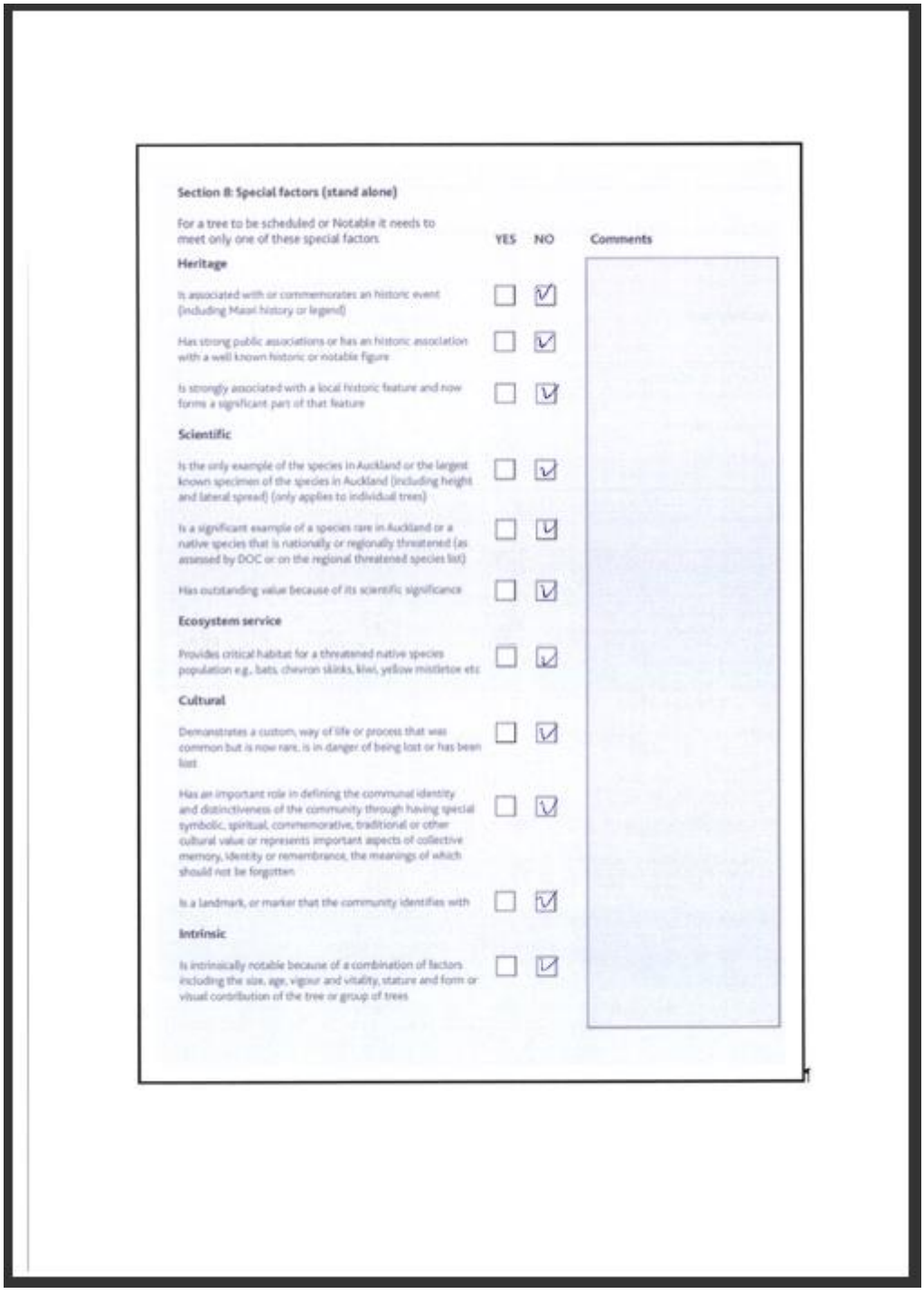
A tree can be scheduled as Notable if it achieves a score of 20 or more

	Score (see explanatory notes)	Comments
Age and health Is notable because of its age (e.g. the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)	4	61-80yrs old
Character and form Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., text book shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique	5	Sparse Canopy
Size It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)	0	Typical for the area
Visual contribution It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland	2	Sits low in the valley

Section 7: Negative effects

Are there any matters that weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?

Hazard and negative effects	YES	NO	
Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?	☑	☐	Deadwood
Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?	☑	☐	
Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?	☐	☑	



Section 8: Special factors (stand alone)

For a tree to be scheduled or Notable it needs to meet only one of these special factors	YES	NO	Comments
Heritage			
Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Maori history or legend)	☐	☑	
Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure	☐	☑	
Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature	☐	☑	
Scientific			
Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)	☐	☑	
Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by DOC or on the regional threatened species list)	☐	☑	
Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance	☐	☑	
Ecosystem service			
Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, chevron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc	☐	☑	
Cultural			
Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost	☐	☑	
Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten	☐	☑	
Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with	☐	☑	
Intrinsic			
Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees	☐	☑	

Tree Location

Comments

Photo of the Totara tree

Within the Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation, this document provides the following Special Factors

A Heritage, this is not known for this tree and or site at this point.

B Scientific, this is not the largest totara tree in Auckland.

C Ecosystem service, it is not known if this tree provides a critical habitat for threatened species.

D Cultural, It is not known if this tree meets this criteria.

E Intrinsic, This is the main reason for accessing this tree, its size, age, vigour, vitality and visual contribution.

F Negative effects

There are several factors that could weigh against this trees long term protection and they could be considered negative impacts on human health and or property with shade, leaf fall and root development of the tree, which are all manageable through arboricultural management with shade being the most difficult to achieve with an evergreen tree.

G Age and health

This is a tree that is not greater than 80 years old and has a sparse canopy.

H Character and form

This tree is one of the larger totara trees on site.

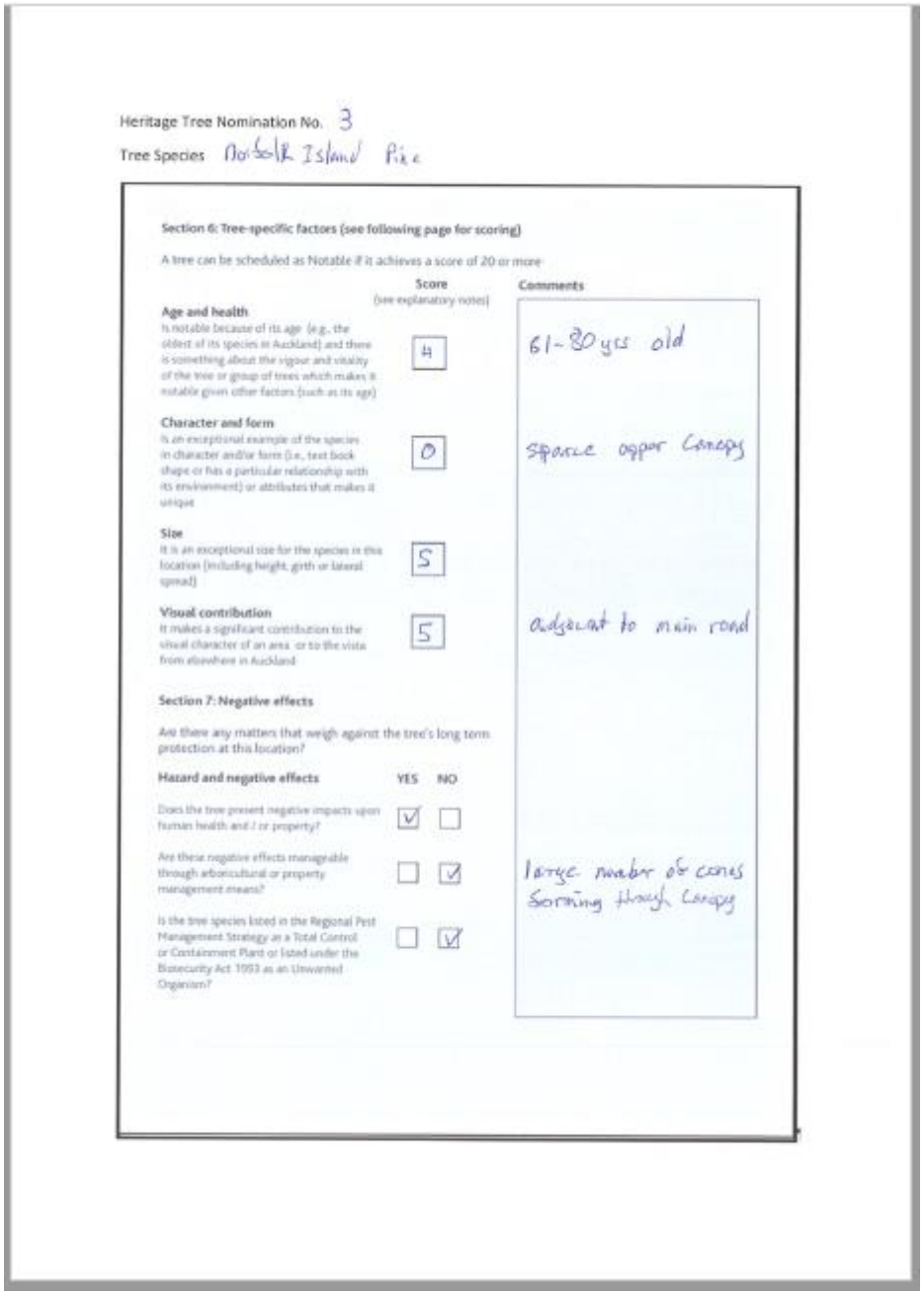
I Size

This tree is typical sized totara tree for the area.

J Visual contribution

This tree is visible from a main road where between 100 and 5000 people may see the tree daily although it is nestled in amongst other trees as well.

Tree 3 of 4



Heritage Tree Nomination No. 3

Tree Species Norfolk Island Pine

Section 6: Tree-specific factors (see following page for scoring)

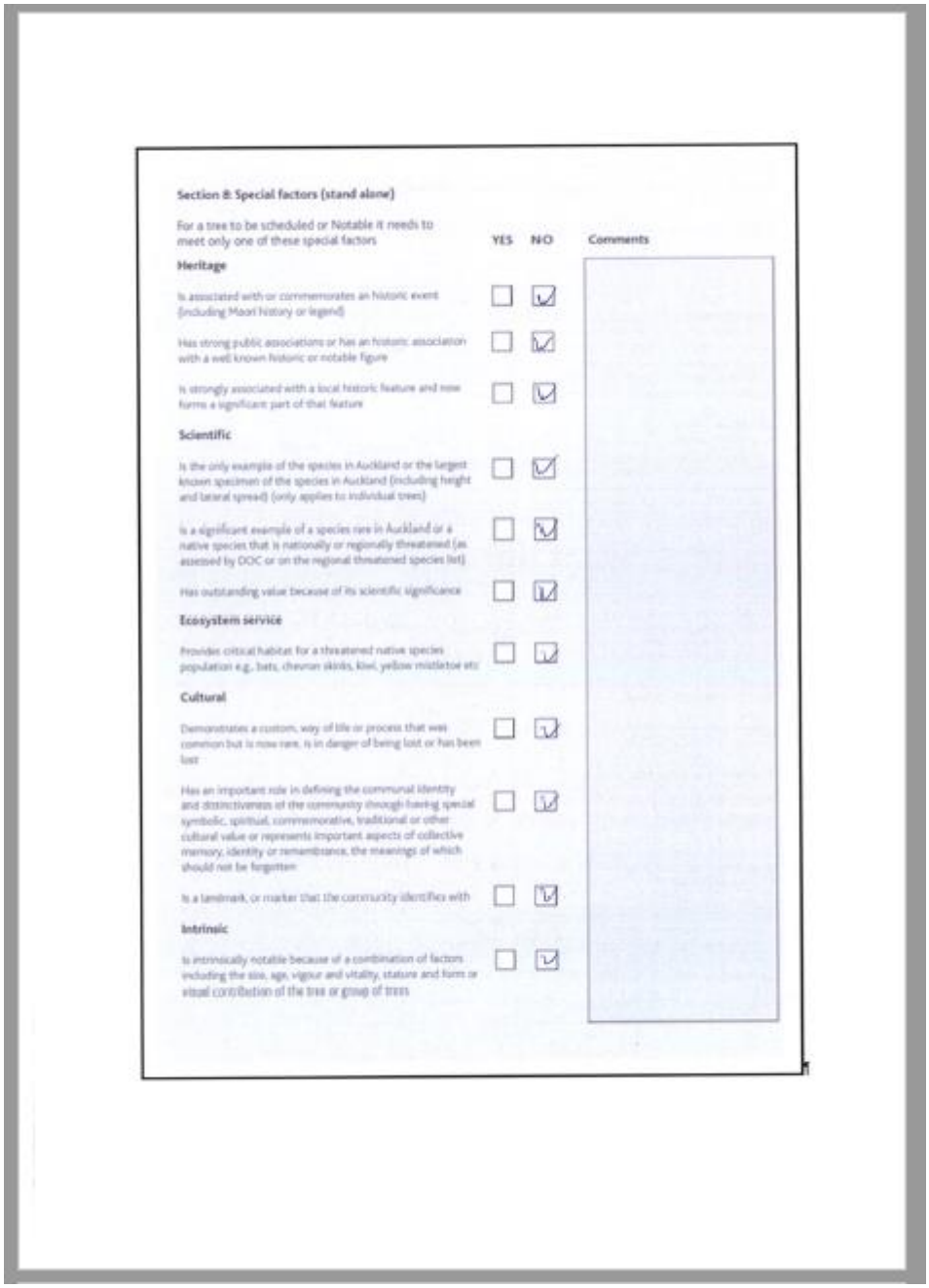
A tree can be scheduled as Notable if it achieves a score of 20 or more

	Score (see explanatory notes)	Comments
Age and health Is notable because of its age (e.g., the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)	4	61-80 yrs old
Character and form Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., text book shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique	0	Sparse upper Canopy
Size It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)	5	
Visual contribution It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland	5	adjacent to main road

Section 7: Negative effects

Are there any matters that weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?

Hazard and negative effects	YES	NO	
Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?	☑	☐	
Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?	☐	☑	large number of cones Storming through Canopy
Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?	☐	☑	



Section 8: Special factors (stand alone)

For a tree to be scheduled or Notable it needs to meet only one of these special factors	YES	NO	Comments
Heritage			
Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Maori history or legend)	☐	☑	
Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure	☐	☑	
Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature	☐	☑	
Scientific			
Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)	☐	☑	
Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by DOC or on the regional threatened species list)	☐	☑	
Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance	☐	☑	
Ecosystem service			
Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, chevron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc	☐	☑	
Cultural			
Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost	☐	☑	
Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten	☐	☑	
Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with	☐	☑	
Intrinsic			
Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees	☐	☑	

Tree Location

Comments

Photo of the Norfolk Island pine tree

Within the Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation, this document provides the following Special Factors

A Heritage, this is not known for this tree and or site at this point.

B Scientific, this is not the largest Norfolk Island pine tree in Auckland.

C Ecosystem service, it is not known if this tree provides a critical habitat for threatened species.

D Cultural, It is not known if this tree meets this criteria.

E Intrinsic, This is the main reason for accessing this tree, its size, age, vigour, vitality and visual contribution.

F Negative effects

There are several factors that could weigh against this trees long term protection and they could be considered negative impacts on human health and or property with shade, leaf fall cone fall and root development of the tree, which are all manageable through arboricultural management with shade being the most difficult to achieve with an evergreen tree.

G Age and health

This is a tree that is not greater than 80 years old and has a sparse canopy.

H Character and form

This tree is one of the larger trees on site.

I Size

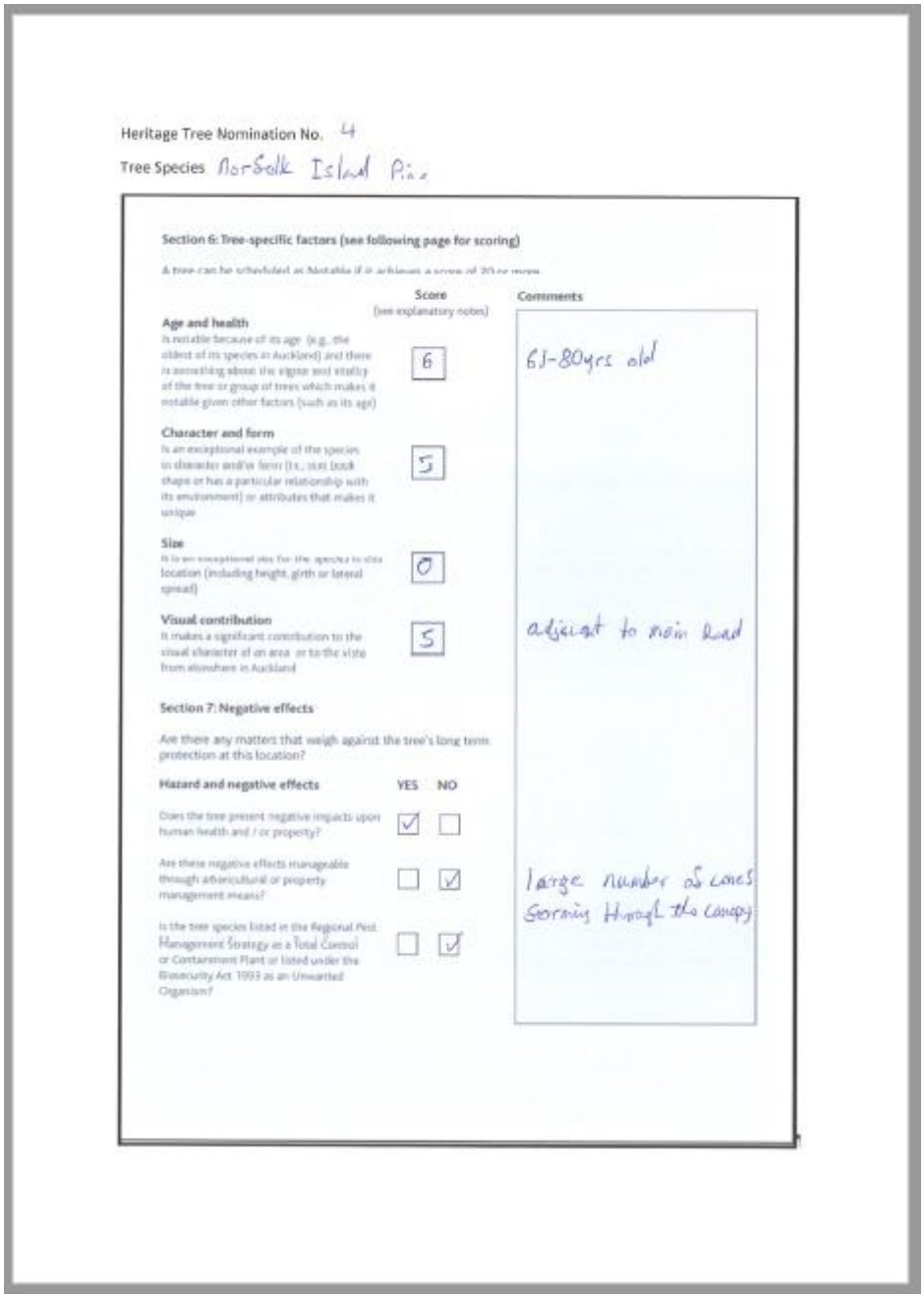
This tree is typical sized tree for the area.

J Visual contribution

This tree is visible from a main road where between 100 and 5000 people may see the tree daily.

It is located within the road reserve.

Tree 4 of 4



Heritage Tree Nomination No. 4

Tree Species Norfolk Island Pine

Section 6: Tree-specific factors (see following page for scoring)

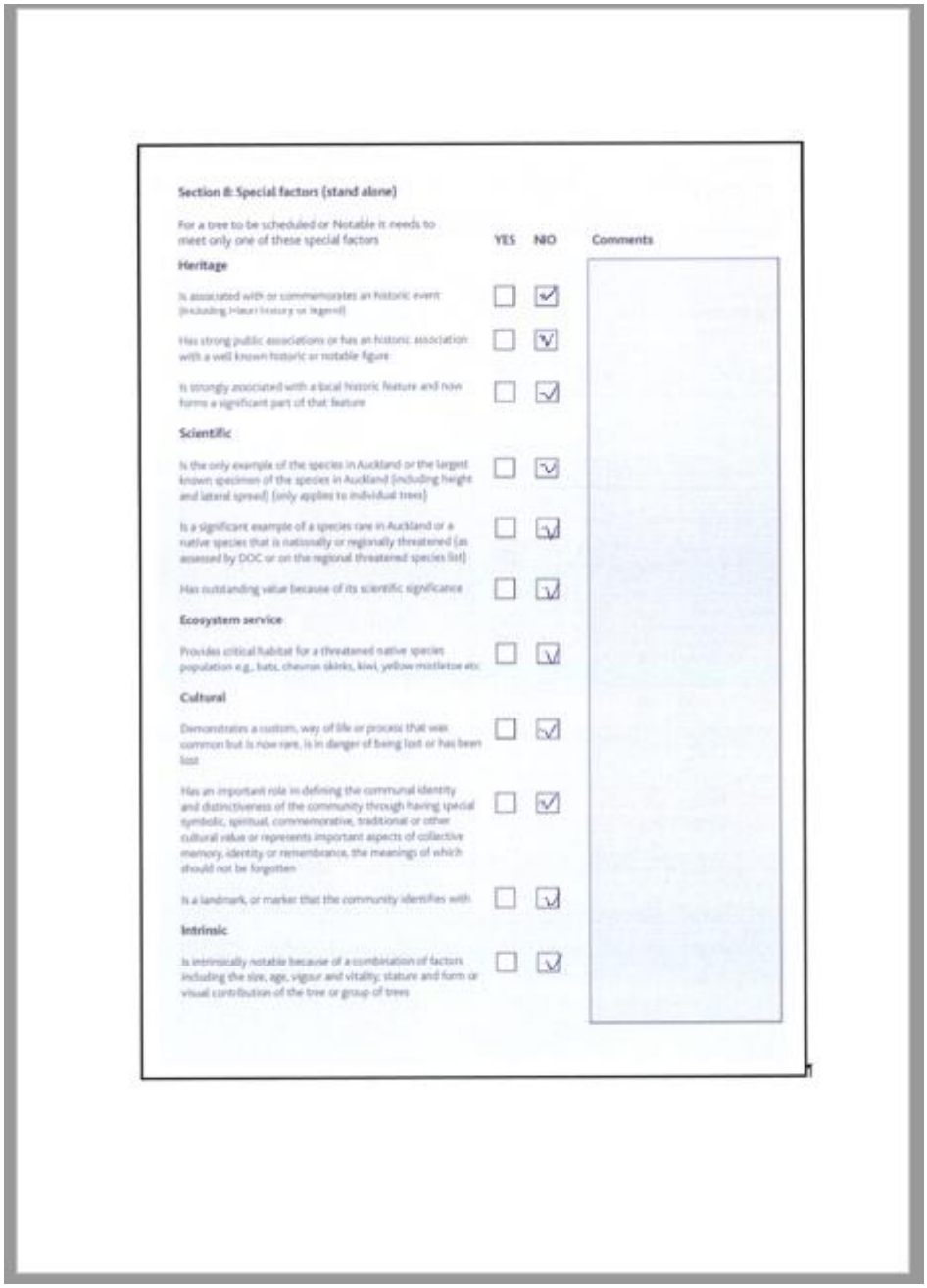
A tree can be scheduled as Notable if it achieves a score of 20 or more

	Score (see explanatory notes)	Comments
Age and health Is notable because of its age (e.g. the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)	6	65-80yrs old
Character and form Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., stem bole shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique	5	
Size It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)	0	
Visual contribution It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland	5	adjacent to main Road

Section 7: Negative effects

Are there any matters that weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?

Hazard and negative effects	YES	NO	
Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?	☑	☐	
Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?	☐	☑	large number of cones Growing through the canopy
Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?	☐	☑	



Section 8: Special factors (stand alone)

For a tree to be scheduled or Notable it needs to meet only one of these special factors	YES	NO	Comments
Heritage			
Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Māori history or legend)	☐	☑	
Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure	☐	☑	
Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature	☐	☑	
Scientific			
Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)	☐	☑	
Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by DOC or on the regional threatened species list)	☐	☑	
Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance	☐	☑	
Ecosystem service			
Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, cheuron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc	☐	☑	
Cultural			
Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost	☐	☑	
Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten	☐	☑	
Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with	☐	☑	
Intrinsic			
Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees	☐	☑	

Tree Location

Comments

Photo of the Norfolk Island pine tree

Within the Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation, this document provides the following Special Factors

A Heritage, this is not known for this tree and or site at this point.

B Scientific, this is not the largest Norfolk Island pine tree in Auckland.

C Ecosystem service, it is not known if this tree provides a critical habitat for threatened species.

D Cultural, It is not known if this tree meets this criteria.

E Intrinsic, This is the main reason for accessing this tree, its size, age, vigour, vitality and visual contribution.

F Negative effects

There are several factors that could weigh against this trees long term protection and they could be considered negative impacts on human health and or property with shade, leaf fall cone fall and root development of the tree, which are all manageable through arboricultural management with shade being the most difficult to achieve with an evergreen tree.

G Age and health

This is a tree that is not greater than 80 years old and has a sparse canopy.

H Character and form

This tree is one of the larger trees on site.

I Size

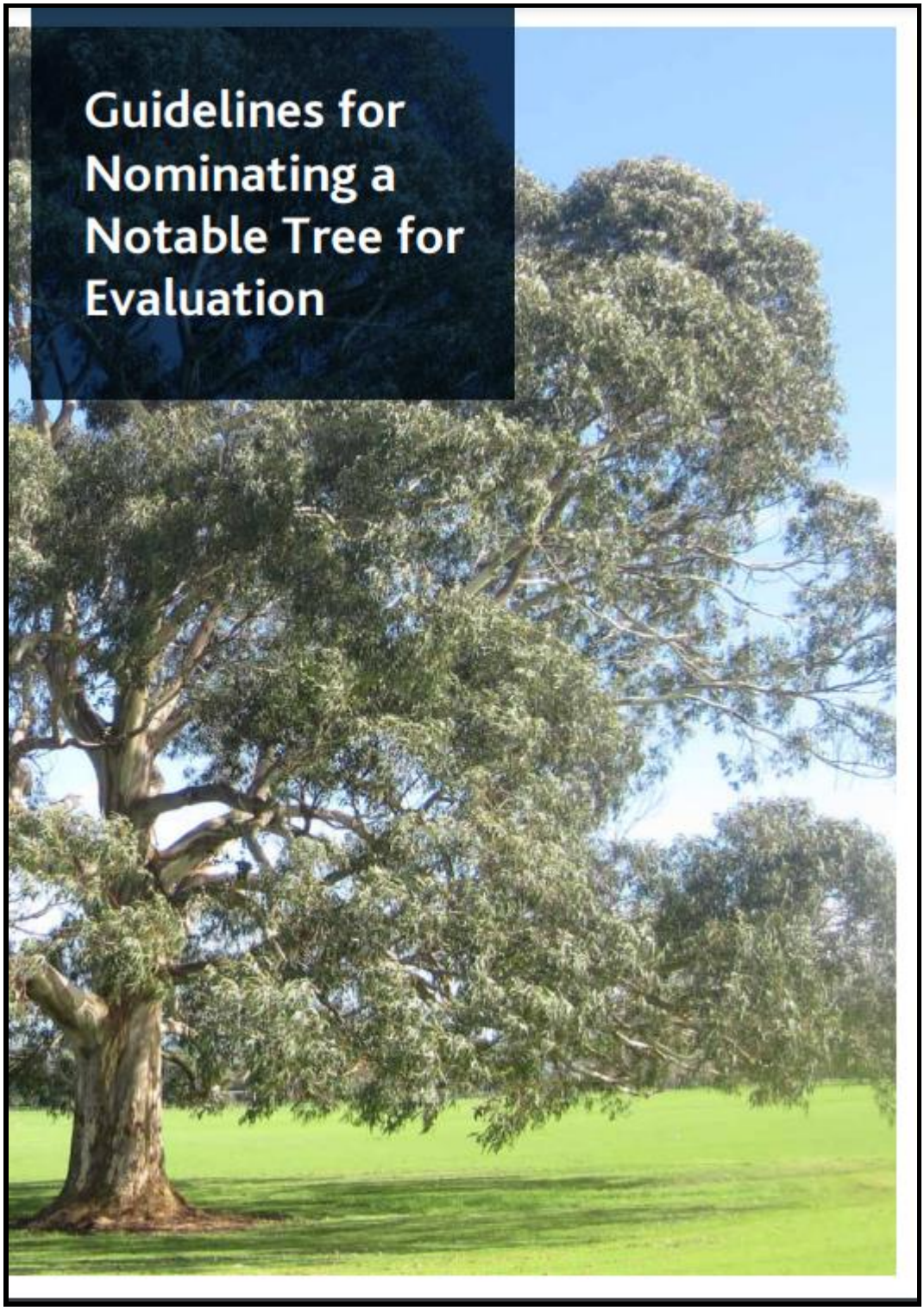
This tree is typical sized tree for the area.

J Visual contribution

This tree is visible from a main road where between 100 and 5000 people may see the tree daily.

This tree is located within the road reserve.

I have attached a copy of the Guideline for further reference below.


Guidelines for Nominating a Notable Tree for Evaluation

Nomination Guidelines

These guidelines outline the requirements for nominating a notable tree for evaluation by Auckland Council for inclusion on the region's Notable Tree Schedule. This document will assist you in completing and submitting the nomination form.

Nominating a tree

Any person or organisation may nominate a tree or group of trees for evaluation by completing and submitting the nomination form.

Before you submit a nomination, please read these guidelines to check whether nomination is appropriate, and to ensure that you complete the form correctly. You should only nominate a tree or group of trees if you consider it has significant value and would be a worthy addition to Auckland's Notable Tree Schedule.

Purpose of evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation is to identify notable trees for inclusion in Auckland's Notable Tree Schedule, or for other appropriate management to protect the tree such as a legal covenant.

Nomination of a tree or group of trees does not automatically guarantee that it will be evaluated or considered for scheduling. Priority will be given to nominations for trees on the nominator's property or on public land (open space, reserves or streets) and to those that are not already scheduled as part of a Significant Ecological Area. Priority will also be given to nominations that clearly identify the values of the tree and are supported by relevant background information. Therefore you are encouraged to make a persuasive case for the significance of the tree.

What is a Notable Tree?

Practically all trees play important economic, environmental and social roles in any district of New Zealand. However, some trees are often thought of as being of greater value than others. That is, there are some specimen trees, or groups of trees, that stand out as being notable, significant or distinguished. It is those trees that, for various reasons, are selected by territorial local authorities, throughout New Zealand, for inclusion on a notable tree schedule in a district plan. Through this mechanism they gain greater legal protection.

Notable trees are generally those that a community or nation regard as being of special importance because they commemorate important events in a nation's history, are exceptional or unique examples of a species, are critical to the survival of other species or are of such age, stature, character and visibility that they are regarded as the best in the district.

What is the Notable Tree Schedule?

Auckland's Notable Tree Schedule is a list of significant trees or groups of trees in the Auckland region. Inclusion of a tree or group of trees in the Schedule means that:

- It has been officially recognised by the Auckland Council as being a Notable Tree
- It is protected by provisions in district or unitary plans to ensure it is not damaged or destroyed
- It may be eligible for grants and other incentives.

Criteria for scheduling Notable Trees

Auckland Council has proposed criteria for evaluating the importance of trees and the level of significance required to be considered for inclusion in the Notable Tree Schedule. There are three types of criteria: Special factors (stand alone), Negative factors and Tree Specific factors.

The special factor criteria are stand alone which means that if a tree or group of trees meets any one criterion then it is deemed notable. The tree-specific criteria require a cumulative assessment. That means, for a tree or group of trees to be notable, it must have a cumulative score of 20 or more out of 40 using the scoring systems described in Appendix 1.

Both the special factor and tree-specific criteria are used in combination to determine whether a tree or group of trees is notable. A tree will be notable if it meets only one of the special factors or the score threshold for tree-specific criteria.

In addition, the assessment against the Special factor and tree-specific criteria is then balanced by taking into account the potential negative effects of the tree. In situations where negative effects occur then these must be offset against the benefits of protecting a notable tree. This methodology does not provide a definitive way to make this decision but it relies on the expertise of trained arborists assessing the risk of the negative effects occurring and the overall significance of the tree. The critical part of this assessment is determining whether the hazard or negative effects are unmanageable. Most hazards and all nuisance effects can be managed but in instances where they are unmanageable a tree will not be scheduled as notable. Pest plants listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy or Plan will not be scheduled.

Special Factors (stand alone)

A. Heritage

- Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Maori history or legend)
- Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure
- Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature

B. Scientific

- Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)
- Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) or on the regional threatened species list)
- Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance

C. Ecosystem service

- Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, chevron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc

D. Cultural

- Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost
- Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten
- Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with

E. Intrinsic

- Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees

Negative Effects

F. Negative effects

- Are there any matters that may weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?
- Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?
- Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?
- Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?

Tree-specific factors (see below for scoring)

G. Age and health

- Is notable because of its age (e.g., the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)

H. Character and form

- Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., text book shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique

I. Size

- It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)

J. Visual contribution

- It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland

Thresholds

When applying tree-specific factors to groups of trees an average assessment for all trees in the group should be used. At least one individual in a group must be scheduled independently as notable and all trees in the group must be physically close to each other or form a collective or functional unit through meeting at least one of the following criteria: 1. Canopies touch; 2. Canopies overlap; 3. Canopies are not further than 5 metres apart.

To be considered eligible for inclusion in Auckland's Notable Tree Schedule, a tree or group of trees must meet at least one of the special factor criteria or achieve a score of 20 or more for tree-specific criteria.
Other tree specific factors are also taken into account in the decision to recommend a tree for scheduling. Sometimes scheduling is not the most appropriate way of protecting an important tree. For example, it may be part of a significant indigenous plant community and it would be more appropriate to schedule as a Significant Ecological Area (SEA) or it may already be within one of this SEAs and therefore a lower priority for evaluation.
The final decision over whether to schedule a notable tree or group of trees is made by the Council after assessing the information obtained from this process.

What trees can be nominated?

Any tree or groups of trees may be nominated including those in towns, streetscapes and settlements, gardens, trees and plantings or they may be naturally occurring trees in parks, reserves or covenants.
Frivolous or vexatious nominations will not be accepted including nominations for:

- Any tree or groups of trees that has been planted and is less than 20 years old, other than in exceptional circumstances
- Moveable or portable trees such as those in planter boxes.
- Any tree that cannot be accurately located or identified.

Priority will be given to trees nominated for inclusion in Auckland's schedule of Notable Trees that occur on the property of the nominee or in a public reserve. Detailed nominations supported with good information will have an increased chance of being processed quickly for acceptance into the schedule and will be peer reviewed. Nominations providing limited information, or those for trees on another person's private property will be processed as and when resources are made available.

Completing the nomination form (see Appendix 1)

Before completing the form
Before you complete the nomination form (see Appendix 1) you should check your existing Notable Tree Schedule to ensure that the tree or group of trees is not already scheduled.

Completing the form
You are encouraged to complete and submit the nomination form in electronic format. You can download an electronic copy of the form from the Auckland Council website (http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Section 1 (Contact details)
We need to be able to acknowledge receipt of your nomination, verify information if needed, and keep you informed. We cannot accept anonymous nominations.

Section 2 (Address)
We need to know where the tree is. If it doesn't have a street address, you can provide the legal description or grid reference (using NZ Transverse Mercator coordinates). You can access these through the council's GIS viewer: http://maps.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/aucklandcouncilviewer/

Legal description: use the 'identify' button on the toolbars on the right of the screen Grid reference: go to Tools/capture map coordinates. Print out and attach an aerial photo of the site with the tree clearly circled. If there are multiple trees please show where each tree is located.

Section 3 (Owner/occupier)
Complete this section if you have access to this information.

Section 4 (Description)
You should include a description of the tree and its location. For example provide a description of the estimated height, age, species and context for the tree.

Section 5 (Threats)
It is useful to identify known threats to the tree, because this will assist in prioritising nominations. For example, pressure from development, risk of being removed to create views etc.

Sections 6 - 8 (Tree specific and special factors and negative effects)
You should evaluate the tree or group of trees against each of the criteria. This will be the primary means by which we will evaluate a tree.

Section 9 (Conclusions)
Summarise your conclusions about the tree or group of trees here.

Further assistance
If you need assistance with the form, please contact the Council's Heritage team by email at heritage@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Please complete the form in as much detail as possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I provide information in confidence?

Generally not. Evaluation of Auckland's heritage is a public process. All members of the public, including the owner of a tree, are entitled to access all information held by the Council on a property. Councils are only required to restrict access to sensitive information about places of significance to tangata whenua as this is a statutory requirement under the Resource Management Act 1991. All other information relating to a property is public information, and is therefore available to members of the public upon request. If you have concerns about providing information that is, or may be sensitive or subject to copyright, you should discuss this with staff in the Council's Heritage Unit before providing the information.

What about my personal details?

The Council has a responsibility to comply with the Privacy Act 1993 and the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987. All information provided to, and held by Council as public records, is public information and is subject to disclosure upon request unless there are reasons why it should not be disclosed. If you have concerns, you should refer to the relevant Acts, and seek independent advice.

What if I don't have the time or knowledge to provide all the information you require?

The more supporting evidence you can provide the better. Nominations that lack sufficient information may be assigned a low priority for evaluation. You could approach your Local Board, botanical society or other community group to assist with the nomination or to make it on your behalf.

Why can't the Council evaluate all nominated trees?

The process of evaluating trees requires specialised personnel and resources. As well as public nominations, the council identifies potentially significant trees through its own work. All nominations receive an initial appraisal. Those that are unlikely to meet the significance thresholds or lack sufficient information will be assigned a low priority or may not proceed. In some cases nominated trees have been previously evaluated, so unless new information becomes available they will not be re-evaluated.

What is the best format for sending information to the Council?

Electronic files are preferred. Original photographs or documents should be scanned or copied. If you have large files (over 10MB) send them in parts or convert them to smaller file sizes (e.g. by converting them to PDF files) or copy them onto a CD.

Can I protect my tree even if my tree is not notable?

If you have a tree and you think it is special but is unlikely to be scheduled as notable then there are alternatives to enable it protection such as a private legal covenant.

Notable Tree Nomination Form

This nomination form is to be used for assessing trees or groups of trees. When applying tree-specific factors to groups of trees an average assessment for all trees in the group should be used. At least one individual in a group must be scheduled independently as notable and all trees in the group must be physically close to each other or form a collective or functional unit through meeting at least one of the following criteria: 1. Canopies touch; 2. Canopies overlap; 3. Canopies are not further than 5 metres apart.

Section 1: Your Contact Details

Section 2: Address of the tree

Section 3: Owner/occupier

Section 4: Description

Section 5: Threats to the tree

Section 6: Tree-specific factors (see following page for scoring)

A tree can be scheduled as Notable if it achieves a score of 20 or more

	Score (see explanatory notes)	Comments
Age and health Is notable because of its age (e.g., the oldest of its species in Auckland) and there is something about the vigour and vitality of the tree or group of trees which makes it notable given other factors (such as its age)	☐	
Character and form Is an exceptional example of the species in character and/or form (i.e., text book shape or has a particular relationship with its environment) or attributes that makes it unique	☐	
Size It is an exceptional size for the species in this location (including height, girth or lateral spread)	☐	
Visual contribution It makes a significant contribution to the visual character of an area or to the vista from elsewhere in Auckland	☐	

Section 7: Negative effects

Are there any matters that weigh against the tree's long term protection at this location?

Hazard and negative effects	YES	NO
Does the tree present negative impacts upon human health and / or property?	☐	☐
Are these negative effects manageable through arboricultural or property management means?	☐	☐
Is the tree species listed in the Regional Pest Management Strategy as a Total Control or Containment Plant or listed under the Biosecurity Act 1993 as an Unwanted Organism?	☐	☐

Scoring of tree specific factors

These scoring systems are to be used when evaluating a tree against the tree-specific factors in Section 6 (see page 10).

Age and health

Vigour and vitality	High	3	5	6	8	10
	↑	2	4	6	8	8
		2	4	6	6	7
		2	4	4	5	5
	Low	2	2	2	3	3
	Age in Years	<40	41-60	61-80	81-100	>100

This scoring system should be used when assessing the age and health of a tree. It allows for trees that are old and healthy to score much more highly than trees that are either unhealthy or young. The degree of vigour and vitality for any tree is assessed given the age of the tree. Therefore, a tree that is over 100 years old and showing high vigour and vitality, for a tree that age, will score a 10.

Character or form

Not exceptional	0
Exceptional example locally	5
Exceptional example in Auckland	10

This scoring system should be used when assessing the character or form of a tree. It allows for trees that are exceptional examples at two spatial scales (from local to Auckland-wide) to score more highly than trees that are regarded as normal.

Size

Average size for the species in this location	0
Greater than average size (up to 25% larger)	5
Substantially greater than average size (>25% larger)	10

This scoring system should be used when assessing the size of a tree (including height, girth and lateral spread). It allows for trees that are larger than would be expected (on average) for a particular location to be scored more highly than trees that are at, or close to (or below), their average height.

Visual contribution

In backyard or gully	2	e.g. fewer than 100 people see the tree daily
Local park/community/ beside minor road or feeder road/catchment	5	e.g. between 100 and 5000 people see the tree daily
Main Road/motorway or higly visible landform	10	e.g. more than 5000 people see the tree daily

This scoring system should be used when assessing the visual contribution of a tree. It allows for trees that are seen by more people on a daily basis to score more highly than trees that are rarely seen.

Section 8: Special factors (stand alone)

For a tree to be scheduled or Notable it needs to meet only one of these special factors	YES	NO	Comments
Heritage			
Is associated with or commemorates an historic event (including Maori history or legend)	☐	☐	
Has strong public associations or has an historic association with a well known historic or notable figure	☐	☐	
Is strongly associated with a local historic feature and now forms a significant part of that feature	☐	☐	
Scientific			
Is the only example of the species in Auckland or the largest known specimen of the species in Auckland (including height and lateral spread) (only applies to individual trees)	☐	☐	
Is a significant example of a species rare in Auckland or a native species that is nationally or regionally threatened (as assessed by DOC or on the regional threatened species list)	☐	☐	
Has outstanding value because of its scientific significance	☐	☐	
Ecosystem service			
Provides critical habitat for a threatened native species population e.g., bats, chevron skinks, kiwi, yellow mistletoe etc	☐	☐	
Cultural			
Demonstrates a custom, way of life or process that was common but is now rare, is in danger of being lost or has been lost	☐	☐	
Has an important role in defining the communal identity and distinctiveness of the community through having special symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value or represents important aspects of collective memory, identity or remembrance, the meanings of which should not be forgotten	☐	☐	
Is a landmark, or marker that the community identifies with	☐	☐	
Intrinsic			
Is intrinsically notable because of a combination of factors including the size, age, vigour and vitality, stature and form or visual contribution of the tree or group of trees	☐	☐	

Section 9: Conclusions

Include your final assessment of whether or not the tree is notable and any additional comments. Note that under the Tree-Specific factors, a score of 20 or more is needed before it can be scheduled or Notable.

Please call me on (09) 623-3514 if further comment is required.

Kind regards,

Allan Holmes

GreensceneNZ Limited