

Memorandum

Prepared for: Far North District Council

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This memorandum has been drafted to assist with technical discussion relating to arboricultural issues outlined below.

Rootzone area: The principles of the rootzone area have widely been adopted in the New Zealand arboricultural industry and it is likely to become the standard for the New Zealand Arboricultural Association. This is an allometric calculation using the stem diameter and doesn't have any bearing on the canopy elongation. The measurement uses the diameter at breast height (DBH) x 12 to find the root zone protection radius. In modern terms DBH is measured at 1.5 metres above ground level. For example, a tree with a one metre diameter trunk, will have a 12m RPZ radius. This is measured from the centre of the trunk and is used across all age brackets. Using the stem measurement method, therefore, does not require a separate measurement for columnar trees.

Qualifications: For the purposes of trimming notable trees for electricity regulations, a Level 4 arborist qualification is appropriate. It is reasonable to expect that as there are fewer arborists with a Level 6 qualification, a Standard requiring a Level 6 operator for such works may be problematic.

Underground infrastructure: The typical root profile growth is generally within the top 600mm of ground. This can vary with tree species, soil type, topography and/or impediments. It is common for to require infrastructure, through directional drilling to be at least 800mm below ground to allow for some variation. However, a depth of 700mm below ground level be adequate.

Emergency Tree Works: Any emergency tree work needs be assessed and determined by a Qualified arborist. The arborist must determine if the notable tree requires to be trimmed or removed through a risk assessment. Only the action that remedies the risk should be undertaken and if necessary further works may need to seek resource consent to ensure the notable tree is looked after. The justification of emergency tree works, the effects and any residual risk should be outlined in a report provided to council following the works.

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