

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 22 July 2025
Time: 9:30 am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber
Venue: Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Lance Vervoort
Chief Executive

Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa

OPEN AGENDA

Membership

Chairperson Cr Louise Hutt
Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr Ewan Wilson
Heamana Tuarua

Members	Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary	Cr Anna Casey-Cox
	Cr Maxine van Oosten	Cr Geoff Taylor
	Cr Moko Tauariki	Cr Andrew Bydder
	Cr Maria Huata	Cr Tim Macindoe

Meeting frequency As required

Amy Viggers
Mana Whakahaere
Governance Lead

11 July 2025

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www.hamilton.govt.nz

Purpose

1. To conduct fair and effective hearings and make determinations on a range of the Council's quasi-judicial functions under legislation and other matters as referred to the Committee.
2. To convene and coordinate advisory groups or panels on matters referred by other Committees.

<i>The Regulatory and Hearings Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:</i>

Terms of Reference:

3. Hear and determine any statutory or regulatory hearings under relevant legislation unless otherwise delegated by Council, including (but without limitation):
 - objections under the Dog Control Act 1996; **see special note*
 - matters regarding drainage and works on private land under the Local Government Act 1974 and Local Government Act 2002;
 - proposals for temporary closure of any road. **see special note*
4. Consider and determine traffic and speed limit related matters, including those detailed in the Traffic Bylaw and Speed Management Plan, including hearing any submissions relating to those proposed changes. **see special note*
5. Hear and determine matters arising under current bylaws and policies, including applications for dispensation from compliance with the requirements of bylaws or policies, unless such matters are otherwise delegated by Council.
6. Hear and determine other matters that require hearings or submissions, as referred by Council or other Committees.

The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:

- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.
- Approval of the establishment of hearings panels and their terms of reference.

The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:

- The Committee may make recommendations to the Council.
- The Committee may make recommendations to Committees.

Special Notes:

- The Committee may request expert advice through the Chief Executive when necessary.
- The Committee may appoint additional members for hearings where the relevant terms of reference specify the requirement for expert or external representation.
- The following Hearings Panels have been established:
 - Dog Control Hearings Panel
 - Traffic, Speed Limit and Road Closure Hearings Panel

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1 Apologies – *Tono aroha*

2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

The Committee to confirm the agenda.

3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga*

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

Council Report

Item 4

Committee: Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Date: 22 July 2025

Author: James Winston II

Authoriser: Michelle Hawthorne

Position: Governance Advisor

Position: Governance and Assurance Manager

Report Name: Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting Open Minutes 10 April 2025

Report Status	Open
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Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2025 as a true and correct record.

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting Open Unconfirmed Minutes 10 April 2025



Regulatory and Hearings Committee
Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa
OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 10 April 2025 at 9:30 am.

PRESENT

Chairperson <i>Heamana</i>	Cr Louise Hutt
Deputy Chairperson <i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	Cr Ewan Wilson
Members	Cr Maxine van Oosten Cr Moko Tauariki Cr Anna Casey-Cox Cr Maria Huata Cr Geoff Taylor Cr Andrew Bydder Cr Tim Macindoe
In Attendance	Cr Sarah Thomson

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia.

- 1. Apologies – *Tono aroha***
Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr Casey-Cox)
That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Mayor Southgate and Deputy Mayor O’Leary.
- 2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***
Resolved: (Cr Tauariki/Cr Macindoe)
That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirms the agenda.
- 3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***
No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.
- 4. Confirmation of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Open Minutes 4 December 2024**
Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr van Oosten)
That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Regulatory and Hearings Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2024 as a true and correct record.

5. **Alcohol Fees Bylaw hearings report**

The following members of public spoke to their submissions on the Alcohol Fees Bylaw.

[Luke van Veen \(Hospitality New Zealand\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of the introduction of an Alcohol Fees Bylaw, highlighting the unstable economic environment and current struggles to operate in the hospitality industry. They responded to questions from Members concerning industry efficiencies, comparison of fees to other councils and legislation changes.

[Chris Rollitt \(1\) and \(2\) \(Hospitality New Zealand\)](#) spoke to their submissions in opposition of the introduction of an Alcohol Fees Bylaw, noting that an increase in fees was unnecessary and their experience in district licensing committee hearings. They responded to questions from Members concerning user pay systems.

[Andrew Galloway and Jennifer Lamm \(Alcohol Healthwatch\)](#) spoke to their submission in support of the introduction of an Alcohol Fees Bylaw, highlighting the use of fees as a key measure in minimising alcohol harm and meeting the policy objectives of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act. They responded to questions from Members concerning public objections to licenses.

[Vanessa Williams \(Hamilton Central Business Association\)](#) spoke to their submission in opposition of the introduction of an Alcohol Fees Bylaw, and noted that hospitality was an important and highly regulated sector which enabled vibrance. They responded to questions from Members concerning the economic importance of hospitality and the potential lobbying of Central Government.

The Strategy & Policy Advisor spoke to the report highlighting the number of written submissions and thanked the verbal submitters who spoke in the chamber.

Members requested the following matters be included in the deliberations report to be presented at the 26 June Council Meeting:

- Financial efficiencies already in place and costs cuts that could be implemented (if any);
- Potential structured fee charges including non-profit, risk classification and cost sharing;
- Breakdown of hospitality representation in submissions;
- Timelines for implementation;
- History of previous fee increases;
- District licensing committee matters including:
 - i. Legislation framework;
 - ii. Decision made on paper;
 - iii. Objectors from outside Hamilton; and
 - iv. Previous objection restrictions;
- Number of on license vs off license; and
- Hospitality impact.

Resolved: (Cr Hutt/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) hears and considers public submissions arising from the public consultation undertaken from 21 January – 25 February 2025; and
- c) notes that a Deliberations and Adoption Report that includes feedback from the consultation and hearings will be brought to the 26 June 2025 Council.

The Chair closed the meeting with a karakia.

Regulatory and Hearings Committee 10 APRIL 2025 - OPEN

Cr Wilson retired from the meeting (10.26am) during the discussion of the above item. He was not present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting was declared closed at 10.29am.

Council Report

Item 5

Committee: Regulatory and Hearings Committee

Date: 22 July 2025

Author: Joanna van Walraven

Authoriser: Helen Paki

Position: Programme and Planning Manager

Position: General Manager Customer and Community

Report Name: Tree Policy - Hearings Report

Report Status	<i>Open</i>
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Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Regulatory and Hearings Committee on submissions received during public consultation for the Draft Tree Policy.

Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Regulatory and Hearings Committee:
 - a) receives the report;
 - b) hears and considers public submissions arising from the public consultation undertaken from 19 May – 16 June 2025; and
 - c) notes that a Deliberations and Adoption Report that includes feedback from the consultation and hearings will be brought to the 28 August Council Meeting.

Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Staff have developed a Draft Tree Policy to give clear guidance when engaging with the public over tree related matters, to prevent unnecessary damage or loss to good quality trees, and to improve processes around the developments that effect Council tree assets.
4. The Draft Policy and Statement of Proposal were approved for consultation at the [3 April 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee](#).
5. Public consultation was held from 19 May – 16 June 2025. A total of 157 submissions were received from individuals, and 8 from organisations.
6. Responses indicated support for the Draft Policy, with 80% respondents agreeing with the proposal and 16% agreeing in part. 4% disagreed with the proposal. A full insights report is attached to this report, and individual submissions can be viewed in your Diligent folder.
7. Fifteen submitters have indicated they would like to provide a verbal submission to the Regulatory and Hearings Committee.
8. Following this Hearing, a Deliberations and Adoption report will be presented to the 28 August 2025 Council Meeting.

9. Staff consider the decisions in this report to have medium significance and that the recommendations comply with Council's legal requirements.

Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

10. An Information Session was held in November 2024, where Members supported the intention of the policy, to encourage collaboration between Council, developers, and the community to achieve integrated outcomes that balance growth with environmental stewardship.
11. A Draft Tree Policy and Statement of Proposal were approved for consultation at the [3 April 2025 Community and Natural Environment Committee](#). The purpose of the Draft Policy is to:
 - i. Provide guidance for the planning, planting, maintenance, and retention or removal of Council owned trees;
 - ii. To manage risks resulting from Council owned trees, including risks to health and safety;
 - iii. To protect trees which have high amenity, botanical and ecological value and to encourage, whenever possible, development practices that avoid damage to trees;
 - iv. To ensure Council tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community and environmental outcomes; and
 - v. Provide consistency, clarity and transparency around service requests and Council decision making.

Discussion - *Matapaki*

12. The major proposals outlined in the Draft Policy and Statement of Proposal concerned health and safety, tree planting, tree removal and tree replacement.
13. Public consultation was undertaken with 165 submissions received. A copy of all submissions is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**).
14. Almost all respondents (96%) support or support in part Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets.
15. Many respondents highlighted the benefits of trees, such as shade and cooling effects, climate resilience, and beautification- and expressed a desire to see more trees around Hamilton, particularly native trees. The value of mature trees was frequently noted.
16. Numerous respondents voiced concerns around the maintenance of existing trees, especially those planted in suburbs. Several complained about leaves blocking gutters, covering streets and root damage. Some hoped the proposed 'right tree in the right place' approach would prevent these issues in future plantings.
17. Concerns from some developers included that the Draft Policy was not specific enough, that proposed replacement costs were not outlined in the Draft Policy, that trees were potentially difficult to manage in an urban environment, and that formalising a process could potentially delay developments.
18. The value of trees and importance of correct species selection was a theme across all submitters, including those who were recorded as "supporting" or "not supporting" the Draft Policy.
19. A small number of submissions covered issues that were out of scope of the consultation, for example, submissions concerning the protection of notable trees, or concerning trees on private property.
20. Analysis of the submissions received can be seen in **Attachment 2** of this report.

Options - *Koowhiringa*

21. The purpose of the hearings is to consider all submissions including verbal submissions presented to the Committee. Options will be presented to Members at the next stage in the process.
22. Following this Regulatory and Hearings meeting, a Deliberations and Adoption Report will be prepared by staff and presented to the 28 August 2025 Council Meeting.

Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

23. This is a regular operating activity funded through the Long-Term Plan.
24. The costs incurred to date are covered within current operational budgets. These costs include 300 staff hours to develop the Draft Policy, Draft Statement of Proposal and supporting reports, and engagement and consultation costs (\$5,000), which include design, public notice, media placements, and printing.

Legal Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

25. Staff confirm that the staff recommendation complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

Risks - *Tuuraru*

26. The matter of tree management is associated with the following risks: failure to deliver growth outcomes, failure to respond to climate change, failure to maintain trust in Iwi and Maaori, failure to maintain trust, and failure to respond to disaster, crisis or emergency.
27. The Draft Tree Policy supports climate resilience by promoting tree planting and canopy expansion, which helps absorb carbon dioxide, reduce urban heat, and manage stormwater.
28. The Draft Policy prioritises health and safety as a key outcome. It also promotes community wellbeing through the provision of greener, cooler environments and mental health benefits.
29. By centralising tree replacement responsibilities (e.g., developers paying Council for replanting), the policy ensures cost-effective and consistent tree management. This reduces financial unpredictability and improves long term outcomes.
30. The proposal of "right tree in the right place" helps manage the risk of trees interfering with other civic infrastructure in the future.
31. By managing tree removal and replacement in development areas, the policy supports sustainable urban growth while preserving green infrastructure. The formalisation of processes around trees will help streamline processes and ensure consistency.
32. The Hearing allows for community engagement including consultation with Maaori and encourages ongoing community involvement in tree care. This proactive engagement helps build trust and reduces reputational risk.
33. If the recommendation to carry out the Hearing is not approved, the Council will miss the opportunity to mitigate these risks.

Strategic Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa- rautaki*

34. Everything we do is aimed at improving the wellbeing of Hamiltonians. Council has been working alongside our community to understand what people in our city want the future of Hamilton Kirikiriroa to look like as represented by our five priorities.
35. The promotion of the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future is expressed through Council's key strategies.

36. The proposed recommendation will align with Council key documents, as identified in the Governance Structure, in the following ways.

Significance and Engagement Policy	<p>Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the matter(s) in this report has/have a medium level of significance.</p> <p>Given the medium level of significance determined, the engagement level is medium. Engagement is required.</p>
He Pou Manawa Ora - Pillars of Wellbeing	<p>The staff recommendation addresses the following Pou:</p> <p>POU ONE: He Pou Manawa Koorero Pillar of History The policy recognises the cultural significance of trees and in particular the importance of native and indigenous planting where appropriate.</p> <p>POU THREE: He Pou Manawa Taurikura Pillar of Prosperity Trees are recognised as supporting community wellbeing, climate resilience, and economic vitality. The policy encourages equitable distribution of tree canopy across all communities, especially in underserved areas.</p> <p>POU FOUR: He Pou Manawa Taiao Pillar of Restoration The policy emphasises native tree planting, biodiversity enhancement, and ecological connectivity. It includes strategies for climate adaptation, such as increasing urban canopy cover to mitigate heat and flooding.</p> <p>The policy aligns with Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River), supporting the health of the awa and its ecosystems.</p>
Our Climate Future Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa	<p>The staff recommendation helps to ready Hamilton Kirikiriroa for climate effects. Trees play a significant role in mitigating climate change. Cooling from shading and transpiration reduce the need for power consumption and provide relief from the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Staff have assessed this option against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation.</p> <p>An adaptation assessment has been undertaken and the project adequately responds to climate change risk.</p> <p>An emissions assessment has been undertaken, and the project reduces greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
Disability Action Plan	<p>There may be some instances where tree roots could create accessibility issues on footpaths, and this has been raised through the submission process. Council staff will work with the disability community to address those issues as they arrive and seek solutions to ensure people can get around the city independently and safely.</p>

Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Tree Policy - Have Your Say Submissions Received

Attachment 2 - Tree Policy Insights Report

Attachment 3 - Draft Tree Policy

Draft Tree Policy, 19 May – 16 June 2025
Table of contents

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Matthew Colvin	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Samuel McCabe	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Brent Armstrong	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Patricia Osborne	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Phil Evans	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Colin Sargeant		No thanks
Kathleen Heather McCaughtrie	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jacky	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Peter Kivell	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Trevor MacRae	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Gary Chesterman	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ian Schultz	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ramon Dickinson		No thanks
Trev Margolin	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Noel Dromgool	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Roslyn Waho	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Francesca Lomas	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Lyn ratepayer	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Trish		No thanks
Matt Storey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Marcus	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Jade	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Jonathon	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Grace	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Anthony Wright	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
David Thomson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Philip Pirie	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Anup Chiramel	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Oakley Gibbs	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Lyn Wilkinson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Don M	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Vanessa Williams	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Hamilton Central Business Association	No thanks
Hanspeter Frick	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Oliver van Woerden	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Leanne Steel	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Whaingaroa weedbusters	No thanks
Andrew McCabe	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Judy	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Matthew Hughes	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Lorna Goodin	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kathy Knight	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Desiree Burborough	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Vicky-Leigh Coates	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Brendan turney	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Suu Lam	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Matthew Leach	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Henry	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kevin Laurence	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Esplanade Tree group	No thanks
Geoff wise	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Brian Grey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Mike Heiler	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Basil Way	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rana Hay	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Amber Hammill	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Kerry Allen and Gary Haysom	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Carol Munroe	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Patrick Somervell	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Elizabeth Tombleson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kiri Wallace	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
John	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
yvonne van dommelen	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Susie Evans	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rochelle pepper		No thanks
JF Levesque		No thanks
Ed Franklin	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Mary Foster	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Brenda Plummer-Allinson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Laura Gunn	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jeanette Brooker	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Carmel Appleby	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Brad Phillips	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rachel	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Margrit Neukomm	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Kristina	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Morgan	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Julia Wakerley	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Natalie Larsen	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ellie Komene	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Margaret Langdon	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Graeme Mead	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Georgianne Crawford	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Josh Talsma	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Kathleen McCaughtrie	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Neil Tolan	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Western Community Centre	No thanks
James Charles Mizen-Carroll	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Blair Munro	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Matt kofoed	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Essa Ranapiri	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Emily Duke	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ashley Koster	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Lucy Southwell-Hambly	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Katie Glasgow-Palmer	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jess		No thanks
Kate Leach	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Alice Alva	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rebekah Harman	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Martin Toop	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Stacey Spooner	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Bailey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jessica Begovich	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Bronwyn Cann	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Nigel Robertson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ben Dickson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Thomas Bredin-Grey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jeanie Black-Dunlop	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kathryn Thompson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ben	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Camille Guzzwell	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
M Hardy	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Cara Davey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kylie Stewart	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Courtney Quinn	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Chris	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Damien Young	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Melissa Smith	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Melanie Chivers	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Emma Robinson	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Douglas Davey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
C Davies	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Cass	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kevin Baker	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Melissa Hackell	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Hannah Palmer	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Gabe Mulligan	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
tracy wilde	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ken Cunningham	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Clare Browne	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kyle Parker		No thanks
Chris Ford	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) New Zealand	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Kathryn Roberts	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Stacey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Nicola Win	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Ross Frampton	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
S June	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Lauren Kerr-Bell	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Kasha Latimer	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Saffron Smith	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Stephen (Steve) Carson	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Rebecca Shaw	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Pragma Homes Limited	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Krissy Barnes	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Go Eco	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Jan-Marie Kellow	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Danielle Marks		No thanks
Not supplied	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Wyne Johns	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Bill Ward, Margaret Evans, & Caroline Steemson		Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Grant Nesdale	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rimu Bhooi	No, these are my own personal views.	Yes, I would like to speak to my submission
Gurv Singh	Yes, I am the official spokesperson for BCD Group Ltd	No thanks
Esther Chapman	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Taylor Harvey	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Name	Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?	Would you like to make a verbal submission?
Jack Couchman	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Goldie Crawford		No thanks
Azaria Chapman	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Michelle Exton	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Skye	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
olivia	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Tom Sims	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Charlotte		No thanks
Joe Laybourn	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Trinity Jurgensen	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Aimee-Jane Anderson-O'Connor	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Te Aorere Ngātai-Tautuku	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Bob McLain	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jennifer Davies	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Crystal Szanto	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Rosanne Ludbrook	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks
Jennifer Wallbank	No, these are my own personal views.	No thanks

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5106

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 09:27 AM

Name Matthew Colvin

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

This is a good policy to have in place. I would like to see the council increasing tree volume and density in the city, especially in newer developments on the outskirts of the city.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5107
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 09:45 AM

Name Samuel McCabe

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The tree canopy is an important part of a livable city. It helps make the city visually appealing and also reduces the heat island effect, while providing shade for pedestrians. It is important to have a policy that recognises the care required to maintain the trees, but supports the growth and maturation of our trees.

Having many trees maturing in an area means that each tree is less critical on its own and it would make it less of a loss to remove decaying trees or trees that are otherwise posing a danger.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5109

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 10:17 AM

Name Brent Armstrong

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Appropriate tree planting in urban areas will be of critical importance in our changing climate. Not just for biodiversity but to avoid urban heat islands and to enable active transport options through the shading of walk- and cycle-ways. We need to be planting LARGE trees for shade NOW, that are a species that can survive our future climate, and allowing space for these trees. Developers and even city council led developments are not making adequate provision for large shade trees - these are significant city assets. I would challenge the council to look at the trees it has planned in suburban parks and town centre developments in recent years. None are of the right species to provide the extent of shade as the large shade trees planted by our forebears along the river and in places such as Days Park.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5110
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 10:24 AM

Name Patricia Osborne

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

All of those points seem relevant and helpful to focus on. Good reasoning laid out, with an emphasis on both health and safety and preservation and new growth. Sounds like something the council should be putting energy into for the city's future. Thumbs up.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5111

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 10:53 AM

Name Phil Evans

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I believe trees must be considered a valuable part of any city, and should be protected as much as possible.

I would like to see a three trees for one replacement policy.

I would also like the council to remove Kowhai Trees and replace them with other tree species. The nectar from kowhai trees is toxic to pollinating honey bees, in that it causes them to become disoriented and cannot find their way back to their hive. The proliferation of kowhai trees on residential berms is doing harm to honey bee populations, and needs to be stopped.

Please include in the policy that kowhai trees must not be used in any location on any Council owned land, including berms around the city, and that existing kowhai trees be removed and replaced with other less harmful trees.

The narcosis that occurs is heightened when kowhai flowers in august when it is still cold. The cold exacerbates the narcosis and can cause death to the bees at a time when the hive is starting to increase its populations during early spring, and food is scarce.

Here is a quick google search of "kowhai trees and honey bees"

Kowhai trees attract honeybees and other pollinators with their nectar-rich flowers. While they are a food source for bees, the nectar from kowhai can also be toxic to them, causing narcosis and potentially mortality, especially if bees are exposed to cold temperatures.

Here's a more detailed look:

Attraction of Pollinators:

Kowhai flowers are a significant source of nectar and pollen, attracting various pollinators, including honeybees, butterflies, and birds like tui and bellbirds.

The flowers are a major food source for these pollinators, particularly during the early spring when nectar is scarce, according to Comvita™ NZ.

Potential Toxicity to Honeybees:

The nectar of the yellow kowhai (*Sophora microphylla*) can have a narcotic effect on honeybees, especially adult bees.

This effect can lead to narcosis and, in some cases, mortality, particularly if bees are exposed to cold weather.

This toxicity is attributed to alkaloids present in the kowhai tree.

Beekeepers should consider relocating their apiaries if severe mortality due to kowhai poisoning is suspected.

Benefits of Planting Kowhai:

Kowhai trees contribute to the overall health and biodiversity of the ecosystem by providing food and shelter for native birds and attracting pollinators.

They are also nitrogen-fixers, improving soil fertility and benefiting surrounding plants.

In summary, while kowhai trees are valuable for attracting honeybees and other pollinators, beekeepers should be aware of the potential toxicity of the nectar and take precautions to minimize risk to their hives.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5112

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 11:06 AM

Name Colin Sargeant

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Amenity should also respect views and visual aspects from existing properties.
Trees should not grow uncontrolled to a size that this is impacted.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5113

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 12:10 PM

Name Kathleen Heather McCaughtrie

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Hamiltons identification for intense infill housing has seen rapid ecological destruction and clearance of trees.

There has been no new 'green spaces'/parks implemented by Council as a counterbalance to land clearance and intense community housing.

This all goes directly against all Climate Change mitigation policies that Council purports to 'take seriously'.

Climate Change is here now. There is no waiting time frame to wait for new plantings to grow and be of ecological value in 30+ years time.

Science has proved saplings have no benefit in reducing carbon from the air or providing habitation for bird life as mature trees are doing now.

Carbon Capture: Tree size matters - Yale Environment Review

<https://environment.review.yale.edu>.

Continuation of my 'Have your Say' on Hamilton's Tree Policy

I have just submitted my submission on Hamiltons tree policy.

In reviewing my submission There was no allowance to edit what was written.

I would like to add to my submission as today (19 May) is the last day.

For approx 4 years I have repeatedly requested replacement for the HCC roadside Prunus trees that were felled on Tuhikaramaea Road between Gibson road and Pygmalion Place. The original Prunus trees were planted to encourage native birds, which they did, until HCC sawed them down. The reason given was because of 'pruning'.

Since then numerous HCC tree planting has taken place. Why not here?

HCC Tree Policy .28 stipulates preservation for trees of ecological value that provide for native birds/wildlife. This has been directly breached numerous times by big insidious developers. The most blatantly stark being 3019 Ohaupo Road at the old Ruakura Soil Research site, which hosted spectacular healthy specimen trees, many which were protected. This verdant site was abundant with native wildlife, now all eradicated.

At the top of the property was a pre European Totara tree. It was estimated to be as old as 500 years. Its existence was recorded in historic settlement documents since confiscation of the Tainu land and

the settlement of the Hall family. The tree was healthy and strong, a habitation of native birds and lizards.

Amidst controversy, the Wright developers assured its preservation, along with environmental mitigation park etc for the 60 acre development. All gone.

HCC has, and continues to fail any .28 'Tree policy' with Northview being a completely artificial site..

Intensely congested urban areas are where mature tree preservation is needed the most for air quality and birdlife.

What remains of large trees in urbanization is very minimal, yet more townhouse construction continues to increase.

Large trees in concentrated townhouse areas must be preserved.

28 Gibson Road hosts a magnificent healthy oak whose canopy is the life support system to a myriad of bird life and nearby residents alike. A developer purchase of the property sanctions its removal for 5 townhouses and perhaps a few standard saplings of no worth whatsoever.

HCC 'tree policy' is too compartmentalized and does not embrace the full picture.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5114
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 01:34 PM

Name Jacky

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I want to see a more responsible planting of species along urban streets. STOP PUTTING LARGE DECIDUOUS TREES ON BURMS. The council takes no responsibility for leaves filling out gutters. Planting a row of chestnuts along 2 streets in Hamilton East is just stupid. A row of kowhia which native birds will come to?? PLANT ONLY NATIVE TREES.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5116

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 02:30 PM

Name Peter Kivell

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The trees can be better managed, Cheers trees along the footpath in Rototuna North are a brainless planting.

They are well known to have a shallow concrete destroying root system, our footpath are breaking up and the trees should be ripped out.

Eliminate footpath repairs with sensible planting.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5117
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 02:33 PM

Name Trevor MacRae

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I have NOT fully read through the planned scope.

1. What I would say is Plant with the interest of Land Retention plus Beautification PLUS as to OWNERS of Properties (& even CONSULT them) rather than, Plant Trees which end up removing our Sunlight & Views. (Sunlight: There re Rules re Building & any Shade/Shadow effect on another Property. Likewise you need to be mindful of what your trees do...

2. FOLLOW UP the planting with an ONGOING coordinated plan to ensure their survival & as to WEED Control to avoid LOSS of Shrubs/Trees & wasted Ratepayers RATES.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5118

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 03:09 PM

Name Gary Chesterman

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Firstly, the council's concept of public consultation is to be applauded.

I agree in the main that you have covered the basic points in the above draft.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5119
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 03:26 PM

Name Ian Schultz

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

More thought needs to be given to trees planted in certain areas especially our streets. Do not plant trees which block the drains and become overgrown. An option would be to plant smaller evergreen trees which do not block roadside drains in autumn and do not become too big and require so much pruning.

It seems that currently trees are planted randomly without looking at long term effects of them.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5121

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 04:23 PM

Name Ramon Dickinson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

many pavements are difficult to walk along because of tree
oots

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5122
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 04:33 PM

Name Trev Margolin

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

A policy is needed and what is suggested seems good to me. Love the idea of two or more new trees planted for every one removed by development. NOTE very well that I indeed DO feel strongly about my answers but that doesn't mean I want to (or actually feel the need to) speak to my submission. (I could not add verbally what I have already said by text). (On the council designed questionnaire there was NO option to strongly support the my submission but also NOT to speak on behalf of it).

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5135

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 07:17 PM

Name Noel Dromgool

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

We have trees in our street that are ugly because they are spindly and the leaves are dull and attract insects which eat them and make them look even less attractive. Also, part of the footpath has been replaced because the roots pushed it up. They are deciduous so we have a leaf problem every year. Some grow over the road and one was knocked over by the rubbish truck. One over the road grows over the street light. I asked the council 5 years ago to do something about it and they never did so now the lighting is next to useless, like our city council.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5136
Date submitted May 19, 2025, 08:26 PM

Name Roslyn Waho

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

What do you mean there's been no previous plan for tree care and maintenance? It feels like this just another reason to charge even higher rates. That's a no from me as an existing rate payer.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5138

Date submitted May 19, 2025, 09:36 PM

Name Francesca Lomas

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5141
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 12:00 AM

Name Lyn ratepayer

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Take a look at winning terrace and cook st ham east kahikatea dr ext ti name a couple CLOGGED GUTTERS people are over trees that lose their leaves.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5142

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:03 AM

Name Trish

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

There are huge Pin Oak trees on Fairfield Rd. Which are impacting the residents

No. 32a gets shaded most of the day. The leaves get piled up on the footpath, and become wet and soggy, which the school children have to walk through. This becomes a safety issue for them.

I would like to see some improvement in this area.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5143
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:04 AM

Name Matt Storey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The trees are the best thing Hamilton has going for it

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5144

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:24 AM

Name Marcus

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Feedback on Tree Management Policy

I'd like to provide some feedback on the current approach to tree management on council land, particularly where trees are located close to property boundaries.

As a relevant example, my property sits adjacent to two established trees—one on my land and one on council land. The council tree has begun encroaching toward the shared boundary, and its roots are nearing my fence line. While I appreciate the value of mature trees, this highlights the importance of ensuring adequate spacing and proactive root management to avoid future damage or unnecessary conflict between adjacent trees.

I believe the policy could better reflect the need for regular assessment and maintenance where council trees grow in proximity to private trees and structures. This would help preserve both trees' health, prevent structural damage, and maintain positive relationships with ratepayers.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5145
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:37 AM

Name Jade

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

My property borders a council park that has ginormous trees planted on its perimeter. While the park is great and the grass is maintained- the care does not seem to extend to the trees or the neighbours. Unfortunately for my family and I, this means that we have had branches over a metre long fall directly onto our roof. We have had tree litter so massive that it ripped off our gutters with its sheer weight. We have approached the council to possibly remove or have the tree topped but we got no reply. More thought needs to be put into the type of trees that are planted, how massive will they get, what kind of maintenance will they need, what that will cost the rate payers, what kind of financial damage these trees can cause to the residents surrounding the park. I know the response to this comment will probably be that of an eye roll, but as a rate paying member of the city who worked hard to buy their home I do hope that this point of view is considered when you move forward with planning.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5146

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:41 AM

Name Jonathon

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

There needs to be a more proactive approach when it comes planting and maintaining trees in Hamilton. Questions like-

Who and how these trees in front of residential homes are going to be maintained and what effect will this have on the property owners

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5147
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:55 AM

Name Grace

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5148

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 08:28 AM

Name Anthony Wright

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

There needs to be a plan and control. Policy will guide both. Trees are very much a large contributor to the landscape design of the city and a plan is required to factor in the time it takes for trees to grow and mature to realise the full benefits

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5149
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 08:50 AM

Name David Thomson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

I love the trees of our city. Arborists are too quick to remove mature trees; often it just feels like they are creating work for themselves by saying a tree is unsafe. The Council should favour native trees over introduced species when planting, and balance the canopy by adding trees that will grow larger (5m+) not just flax, small trees and shrubs. When trees are removed, I like the idea of 2 for 1 replacement but the replacement should be in the same area/suburb. Tiny section sizes and duplexes don't allow space for trees on the lot so we will need more trees in public spaces. Can you give occupants some say about what happens to trees on verges, including replacement? We live near Waiwhakareke - Thank you for this beautiful space; I hope it keeps growing. Thank you

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5150

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 09:32 AM

Name Philip Pirie

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Generally I am opposed to creating new policies and would prefer hard coded rules in the RITS or Bylaw, however if the Tree Policy is to go ahead I would recommend the changes below.

Clause 33 should be reworded as it is anti-development and inflexible for financial realities of developing sites "Council may consider the removal (and replacement) of trees on a case-by-case basis to allow for an activity or development where no other alternative reasonable design option is available."

Clause 39, should have a qualifier to avoid additional costs of consultation if it is a small street tree being removed i.e "Council will endeavor to consult with impacted communities prior to the removal trees with a STEM score of over 110. However, in the event of emergency or urgent removal, notification may not be possible."

Clause 41 of the should have cost clearly listed in the "Bylaw fees and charges" section of the HCC website, so it is easily understood and transparent for developers. A proposed method is a payment of \$1200 (indicative cost of two PB95 (45L) trees installed outside of road reserve maintained for 2 years) to the Council when a street tree is removed.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5151
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 09:42 AM

Name Anup Chiramel

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5157

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 11:36 AM

Name Oakley Gibbs

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

The council delays the process of development enough as it is. The council would have to guarantee that the process will be quick and would speed up approvals to gain my support.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5159
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 12:41 PM

Name Lyn Wilkinson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

Keep it like it is. Rate payers are already forking out for ridiculous projects. Why waste more of our hard earned money ?

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5160

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 02:17 PM

Name Don M

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5161
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 02:20 PM

Name Vanessa Williams

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for: Hamilton Central Business Association

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Potential to be more cost effective if a policy was to state types of trees for areas.
Maintenance of trees in the central city to ensure public safety, particularly around pruning trees to ensure lines of site around areas like the riverbank.
Having these elements in a policy could provide some guidance to commercial property owners, particularly around maintenance.
Ability to be more deliberate in the incorporation of native trees.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5162

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 02:46 PM

Name Hanspeter Frick

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

In general I think it is a good idea to have a better management of trees planted on public land.

But I think it is desirable planting native trees over exotic species. Most native species are evergreen and have leaves year-round. Exotic trees shed leaves which need to be collected several times a year, at cost to HCC.

The leaves block water-courses, damage lawns and can be a slip hazard.

Also please remove Silver Birch trees planted on berms and in parks, as they are a major cause of hayfever and asthma, and replace with native species

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5163
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 02:56 PM

Name Oliver van Woerden

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

My street has a bunch of missing trees on the berms, I would love them to be replaced.

More trees is good, I am happy for rates to increase so that more trees can be planted and maintained.

Trees in new developments generally look good - the older suburbs need support to maintain or re-plant trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5165

Date submitted May 20, 2025, 04:36 PM

Name Leanne Steel

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for: Whaingaroa weedbusters

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

Actually yes, but I sincerely hope you have clauses for the control of invasive exotic pest trees such as Privet, Woolly nightshade and many more.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5166
Date submitted May 20, 2025, 07:43 PM

Name Andrew McCabe

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I value the amenity of trees. They are a wonderful resource. I pick up pine cones for firestarting asnl walk around the lake.

People love to collect Chestnuts.

It is important to include food opportunities in plantings , walnuts are magnificent trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5169

Date submitted May 21, 2025, 06:03 AM

Name Judy

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The more trees the better

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5170
Date submitted May 21, 2025, 06:48 AM

Name Matthew Hughes

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I support a vision for putting the right trees in the right places e.g. currently we have deciduous trees in low lying places which leads to surface flooding during autumn winter rain when gutters and grates are not cleaned. Gum trees in parks drop leaves year round onto neighbouring properties, blocking gutters and increasing household time and expense to manage the problem.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5172

Date submitted May 21, 2025, 09:54 AM

Name Lorna Goodin

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

As a property investor in Hamilton we (and other investors) have the policy of buying properties that have off street parking. My concern is for the properties that - under HCC development rules - have built multiple dwellings and have no parking off street and now in those areas HCC have put yellow lines to stop parking on street. The residents have no option but to park on the grass verge. I understand that the trees will be damaged with vehicles parking on the verge. What are the residents to do? I would feel more comfortable about this policy if the trees were removed on these streets and more street parking made available for residents/ tradespeople/ visitors.

My second comment is the planting of appropriate trees. Who will decide this list of trees? Will it be in consultation with the building team (see my first point of concern)? How much common sense will there be for the people who use the city. As a comparison; A builder will push for timber products, an engineer will push to use steel, a landscape gardener will want the place to 'look' lovely with plants. I am a volunteer at a garden that HCC is the land owner. If we want to plant other trees - or remove one that is, in our opinion in the wrong place - what will our consultation process look like and how long will we have to wait to remove this if all trees that are to be removed must be approved by council?

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5173
Date submitted May 21, 2025, 02:04 PM

Name Kathy Knight

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We are losing too many trees to development and we know from the research evidence that city trees assist with cooling the streets in summer, as well as creating habitat for wildlife etc

But good to have more evergreen species and natives that don't clog the drains in autumn. Not dissing the deciduous because the autumn colours have been spectacular this year!!

I was so angry that the trees on the development just over Anzac parade bridge were cut down. I thought preservation was part of the agreement to Develop that site.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5175

Date submitted May 21, 2025, 07:08 PM

Name Desiree Burborough

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I agree with the right tree, right place policy. Considerations should include leaf fall impacting storm water drains, safety for pedestrians and cyclists including visibility and slip hazards.

Native trees should be prioritized and also fruit trees in parks to increase the access to healthy food for communities.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5176
Date submitted May 21, 2025, 07:57 PM

Name Vicky-Leigh Coates

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I regularly utalise many walks within Hamilton. Knowing trees are managed and maintained gives me confidence I can continue to utalise river paths and other boardwalks without being hit by or falling over a tree. I also think it's important trees are replaced, and after seeing the way all the trees across from pirhana park were removed for development was really disheartening.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5177

Date submitted May 21, 2025, 08:03 PM

Name Brendan turney

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Hi. I believe there are too many trees in Hamilton city and public would be better off with less trees. The removal of trees creates view corridors that are otherwise blocked off giving the feeling of more room and creating new and appealing viewing areas and changing the landscape in a positive way. The views of the river are blocked from the river path by trees for most of the path. Where there are small gaps in the trees the views are spectacular and these views of the river should be opened up. Views from Ruakiwi Road over the Hamilton lake out to Waitewhenu could be a stunning part of the city but instead the view is blocked by trees. The lawn around the base of old trees especially at the bottom of Grantham St and Hinemoa Park is actually ruined by leaf fall making it unusable. With the removal of all trees on Grantham St and around the band rotunda the view of the ferrybank, river and Victoria Bridge would be stunning reverting to its historic landscape. Finally, the environmental impact of cutting down trees in Hamilton City needs to be kept in context. While the planting of trees has a feel good factor it has almost no impact on greenhouse gasses. New plantings should be kept to existing bush and gullies.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5181
Date submitted May 22, 2025, 12:32 AM

Name Suu Lam

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5182

Date submitted May 22, 2025, 05:43 AM

Name Matthew Leach

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

It's sensible for Council to have clear guidelines around trees. In the section around tree removal, there appears to be inconsistent use of a reasonableness test. Not sure if that is intentional or not. I wonder if cost of options to retain trees should be referenced in the decision making around tree removal, particularly with the requirement to replace any trees that are removed. While there may be an option to enable a tree to be retained, should the cost of this option not be weighed against the cost of replacing the tree?

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5185
Date submitted May 22, 2025, 03:08 PM

Name Henry

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

Added costs and complexities associated with implementing policies

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5187

Date submitted May 22, 2025, 04:27 PM

Name Kevin Laurence

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for: Esplanade Tree group

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Are experiencing the results of poor decisions with regard to the type of trees planted in our street .

People have been seriously injured on tree root damaged footpaths in our area .

I think a policy is needed to eliminate costly replacement and repairs .

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5189
Date submitted May 23, 2025, 10:32 AM

Name Geoff wise

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are a hugely important part of our ecosystem (and yes humans are a part of that ecosystem). They provide food and shelter for myriad organisms. They provide many benefits for humans, whether those humans are aware of it or not. Managing them responsibly not just for our benefit but for Nature in general is crucial to our future. We are seeing ow the damage that fossil fuels have done to our environment. Trees are going to be a much bigger part of the adaption and mitigation than the role they have played in the past. The policy has to be biased toward more trees in our city.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5190

Date submitted May 23, 2025, 11:46 AM

Name Brian Grey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

My wife has been voluntarily planting up the stream margins adjacent our property with native trees supplied by council. There is a very big magnolia that needs significant trimming to allow the new canopy to flourish including the young Kauri. The proposal doesn't seem to include provision for targeted trimming (or removal) for growth promotion like this.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5191
Date submitted May 23, 2025, 02:54 PM

Name Mike Heiler

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I am a trained arborist and am aware of the value of trees and what it takes to adequately care for them. Also i know the importance of high quality risk assessments, which means that not every tree can be retained. There needs to be a levelheaded approach to tree care. One that is not driven by a development focused mindset and one that is not driven by a safe every tree at all costs mindset. Seeing some of the damage that is done to high quality mature trees for the sake of housing development and infrastructure, i see the need for policies that value trees as an intergenerational asset.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5192

Date submitted May 23, 2025, 03:16 PM

Name Basil Way

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are great. I would like to see more Blossom Trees. But not monstrous trees planted that destroy footpaths and plumbing.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5201
Date submitted May 25, 2025, 04:09 PM

Name Rana Hay

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

So many trees out there are a hazard to pedestrians, people on mobility scooters, the visually impaired and people on bikes. HCC need to rethink what they plant and how to remove the old long term hazards. In particular on the shared path along the river(eg. peacockes esplanade track) and the south end of Galloway street near the sports field. heaps of chestnuts on the green painted cycleway, every season. (somewhere between 11 Galloway and 123 Galloway)



Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5202

Date submitted May 26, 2025, 09:01 AM

Name Amber Hammill

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I think it can help distill the community's aspirations & give decision makers the confidence they need to plant courageously.

Preference natives, prioritise food. Planting the right tree in the right place can support the social, emotional & physical health of humans & support a thriving ecosystem of other beings also.

More trees, more good.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5209

Date submitted May 26, 2025, 11:27 AM

Name Kerry Allen and Gary Haysom

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We agree with the intention of the policy and hope it will result in managing the city trees wisely and fairly and ensure the right tree is in the right place to manage risks and enhance the environment.

In the past, poor decisions have been made about the trees planted in streets, resulting 30 years later in homeowners and pedestrians having to live with the problems caused and Hamilton City Council not having the money to put aside in the budget to reduce the hazards in the best possible way.

We have experienced the following examples of the wrong trees planted in the wrong place. In our street we have Magnolia grandiflora which is well known for its shallow roots and can grow 60-80 ft tall with a 30 - 50ft spread. As the trees mature, the many surface roots lift up footpaths creating serious trip hazards. The trees also have cones which fall on the ground in large numbers causing further trip hazards. The cones roll and skid when stepped on and can cause rolled ankles and other injuries. The roots travel far, growing under residents driveways and brick walls damaging them. The large leaves fall all year round and cause an onerous task to home owners having to constantly sweep them up to make the street look tidy. The leaf sweeping trucks rarely come down the street and when they do they have to go around parked cars, and around the trees as they cant go under them, resulting in many leaves not being picked up. Horse chestnut trees planted in a small cul de sac where we used to live are also completely unsuitable. They can grow 25m tall with a 15m spread. Another example of wrong trees in the wrong place.

It would be good for the council to have a list of trees which are known to be suitable for planting in streets and do not cause these types of hazards.

It was noted in the information provided, that parking on the berm under a tree can damage the roots over time. Most new developments and infill housing do not provide enough off street parking for cars, so parking on the berm is an increasing problem around the city. If wider streets and more parking was provided in these areas, residents would not need to park on berms.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5211

Date submitted May 26, 2025, 02:08 PM

Name Carol Munroe

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I live on a street where trees suitable for a park, not a suburban street were planted. They were fine for a few years but now present numerous problems and dangers. There does need to be a clear policy stated, with trees selected carefully for particular areas, with attention paid to how they grow so they have short AND long term benefits and safety.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5216
Date submitted May 26, 2025, 05:37 PM

Name Patrick Somervell

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

And, the policy to describe the City's place in the wider Waikato landscape

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5238

Date submitted May 30, 2025, 09:35 AM

Name Elizabeth Tombleson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are important for city dwellers providing shade and year round interest, being aesthetically pleasing and beneficial to health.

They provide habitat and safety for birds.

The careful and thoughtful planting and replacement of trees will support city and suburban environments while mitigating clean up and interference with infrastructure.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5244
Date submitted Jun 01, 2025, 09:08 AM

Name Kiri Wallace

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees and urban forest generally are an undervalued asset in Kirikiriroa Hamilton and we should be managing them better to provide for public wellbeing and economy.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5245

Date submitted Jun 01, 2025, 09:31 AM

Name John

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I feel it is important to grow more trees and develop a green corridor from Mangatuturi mountain to Hamilton city.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5254
Date submitted Jun 03, 2025, 03:54 PM

Name yvonne van dommelen

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

I think there should be a list of preferred planting for developers, along with advise as to which trees are suitable for which landscapes but I dont think council should control it, it is more red tape and over reach.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5258

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 02:25 PM

Name Susie Evans

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

I live in Ham East and love the substantial trees. The autumn leaf fall is a pain and I'm sure costly for you to manage but I'm pleased that you acknowledge the benefits that these beauties bring. I like that you plan on bringing in 2 for every 1 culled. I would hope that the replacements would be in a similar location to the removed tree, not in another part of the city. This isn't spelled out in the summary or the document. In reality you could cull trees in Ham East and Claudelands and pop a few more in up in Flagstaff?

I live one block from a medium density area and this concerns me: "Mitigate the loss of street tree canopy through developments." - are you saying that allowing much higher density living in Ham East could see the end of our beautiful trees? Either way that needs to be clearer - it wasn't easy to follow through in the policy doc either.

I'm also concerned about whether your punishments of developers and others who "accidentally" (on purpose) damage Council trees for the benefit of their development/view etc - do your punishments have teeth or is it a \$100 fine and a growling? Trees are so special for their aesthetics and environmental benefits that they deserve true protection.

I'd also want reassurance that in a site like Steele Park the replacement trees of protected oaks would continue to be oak and not some random other choice. Is that covered in this proposal?

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5259
Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 02:32 PM

Name Rochelle pepper

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I like that you are thinking ahead and keeping a green canopy over the city
We will have a much more livable and cooler city with all the trees.
I'm pro trees!

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5260

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 02:39 PM

Name JF Levesque

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

If HCC takes care of the trees in the same way as the rates, it is a disaster in the making one more should I add

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5261
Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 02:45 PM

Name Ed Franklin

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Love the trees in Kirikiriroa and your proposal looks sensible. Thanks

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5262

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 03:11 PM

Name Mary Foster

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

It would be good to include fruit trees such as crabapple and quince in the plan. When I asked i was told that it was 'policy' not to plant fruit trees... but I would like the possibility of such trees included in the policy.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5264
Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 04:08 PM

Name Brenda Plummer-Allinson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Because Council will do what the Head of Department at the time wants & designates what should be done.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5265

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 04:14 PM

Name Laura Gunn

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

I think developing a Tree policy is a good idea. But I think the Council should not place too much value on existing mature trees simply because they are old, for example Oak & Plane trees on verges that cause a nuisance with root systems or by shedding leaves (which block drains & gutters). Dealing with leaves from these trees must cost the Council a fortune. I think these trees should be phased out & replaced with more suitable trees, particularly native species.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5267
Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 05:39 PM

Name Jeanette Brooker

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I'm concerned about the loss of mature trees And the removal which is a loss of habitat for wildlife

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5268

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 06:06 PM

Name Carmel Appleby

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The idea of a proposal sounds like a decent idea...but more, just some general common sense approach to the trees from Council. Eg, I live on Fox Street. We have MASSIVE poplar trees all along Galloway Park boundary, and yet on Fox Street, despite the fact we have overhead electrical lines on our side of the Street, you choose to plant a tree on the verge...which is completely unnecessary, is a pain regarding big future growth right under power lines, will cost the ratepayer to get them trimmed...but we have MASSIVE poplar trees on the other side of the road.....like, seriously, why! Surely the park trees are sufficient and yet now, you've planted trees that are unnecessary, and now "we" have to spend money trimming them and cutting around power lines?

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5270
Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 06:33 PM

Name Brad Phillips

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

I would generally agree that a policy would be of benefit, however due to the council and rate payers being under significant financial strain currently, this isn't a justifiable area to focus resources.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5271

Date submitted Jun 04, 2025, 06:52 PM

Name Rachel

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I think it's important to maintain our beautiful trees in Kirikiriroa. We need to ensure that the canopy is maintained for future generations. I would like to see more native trees planted.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5276
Date submitted Jun 05, 2025, 11:55 AM

Name Margrit Neukomm

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

Environment should come first, as well as historic. I feel you gushe this policy to allow cutting down, not maintaining the beautiful trees in Steele Park and a long Grey St in Hamilton East.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5280

Date submitted Jun 05, 2025, 07:18 PM

Name Kristina

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Trees can bring a lot to a city but when big trees are planted in streets it ruins the foundations of nearby houses and path ways which can cause health and safety issues to the public. If more thought was gone in to growth size, leaf fall (seasonal) and root development of trees it would work out much better. Also clogging of gutters due to leaves causes undo stress on the street when it rains causing flooding. Example would be Wilson street and surrounding Hamilton east locations, huge trees massive leaf drop and ruined paths. Thank you Kristina

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5282
Date submitted Jun 05, 2025, 07:59 PM

Name Morgan

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

When council is planting trees and when tree replacement is being done, the species of the tree should be considered. More larger native and exotic trees are needed, small exotic varieties that are normally planted in residential properties are being used in parks, reserves and as street trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5283

Date submitted Jun 05, 2025, 10:01 PM

Name Julia Wakerley

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

There also needs to be a policy developed around trees in private properties, including size (height and width) regulations, shading of neighbouring properties and management of tree debris.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5286
Date submitted Jun 07, 2025, 09:17 AM

Name Natalie Larsen

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Controlled and well considered Planting of trees appropriate to location in our city is a fine thing, in theory ,along with systems in place to monitor growth and size in subsequent years so they don't just get completely out of hand particularly in regards to size

So plant the trees ☒ but with foresight and a considered plan pleaseor at the cost of removal due to footpath etc damage 30-40 years later

Provide the resources needed to trim etc regularly as required and sweep gutters of bounteous leaves

🍁 🍂 keeping culverts cleared in Autumn

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5291

Date submitted Jun 09, 2025, 01:58 PM

Name Ellie Komene

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We need to protect our old and especially native trees. Great to have a policy in place to do this.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5292
Date submitted Jun 10, 2025, 11:06 AM

Name Margaret Langdon

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

This seems to be a well thought out proposed policy and I particularly agree with the plan to require two trees to be planted when one is removed due to development.

I would also like to see the Council place more focus on planting and restoring the gully system.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5293

Date submitted Jun 10, 2025, 01:49 PM

Name Graeme Mead

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Why do you need a policy when you have a staff of arborists. I presume that a consultant has been engaged to deliver a plan. Put some trust in the skills of the staff

You need to start by managing the trees you currently have. Many need arborist attention, with low hanging branches and disrupting footpaths. And many have height now touching overhead lines

At the same time residents need to do the same to trees that over hang the council areas.

What is the plan to deal with the large deciduous trees that have large root systems and they are wrecking footpaths and have huge root formations.

The costs of cleaning up the leaves is huge so the plan needs to be a way to reduce this

We need to plant more native trees and what about fruit trees.. citrus trees and in some places why do we need trees at all

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5294
Date submitted Jun 10, 2025, 02:04 PM

Name Georgianne Crawford

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Agree with the loss mitigation of our canopy, especially for our native trees and having a diversity of these trees. I would however like to add that we need to increase the diversity by planting trees that will attract and home more of our native species of fauna. Regardless if the tree itself makes a "mess" or looks "messy" as long as they're in an appropriate place to feed birds etc. can we please steer away from mono cropping our streets and plant diversely. Perhaps encourage tree guilds of 'stacked' natives a tree a low native shrub maybe. I would also like to put my opinion forward about having more fruit trees in the city, especially in parks where children play or walk to school or around community centres. Perhaps consider small food forests. Thank you.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5296

Date submitted Jun 10, 2025, 11:39 PM

Name Josh Talsma

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

It is important that our city values its trees, a tree policy will ensure that the correct decisions can be made to create/retain and manage our urban forest.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5299

Date submitted Jun 11, 2025, 11:18 AM

Name Kathleen McCaughtrie

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

If we are to believe council take climate change seriously then actions are louder than words. Climate change and the drastic consequences thereof are here now, as of 10-20-50 years ago. We cannot wait for ineffectual plantings to grow along road curbs and allotted parks. Mature trees are our greatest allies for carbon reduction in our intensely developed urban environment of infill housing. There is no mitigation to offset the loss of mature established trees for our – or the next generation. Council's 'Tree Policy' must incorporate developers resource consents to protect and build around mature trees on site.

Yale Environment Review Carbon Capture, Tree size matters = <https://environment-review.yale.edu/carbon-capture-tree-size-matters-0>

Supporting evidence of HCC failures in 'Tree Policy'.

1) Bringing birds back to the city promotion saw plantings of Prunus trees along road curbs and parks. These flowering trees attracted Tui's and other birds. However many of them were then removed. To date I have repeatedly asked for replacement trees along my section of Tuhikaramea Road for 6 years. Never replaced.

2) Removal of mature Cape Lilacs on Poaka Ave were replaced with spindly native saplings that have not grown 1 inch in 5 years.

3) Mature 100-year English Oak (healthy) on 27 Gibson Road, haven for a legion of bird life and serving the increasing condensed area of carbon emission for generations. Property bought by developer wanting to build 5 town houses and has given the old 'environment warrior' the death sentence. This tree's root system also serves as flooding prevention in absorbing water run off on a sloping site. This affects neighbouring properties also where water runs under fences.

Conclusion

Mature trees belong to everyone. We all benefit and suffer their removal. Developers must be accountable to preserve trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5300

Date submitted Jun 11, 2025, 11:38 AM

Name Neil Tolan

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for: Western Community Centre

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I love seeing all the trees around Hamilton. They provide great shade in summer, particularly within our parks. It's awesome to see more native trees going in. The kōwhai trees on Hyde ave are going to look amazing in a few years and I've already spotted a tui in one, which was really cool to see.

It would be great to have more fruit trees in our parks. They add more life to our green spaces and support local food security. Planting feijoa trees along a fence looks much better than long brown fences in our parks, also helping discourage tagging.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5301
Date submitted Jun 11, 2025, 02:26 PM

Name James Charles Mizen-Carroll

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I agree if the policy is followed as presented here

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5319

Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 08:14 PM

Name Blair Munro

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Independent developers are not currently being held accountable for adequate planting and replanting where their developments are resulting in felling of existing canopy cover. This policy is seeking to establish expectations and standards with respect to how the negligence or ignorance of developers should be met with consequences, and I support this.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5320
Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 08:18 PM

Name Matt kofoed

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5321

Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 08:23 PM

Name Essa Ranapiri

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Anything that minimises the heat island that is a city is something I'm for. Frequent access to shade is a common good. The area I live in Te Papanui was formerly a food basket before it was destroyed and having some policy in place to increase the trees we do plant would go a little way to return the land to how it was.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5322
Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 09:06 PM

Name Emily Duke

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We should be moving towards intentionally creating more tree cover as a measure to improve both the health of residents and to counteract the urban heat island effect which is likely to get worse as climate change worsens. I support this proposal.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5323

Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 10:09 PM

Name Ashley Koster

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The 10% loss of canopy cover since 2019 is a scary fact. With the city growing, trees need more attention in the city. Green spaces (not just grass but also trees) are vital for the community and their wellbeing.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5324
Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 10:29 PM

Name Lucy Southwell-Hambly

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Maintaining biodiversity and greenery in urban spaces is extremely important, to provide shade for people, and habitat corridors for fauna.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5325

Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 10:32 PM

Name Katie Glasgow-Palmer

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are really important for biodiversity and for keeping our air clean, as well as helping increase the "sponginess" of our city. Let's protect what we have, and plant more when we can!

Thanks to all the council staff working hard to protect our precious taiao

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5326
Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 10:41 PM

Name Jess

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We need to monitor tree numbers and ensure we plant more than we remove. We should only remove trees when absolutely necessary

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5327

Date submitted Jun 12, 2025, 11:00 PM

Name Kate Leach

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are really important for our city in a myriad of ways. They provide vital shade to help with cooling the 'concrete jungle' and can make public spaces like parks and playgrounds more accessible in the hotter months. They're also nice to look at!

It's important that Hamilton City Council takes seriously the positive impact (and relative inexpensive and ease of implementation) of trees for climate change adaptation. Hopefully this policy will ensure that this is considered in all decisions.

I would REALLY like to see included in the policy a clause about covenants on trees/landscaping in developments in greenfield growth areas. Greenfield growth has a greater negative environmental impact, so it would be great to offset this by stipulating a minimum number of tree plantings per sqm of house built.

Not sure if we have this in the Hamilton district plan, but in Christchurch, it states that depending upon location/zone, your site must have a minimum % planted, and mentions native trees as well. If we don't have this already, we definitely should look to include it. A lot of Christchurch's new neighbourhoods look much nicer than ours (even with the same density etc.) because they are landscaped and have way more trees.

On the remove one, replace with two concept - I support this, however, I think it's important to acknowledge that replacing a mature tree with two young ones does not negate the impact of losing canopy in the short term, so it would be good to either up the amount (so the collective cover is the same as what is lost), or consider how mature trees can be added.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5329
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 05:57 AM

Name Alice Alva

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

I am happy that this provides some guidance around council owned land but does not acknowledge the loss of trees and habitat around my suburb of Glenview when council allows cheap infill housing development that lacks thoughtful design.

In the past year alone in my small cal-de-sac street, I have seen three properties with existing large trees completely cleared, replaced by cheap developments that prioritise profit over the environment. Why is the council not going further to ensure suburban green spaces are maintained?

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5330

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 07:19 AM

Name Rebekah Harman

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5333
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 10:54 AM

Name Martin Toop

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Need to explain the urgency and importance of canopy in terms of climate change and biodiversity. Cities worldwide have in the past ended up with a boring collection of trees. Canopy various species across the city. Need for colour in flowering. Deciduous autumn colours not enough. Around Hamilton there is a lack of variation in tree form. Our old farmers populars are good what about some Rimus? Exotics for colour and helping feeding birds and insects.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5341

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 06:41 PM

Name Stacey Spooner

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

When walking in summer time (either just out for a walk but also walking to and from public transport) the massive benefits of the shade of the trees are very obvious. They are also a benefit for cars parked on the side of the road. The environmental benefits are also important.

On the flip side, it's pretty daunting being in a suburb with big old trees during a storm. Therefore I agree with the approach of having a policy

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5343
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 06:54 PM

Name Bailey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are slay - They make our city more beautiful, support the environment, and add to our overall wellbeing. Having a clear policy for how Council manages trees on public land is a great move. It'll help with consistent decision-making around planting, maintenance, and removals, and make sure we're looking after our urban canopy properly. We stan caring for the environment.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5344

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 07:23 PM

Name Jessica Begovich

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are super important and I feel lucky to live in a city (and a particularly green part of said city, Hamilton East) that has loads of established trees.

I want to see Hamilton continue to have an abundance of trees. I like that this policy considers the age and placement of trees currently living but also will have clear guidelines to help choose correct trees for places in future planting. Not only that the requirement to plant two trees for every tree dropped! Sounds good to me.

Anything that takes more than profit into consideration when looking at city development has a big tick from me.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5345
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 07:27 PM

Name Bronwyn Cann

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are important for many reasons (mental health, biodiversity, keeping suburbs cool) so there should be guidance aimed maintaining trees wherever possible.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5347

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 08:38 PM

Name Nigel Robertson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are a critical element of the built environment. They (can) bring value in terms of shade, water retention, run-off delay, biodiversity, and aesthetics. Having a coherent policy for managing and improving tree cover in the city will be a good thing.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5348
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 08:43 PM

Name Ben Dickson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Tree cover in Hamilton is noticeably better than many other cities. We should endeavour not to lose that

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5349

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 09:02 PM

Name Thomas Bredin-Grey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We have a beautiful city in no small part due to the many beautiful old trees throughout.

Too many are being cut down, and they cannot be replaced once cut down.

Trees provide shade on hot days. They provide habitats for nesting birds and for the insects and bees that we need to grow our gardens. They suck up stormwater and prevent flooding. And perhaps most important of all they are HUGE carbon sinks that keep our climate from warming up. And they're beautiful.

Not to have a tree policy seems incredibly harmful. It will lead to the degradation of our city and a worsening habitat over time.

I would support a policy that prioritises native trees and any of the larger trees that provide habitats to native animals and that store large amounts of carbon.

Regards,

Thomas Bredin-Grey

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5351
Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 09:15 PM

Name Jeanie Black-Dunlop

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees help us breath and keep us cool and they look cool too 🌳

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5353

Date submitted Jun 13, 2025, 10:09 PM

Name Kathryn Thompson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I think Hamilton has some wonderful trees, and they certainly shouldn't be taken for granted. Having a policy to manage trees seems like a great idea.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5356
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 06:05 AM

Name Ben

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5357

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 09:57 AM

Name Camille Guzzwell

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I love the long term planning to make sure trees are protected and that the appropriate trees are planted to protect the tree canopy.

We all know trees help keep us healthy and alive so let's take better care of them and plan replacements 🌳

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5358
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 10:05 AM

Name M Hardy

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Agree trees need to be managed properly but am concerned that trees will be removed for not being native, and/or only native trees will replace felled trees, reducing the biodiversity of our tree canopy.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5360

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 06:48 PM

Name Cara Davey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Too many new developments turn the area around them into a lawn and take down mature other vegetation including trees.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5361
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 06:56 PM

Name Kylie Stewart

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Yay trees! Love them. Thank you for writing a policy that recognises the importance of them for our city. The only thing I'd add would be prioritising natives when planting.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5362

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 07:02 PM

Name Courtney Quinn

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

More trees!

More Park trees!

More Street trees! Make streets one way and put trees and cycle/pedestrian paths down the half removed.

Way, way, way more Playground shade trees. Shade sails alone over artificial playgrounds are hot and terrible, we need great big shade trees too, help provide a cool place to rest and picnic.

Native tree parks and Mara hupara in between them. Natural playgrounds in natural play spaces for plenty of diverse play activities for young and old.

If a mature tree has to come out for construction replacing it with two piddly small trees that will likely die isn't enough, make it 5 or 10 AND in a similar geographical area. I'm concerned they'll rip out trees in the central city and claim planting 2 out by the zoo on the edge of Hamilton counts. Trees need to be replaced close to where they are removed. I have real concerns about all the heat islands being created.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5363
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 07:13 PM

Name Chris

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Would like to see better coverage in Hamilton, not just in legacy suburbs, especially with natives.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5364

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 07:25 PM

Name Damien Young

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

One of the things I really like about my neighbourhood is hearing the tuis call out to each other. You could walk down the street and see them feeding in the trees, it's quite unique. However as the years have gone, trees have slowly been removed but never replaced and consequently the tuis don't seem as plentiful as they once were which makes the neighbourhood feel like it's losing a part of its identity. It would be great if that could be restored

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5365
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 07:27 PM

Name Melissa Smith

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5366

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 08:09 PM

Name Melanie Chivers

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are important for so many reasons and should be protected where possible.

I can't believe there isn't already a tree policy!

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5367
Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 08:16 PM

Name Emma Robinson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Honestly I thought most of it was already policy. LOL

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5368

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 08:31 PM

Name Douglas Davey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees make an urban area less of an urban 'jungle' and more of an urban forest.

The studies into the effect that tree canopies have on urban heat make it clear that trees make a city more liveable.

Study after study shows that introducing nature back into our lives is good for people.

Lastly - we need a clear direction given on street trees. We had Manuka or similar which were lovely - removed and replaced with highly allergenic Olive trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5369

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 10:30 PM

Name C Davies

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The proposed policy sounds appropriate. I value trees in our city and it makes sense to have a policy to guide decisions regarding trees.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5370

Date submitted Jun 14, 2025, 11:45 PM

Name Cass

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

It makes sense to prioritise doing what we can to mitigate the damage we do.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5371
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 05:34 AM

Name Kevin Baker

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees need to be protected. They belong to the community

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5372

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 06:22 AM

Name Melissa Hackell

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The city is getting hotter with too much infill housing and trees keep us cool and support biodiversity.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5373
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 07:09 AM

Name Hannah Palmer

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Anything to ensure the tree canopy is appropriately maintained and provided for to increase shade, biodiversity, storm water attenuation, and reduce the urban heat island effect is supported. Trees provide valued amenity to our city.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5374

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 08:41 AM

Name Gabe Mulligan

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

We value the mature trees in our neighbourhood of Fairfield. They add character, shade, and bring bird song. They also indicate how old each suburb is, and add value in intangible ways. We want them cared for, and not removed unless absolutely necessary.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5376
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 09:51 AM

Name tracy wilde

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Having a clear policy will hopefully support increased tree planting along with appropriate care of already established trees. Trees offer many benefits to urban areas (reduced heat by 2-8%, improved air quality, CO2 absorption, increased opportunity for wild life/Increased biodiversity, noise reduction, better aesthetic values leading increased. exercise, improved property values, better visitor experiences, flood reduction) and having a clear policy is an important step in recognising these benefits.

Supporting information: urban trees

- <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/ecology-and-evolution/articles/10.3389/fevo.2021.603757/full> The Benefits and Limits of Urban Tree Planting for Environmental and Human Health
- <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/17/12/4371> Urban Trees and Human Health: A Scoping Review
- <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1353829216301332> Multiple health benefits of urban tree canopy: The mounting evidence for a green prescription
- <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/16/12/4955> Cooling Benefits of Urban Tree Canopy: A Systematic Review
- <https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/14/12/2280> Heat Mitigation Benefits of Urban Trees: A Review of Mechanisms, Modeling, Validation and Simulation

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5377

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 10:26 AM

Name Ken Cunningham

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

It provides guidance around planting type, growth and removal of street trees.

I support the "Tree Submission" from Kerry Allen

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5378
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 10:53 AM

Name Clare Browne

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

There is evidence that tree canopy cover provides climate resilience. This is going to be increasingly crucial in the years to come.

I have lived in one of the lowest socio economic suburbs of Hamilton, Bader, where the tree cover was poor. I now live in a high SE area (Central Hamilton) where we have many mature trees and native trees. The contrast in bird life is noticeable, with higher numbers of tūī, fantails, grey warblers, ruru, even a harrier hawk regularly visits. When mature trees were cut down and large areas of green space were removed for a huge Kainga Ora housing development in Bader, we lost breeding tūī and the resident ruru; they left and never returned.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5380

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 01:55 PM

Name Kyle Parker

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The world needs many more trees to help us sequester carbon to create a safe and healthy place for our grandchildren and their grandchildren to flourish. 3 generations of my whānau who have lived in Hamilton know the truth of this.

It's important to maximize tree protection, retention, and planting of the right species in the right places for many reasons including flood and slip avoidance/ mitigation, climate resilience, oxygen creation for breathing and carbon sequestration for rebalancing the atmosphere to livable ratios, increasing biodiversity so we have healthy, productive ecosystems that are less dominated by humans and our food consumption needs, community amenity, health and wellbeing, recreation, avoiding pollution, cleaning of waterways, producing healthy food for people in need and hungry children on their way home from school, and many more reasons.

It is highly important that trees are promoted, encouraged, and invested in for both private and public land. However, avoid planting evergreen species to the immediate north of buildings to maximize solar thermal gain benefits in Winter and reduce energy costs for heating for households and organisations. Invest in volunteering and community organizations to assist with planting, weeding, maintenance, and nurturing of the beautiful urban ngahere we have. If we connect the community to the environment better and strengthen our links to nature, even in our urban environment, everyone will see the benefits.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution ID 5382
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 03:32 PM

Name Chris Ford

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes - I am the official spokesperson for: Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) New Zealand

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Please see attached submission.



Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

May 2025

To Hamilton City Council

Please find attached our submission on the Draft Tree Policy 2025

For any further inquiries, please contact:

Chris Ford

Policy Advisor – Southern and Central

policy@dpa.org.nz

Introducing Disabled Persons Assembly NZ

We work on systemic change for the equity of disabled people

Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA) is a not-for-profit pan-impairment Disabled People's Organisation run by and for disabled people.

We recognise:

- Māori as Tangata Whenua and [Te Tiriti o Waitangi](#) as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand;
- disabled people as experts on their own lives;
- the [Social Model of Disability](#) as the guiding principle for interpreting disability and impairment;
- the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) as the basis for disabled people's relationship with the State;
- the [New Zealand Disability Strategy](#) as Government agencies' guide on disability issues; and
- the [Enabling Good Lives Principles](#), [Whāia Te Ao Mārama: Māori Disability Action Plan](#), and [Faiva Ora: National Pasifika Disability Disability Plan](#) as avenues to disabled people gaining greater choice and control over their lives and supports.

The Submission

DPA welcomes the opportunity to give feedback to the Hamilton City Council on its proposed Tree Policy.

DPA has had feedback from our members in the Hamilton City area on the general principles they would like to see guide this policy from a disability perspective.

The multiple benefits of trees

Trees are vital from an ecological, practical and aesthetic point of view.

Ecological in that they provide much needed carbon capture and storage, soak up excess rainwater preventing flooding and act as a general environmental shield.

Practical in that they provide shade in the summer and shelter from excessive rainfall all year round.

Aesthetic in that they make our green spaces attractive by being beautiful to look at – something that is so important when people are wanting to improve their mental wellbeing every day in these more stressful times.

There is much to commend in the proposed tree policy but here are some additional principles which should guide it from a disability perspective:

- **The need for good tree management to prevent tree trunks protruding into pedestrian areas**, including footpaths and cycleways as this can impede access for disabled pedestrians and cyclists as well as create safety issues.
- **The need to plant trees with appropriate foliage as trees which generate too much leaf litter make accessibility harder** due to higher leaf fall onto footpaths and roads.
- **The need for trees to provide good shade** in spring/summer and sufficient shelter in autumn/winter. Some disabled people have difficulty with temperature regulation, so sufficient shade needs to be readily available when people are outdoors during summer.
- **The need for council to continually monitor tree risks** - we are pleased that this is specifically acknowledged in the plan. However, more publicity around what people can or should do to report unsafe trees as part of the policy would be welcome.
- **The need to involve disabled people as part** of all future community consultation on tree planting plans given the need to consider the accessibility issues we have outlined above.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5384
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 03:47 PM

Name Kathryn Roberts

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees are important!

I live next to a park that includes a tree/bush area and am concerned that weeds/undesirable plants are taking it over. We have a lot of weeds that seem to get spread from the bush to our section. So maintenance is important. We saw the bush area as positive when we moved in. But fighting the encroaching weeds is difficult when we can't access the bush side.

More trees have been planted in the park, so am concerned that may go the same way.

I'd also like to see a preference given to native trees being planted. The park has a lot of exotic (melia?) trees, that have berries that are somewhat toxic, which is an odd choice as it's a park that has lots of children that visit due to sports and playground.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5385

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 04:32 PM

Name Stacey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons



Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5386
Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 08:30 PM

Name Nicola Win

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I strongly agree with the 'right tree in the right place' approach to planning and planting. Species should be selected that are appropriate for the location and I agree with supporting biodiversity targets for native species.

Native flowering and fruiting species to support birds and insects would be ideal as the first considered option, along with appropriate follow-up after planting to avoid trees dying from lack of water before they can establish!

Deciduous trees should be avoided on berms/close to the side of the road or areas of drainage. Large, fast-growing trees with root systems that can impact on the concrete footpath/street (we are currently seeing this on many streets due to poor tree choice!!) and underground piping should be avoided.

I would want the opportunity to provide comment on the guidelines that are developed within this policy (i.e., I would want there to be public consultation at subsequent stages).

Note, I DO feel strongly about my feedback, despite not wishing to support my written feedback by speaking in person (especially at this stage, when the policy is light on detail!).

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5387

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 08:52 PM

Name Ross Frampton

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5388

Date submitted Jun 15, 2025, 09:01 PM

Name S June

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Yes. For the following reasons:

- There is room for more trees on Council land with associated benefits to the city environment and residents.
- Many street trees are planted without proper planting site preparation and follow-up care such as watering. Poor survival and poor growth are the result in some places.
- Many trees are planted in the city's gullies without adequate site preparation or follow-up weeding. As a consequence may do not survive. This is a waste of effort and money.
- Dangerous, unstable trees remain on Council reserves. They are a risk to public safety. We are lucky that no one had been injured or killed as large trees have fallen on houses, playing fields and carparks.

Amendments sought:

1. Health and safety

Principle: To manage risks resulting from Council owned trees, including risks to health and safety

Policy: Council undertakes maintenance on street trees to ensure health and minimise risk.

This should apply to all trees on Council land, not just street trees. Some trees in Council parks pose

serious risks of damage and injury or death to park users and to residents of adjoining properties.

Unstable and dangerous trees have fallen onto playing fields and carparks, and on adjoining properties

causing damage to houses. Near misses to people have been recorded. Dangerous trees have not been

removed when the dangers are apparent, and are still present.

Some street trees are causing ongoing damage to footpaths through uplift. This creates dangerous trip

hazards for people. They should be removed and replaced.

2. Tree planting

Principle: Maximise canopy cover across the city, select species that are appropriate for the location

and ensure new planting supports biodiversity targets.

Policy: Council will take a 'right tree in the right place' approach to planning and planting. Clear

guidelines about planting will ensure what is planted can withstand changing weather, supports

biodiversity targets, and is appropriate for the location.

Planting guidelines should include preparation of planting sites and the aftercare of trees, especially on

street berms, to improve plant growth and survival.

Native trees planted in gullies should be local species appropriate for the ecological district, as per the

Gully Reserves Management Plan and Nature in the City Strategy 2020 to 2050.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution ID 5389

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:16 AM

Name Lauren Kerr-Bell

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I live a tree lined street. We purposely bought our house in this area due to the atmosphere the trees gave the street. They created an inviting, community like feeling to the area.

However at the time back in the 90's, Council planted these trees that sprout pods regularly, causing issues with drains. I feel that if Council had an overall policy towards maintenance and the type of trees suitable for the area, it would have prevented an issue like this.

I also run events in public spaces and the lack of trees is of concern. As an example height of summer, at Victoria on the River, we have to wait until 5pm to have any concerts due to lack of shade.

We used to use the Band Rotunda, due to the great shade and tree canopy, but noticed a lot of trees have been cut down and not replaced. Having a policy like this in place, may have seen a return of new trees to the space.

There will be people who complain about the maintenance cost of trees, but the impact and atmosphere they bring to a city cannot be undervalued. They create a city that feels livable and community orientated.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5392

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 09:22 AM

Name Kasha Latimer

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I've been worried when seeing mature trees come down, and generally less trees around town so really happy to support a policy that prioritizes trees. Community, health & ecological benefits :)

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5393

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 09:50 AM

Name Saffron Smith

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Too many trees disappear these days, this is a shame given they take so long to grow back.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5398

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 12:50 PM

Name Stephen (Steve) Carson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

While we agree in principle to the adoption of the Tree Policy, we have concerns around the current tree issues that have occurred and will continue to be problematic if the Tree Policy becomes enforceable.

We want assurances from Council that the issues as stated below will be addressed as a matter of priority should the Tree Policy be adopted.

More specifically, we refer to the 40 Magnolia grandiflora trees which were planted in our street "The Esplanade" without any resident consultation approximately 18 years ago. These trees have shallow roots, a capability to grow to 25+m in height with a spread of 15+m, and a trunk that can exceed 1.8m in diameter. With a life span capable of exceeding 80-100 years, it is obvious that these are not the correct specie for planting on a berm that is only 1.4m wide.

The Council decision to plant these trees has increasingly, over time, created major health and safety issues caused by significant areas of the footpaths being uplifted. The Esplanade comprises of mainly older and retired residents and due to it being a quiet and relatively traffic free street many people exercise (walking and running) daily around our block. There have been several falls and injuries in recent times due to tripping on the uneven surfaces and there have been cases of rolled ankles from standing on the fallen, unforgiving cones. Thus we have a major Health and Safety issue.

In our personal situation we had to remove a feature specimen tree to allow the Council tree which fronts our property to grow unobstructed. The said tree has lifted the footpath 50mm above our driveway apron off the street. This lift is continuing to increase and while the contractors have very recently ground off some of the footpath within 300mm of the apron there has been no efforts to address the vehicle crossing onto our property which has become a major tripping hazard. The footpath has developed stress fractures and is now lifting. Please be assured that a tatty bitumen hot mix fix over the apron will not be an acceptable solution!

We also have concerns as to the potential damage that the tree is having to our brick fence and footings along with the undetermined damage to our expansive concrete driveway.

The residents in our section of The Esplanade take great pride in keeping the berm and roadway clear of the continual, year-round, drop of leaves which the Magnolia grandiflora is renown for. These leaves are almost non-compostable and therefore the cost of disposing of the leaves becomes a cost and ongoing burden to the resident. The Council's street sweeping truck is almost non-existent and it does not clear the leaves from the footpaths or the berms.

In recent discussions and feedback with Council the residents of the street have been informed that there is no funding allocation available to remove and replace the trees. In the last two weeks a pathetic attempt has been made to address the health and safety hazards by taking a “grinding off” approach. This is a very short-term solution with no long-term remedy and there is only so much concrete that can be ground off before the footpath will need replacement.

How long will it be before these trees start affecting the power, communications, water and sewer services and/or cause damage to the curb and channelling and the road?

To continue with a non-remedial “quick fix” maintenance programme is very a short-sighted waste of ratepayer money which will continue to be ongoing.

We urge the Council to “bite the bullet” and remove the trees, repair the damage to the footpaths, and then replant with trees that are fit for purpose for the future benefits of all.

Please see attached.

Attachment 1



Item 5



Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5399

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 01:15 PM

Name Rebecca Shaw

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Pragma Homes Limited

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

See attached Submission Document

Pragma Homes Limited

Submission on the Draft Tree Policy, Hamilton City Council

Full name: Pragma Homes Limited
Attn: Sam Le Heron & Rebecca Shaw

Postal Address: C/O Barker & Associates, Suite 2
298 Victoria Street, Hamilton, 3204

Phone: 021 990 866

Email: saml@barker.co.nz | rebecca.sh@barker.co.nz

Submission Information:

Pragma Homes Limited (**'Pragma'**) could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

The specific provisions of the Draft Tree Policy that Pragma's submission relate to are attached.

Pragma **opposes** and **seeks amendment** to the specific provisions as listed in the attached document. The reasons are provided in the attached document.

The decisions Pragma wishes Council to make are contained in the attached document.

Pragma reserves the right to be heard in support of this submission.

If others make a similar submission, Pragma will consider presenting a joint case with them at a Hearing.

Regards,



Sam Le Heron

Barker & Associates

+64 375 0900 | admin@barker.co.nz | barker.co.nz

Kerikeri | Whangārei | Auckland | Hamilton | Napier | Wellington | Christchurch | Queenstown | Wānaka

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1.0 Introduction

Pragma welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Tree Policy as prepared by the Hamilton City Council ('HCC').

1.1 Background

Pragma are a proudly family-run New Zealand leading property company, spanning residential, commercial, industrial, and hospitality sectors. Pragma create and manage exceptional spaces where businesses thrive and communities grow.

Pragma have been delivering homes and commercial opportunities for Hamilton residents for nearly 20 years. On average Pragma deliver 120 new builds across Hamilton City. In addition, Pragma employ 80 people while also providing subcontracts and job opportunities to another 500 people.

2.0 General Feedback

Pragma appreciates the opportunity to submit on Council's Draft Tree Policy. The Draft Tree Policy approach to street tree management raises several concerns regarding clarity, cost, and feasibility. While we broadly support the enhancement and protection of Hamilton's urban tree canopy, the proposed requirements around the retention, removal, and replacement of street trees may create unintended barriers to delivering timely and efficient development, particularly in high-density or infill areas.

The policy's current process for removal or relocation lacks flexibility and may result in significant design constraints or costly delays. We recommend the inclusion of clearer guidelines, streamlined approval pathways, and a more pragmatic framework that allows for the relocation or replacement of street trees where approach, ensuring both urban growth and canopy cover objectives can be met in tandem.

3.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, Pragma seeks the following relief:

- a) Pragma's general feedback in Section 2.0 and specific feedback in Section 4.0 is addressed and necessary changes incorporated.
- b) Any further necessary consequential amendments required to achieve (a) above.

Pragma looks forward to working collaboratively with HCC to address the above relief and is happy to meet with HCC policy staff or consultants to work through these matters.

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4.0 Submission on the Draft Tree Policy

Sub #	Topic	Support/Oppose/Seek Amendment/Explanation/Clarification	Comments/Reasons	Relief Sought
1	Policy 12	Amend	<p>Policy 12 seeks to ensure <i>“Council tree planting will be prioritised in areas where shade is desirable, (for example in playgrounds and high pedestrian and cycle routes) or in areas where there are few trees.”</i></p> <p>And while the proposed prioritisation of Council tree planting in areas such as playgrounds and high pedestrian or cycle routes, is well-intentioned, risks conflicting with the practical realities of development in high urban growth areas. These locations often overlap with intensification zones and future infrastructure corridors, where space is limited and design flexibility is crucial. Without clear alignment between tree planting priorities and urban development strategies, there is a high potential for conflict—particularly where root zones, canopy spread, and service corridors compete for limited space. Developers face increased costs and design constraints when required to retrofit tree placements into compact urban environments not originally planned for large-scale vegetation. A more balanced and integrated approach is needed—one that ensures street trees enhance, rather than</p>	Amended policy to provide for “where practicable” at the end of the policy description.

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			hinder, urban intensification outcomes. Collaboration between Council and the development sector will be key to ensuring tree planting goals support, rather than obstructing efficient and sustainable urban growth.	
2	Section 22 – Application for Tree Owner Approval	Clarification sought	<p>A formal Application for Tree Owner Approval will be required. The formatting and information needed is currently unknown, it would be beneficial for Council to advise and inform stakeholders what this will look like and the information it will need to contain in anticipation of this coming into effect September for upcoming projects.</p> <p>This would assist with minimising delays and unexpected additional costs.</p>	Clarification is sought on what an Application for Tree Owner Approval will look like and what information will be required prior to the Policy coming into effect. The policy talks about two weeks prior to any works commencing, however the overall intent is clearly looking to bring the discussion forward (concept design stage). How this would play out, its role or relationship with other Council functions (like resource consent pre-application meetings) are important to understand. Typically a resource consent and building consent process will add at least 6 months from concept design to physical works.
	Section 30 – Tree Removal	Clarification sought	<p>Section 30 of the Policy outlined that <i>“Council is unlikely to approve the removal of a tree in the following circumstances... If there are practical means for canopy or tree retention”</i> The policy or supporting information does not provide any guidance or clarification on what “practical means for canopy or tree retention” means.</p> <p>There are concerns that significant costs could be added to developments to redesign and construct developments which have been designed to</p>	Clarification is sought on what Council will consider as “practical means for canopy or tree retention” to understand costs implication in terms of re-design for current and future projects. What is the process for this determination, given the current structure of the Application for Tree Owner Approval is geared up for more immediate timeframes.

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			<p>accommodate the retention of the existing street trees.</p> <p>While the retention of existing street trees is understood, the ability for this to be considered and balanced within the delivery of quality and affordable homes needs to be considered.</p> <p>The statement of Council unlikely to approve a tree removal If there are practical means for canopy or tree retention is ambiguous with no criteria or explanation on what Council considers to be 'practical'.</p>	
	Section 33 – Tree Removal	Clarification sought	<p>Section 33 of the Policy outlined “Council may consider the removal (and replacement) of trees on a case-by-case basis to allow for an activity or development where no other alternative design option is available.”</p> <p>In this case no guidance or criteria is provided within the Policy on what determines a design or project having no other design alternatives. What Pragma may determine as no alternative design to Council could be quite different due to Pragma having to consider several different matters such as; existing services, servicing, building costs, transport matters, on-site amenity and functionality.</p> <p>Therefore, with no guidance or criteria outlined within the Policy Council staff while seeking to protect the retention of certain street trees may not</p>	<p>Clarification is sought to understand what determines “no other alternative design” from a Council perspective.</p>

			have a balanced view causing development delays and additional projects costs.	
	Section 34 – Tree Removal	Oppose	<p>Section 34 of the Policy outlined that <i>“An Application for Tree Owner Approval must be submitted for consideration during the early stages of development design (e.g. concept design stage).”</i></p> <p>The size and significance of street trees vary throughout Hamilton. Given this policy clearly excludes Scheduled Trees, the remaining trees, particularly within the transport corridor will take the shape of native, exotics and widely varied in maturity, role, outcomes within the context they sit in. The need to undertake this work at the beginning of a project will add additional time and cost. How is the Hamilton City Parks and Recreation Unit proposing to manage the level of applications in a timely manner, when commercial decisions and timeframes are tight (example when sites are under due diligence). Would this process require a fee to submit or consider? Is there the ability to escalate or challenge a decision made under this policy?</p>	<p>Pragma Oppose Section 34 of the Policy due to the lack of details and clarity in assessment criteria. How this approval process may occur in parallel or prior to any other Council process (like a resource consent pre-application meeting) needs to be understood.</p>
	Section 38 – Tree Removal	Clarification sought	<p>Section 38 requires that “in sites where trees are identified as likely containing protected indigenous fauna (e.g. bats, lizards or native bird species) an ecological assessment will be required to be provided alongside any Application for Tree Owner Approval.”</p>	<p>Pragma seek clarification on how Council will identify street trees as likely containing protected indigenous fauna to understand the respective costs and timing for ecological reports.</p>

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			<p>No information or guidance is provided on how a tree will be 'identified' to be of ecological significance. Noting that an ecological report adds further time and costs to the process, particularly if this is intended to be received at the front end of a project, as currently drafted.</p> <p>Therefore, further information is needed on how Council is to identify street trees likely containing protected indigenous fauna to assist in capturing all relevant details and costs of a project from the outset.</p>	
	Section 40 – Tree Replacement	Clarification sought	<p>No details are provided on how the number of trees to be planted are calculated or determined, other than the 2 to 1 ratio. Our assumption is a tree that is mature, healthy, playing a key ecological component and character and amenity role would be viewed differently from a street tree planted recently. This level of criteria or methodology should be informing the ratio applied, and the location of the planting required, given in plenty of examples within high density, commercial or central city type zones, the opportunity for street planting is limited, and may impact on further redevelopment opportunities in the future.</p>	Pragma seek clarification on how Council are to determine the replacement ratio for street trees.
	Section 41 – Tree Replacement	Clarification sought	<p>No details are provided on how this monetary value is calculated, larger more established trees will incur more costs and may require more trees but no details or guidance is provided.</p>	Pragma seek clarification on how Council are to determine/ calculate the replacement costs for street trees.

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			Without guidance or a criteria to understand costs of tree replacement, this will add a potential unknown cost to development projects. Given the works have to occur by a suitably qualified arborist, with permission already sought, we are unsure as to the intent of this policy and how it would be implemented in practice.	
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**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5400

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 01:26 PM

Name Krissy Barnes

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes, I am the official spokesperson for Go Eco

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Please see submission attached.



16 June 2025

Go Eco's Submission on Hamilton City Council's Draft Tree Policy

Go Eco (t/a Waikato Environment Centre) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Hamilton City Council Draft Tree Policy. Our mission is to cultivate thriving communities and healthy environments through collaborative, community-led initiatives grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Through our focus areas—Taiao, Para Kore, and Kai—we connect people to projects, learning, and opportunities across the Waikato Region, building capacity and capability in diverse communities.

General Support and Long-Term Vision

As a community-based organisation committed to ecological restoration, environmental education, sustainable living, and kai motuhake, we see this policy as a vital step toward a greener, more climate-resilient Kirikiriroa. We commend the Council for recognising trees as critical, intergenerational public assets contributing to community, environmental, and economic wellbeing. This policy is the foundation for managing trees as part of Hamilton's green infrastructure. By investing in and protecting our urban ngahere, we also safeguard our city's health, wellbeing, and resilience for our tamariki and mokopuna. While the policy is not framed explicitly as an urban forest strategy, we see it as a strategic precursor to such a vision. We encourage the Council to build on this momentum towards a more comprehensive Urban Ngahere Strategy¹ in the future.

Ecological and Biodiversity Benefits

Urban trees are more than streetscape and amenity assets—they provide vital habitat for indigenous species, especially in fragmented urban (and suburban) landscapes like those in Kirikiriroa. We support the policy's commitment to:

- **Enhancing ecological resilience through retaining mature trees, and diverse native and, where appropriate, exotic plantings.** We recognise the cultural and ecological value exotic trees hold for Kirikiriroa's diverse communities and acknowledge the important role some mature exotic species play in supporting indigenous fauna, such as the endangered pekapeka-tou-roa (long-tailed bat), particularly given the current scarcity of mature native trees in the urban landscape. However, we advocate for Hamilton City Council to prioritise native tree species wherever possible and appro, recognising their vital role in restoring

¹ e.g. Te Rautaki Ngahere ā-Tāone o Tāmaki Makaurau, Ōtautahi-Christchurch Urban Forest Plan



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indigenous ecosystems and strengthening long-term ecological resilience.

- **Protecting mature trees is a priority.** Mature trees provide a wide range of ecological, and cultural, social, and economic benefits—many of which cannot be easily replicated by new plantings.
- **Retaining deadwood**—both standing and fallen—within natural reserves, where safe and appropriate, to support forest ecosystem processes, biodiversity, and nutrient cycling. We also strongly support clause 38 to be included in the policy, reflecting legal requirements under the Wildlife Act 1953² for the protection of species such as pekapeka-tou-roa.

We note that the draft policy currently **lacks any reference to the management of pest tree species**. While some species, such as privet, may not be legally required to be controlled by Hamilton City Council as a landowner under the Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022–2032, effective tree management should recognise that not all tree species are desirable. Certain species pose significant ecological risks, and their presence can undermine restoration efforts if not managed appropriately. We recommend that the policy include a clear commitment to identify and manage ecologically harmful tree species wherever feasible.

Climate Resilience and Economic Value

The draft policy states that “trees provide a range of benefits including cooling through shade, carbon sequestration [...] and resilience to the effects of extreme events.”

According to UNECE (2022)³, well-planned urban ngahere can reduce city temperatures by 2–8°C, leading to significant savings on energy costs and public health. Trees also reduce the severity and cost of flooding by intercepting and absorbing rainwater, decreasing pressure on stormwater infrastructure. Globally, Urban trees provide vital ecosystem services—including cleaner air and water, carbon sequestration, and temperature regulation—making them essential for healthier, more resilient cities. With increasing climate change-related impacts on our city, urban trees offer a low-cost, high-impact solution that improves public health, protects infrastructure, and delivers long-term economic returns.

While the draft policy indirectly references climate resilience, it would be strengthened by explicitly acknowledging the role of trees in addressing climate change-related challenges. We also advocate for clearly recognising trees' economic benefits in mitigating climate impacts. We recommend including a reference to these benefits in the final version of the policy.

Health, Wellbeing, and Cultural Significance

Urban trees are associated with a range of social and psychological benefits. Access to green spaces with trees has been shown to reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, supporting better

² <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1953/0031/latest/whole.html>

³ UNECE (2022). *Advancing Sustainable Urban and Peri-Urban Forestry: Policy Brief*. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.



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overall mental health of communities. Green infrastructure is also linked to reduced crime rates⁴ and stronger social cohesion. A greener city is a safer, healthier city. This draft policy contributes to a vision of Hamilton as a place where people and nature thrive together. We acknowledge the Draft Tree Policy as a positive step toward recognising the vital role trees play in the health and resilience of Kirikiriroa Hamilton.

In solidarity with tangata whenua, we affirm that the care of urban ngahere must **honour the whakapapa of this whenua and uphold the responsibilities of kaitiakitanga**. We support hapū and whānau-led decision-making in the planning, protection, and restoration of trees, especially where they intersect with wāhi tapu, mātauranga Māori, and cultural heritage. This oversight limits the policy's capacity to **uphold Tiriti o Waitangi commitments** and support meaningful co-governance in land and resource stewardship.

We propose the policy:

- Includes a clear commitment to establish and/or foster partnerships with tangata whenua to embed **mātauranga Māori** and uphold local aspirations in planting decisions.
- Recognises the **urban ngahere not solely as ecological infrastructure, but as a source of sustenance, resilience, and intergenerational knowledge**.

Tree replacement, Community Plantings and Kai Motuhake

We support the provisions for tree replacement (at a minimum 2 for 1), compensation for vandalism and community plantings. We recommend, in addition, that the policy explicitly recognises the **role of fruit, nut, and rongoā-bearing trees within local kai systems**. These species contribute to community wellbeing through accessible, culturally significant food and medicine sources. We propose to specifically prioritise planting food-producing species in areas facing food insecurity, where access to affordable, fresh kai is limited. By integrating kai and rongoā species into urban greening strategies, the tree policy can enhance climate resilience, community wellbeing, and connection to whenua, supporting environmental and social outcomes in line with a **kai motuhake approach**.

In summary, Go Eco supports the Draft Tree Policy as a foundational step toward a sustainable and ecologically vibrant Hamilton. We urge the Council to continue moving toward a broader urban forest strategy that centres climate adaptation, equity, and biodiversity and includes kai motuhake as an extension of the current Nature in the City Programme.

Ngā mihi nui

Krissy Barnes
Taiao Team Lead

⁴ Ogletree et al. (2022). *Urban greenspace linked to lower crime risk across 301 major U.S. cities*. Cities Vol 131.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5401

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 02:25 PM

Name Jan-Marie Kellow

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

It needs to go further to specify for example that deciduous trees are not appropriate for suburban streets due to the hazards created to pedestrians when leaves fall on footpaths creating a fall hazard and to drivers when the leaves fall on the road and begin to rot, resulting in a slippery mulch that causes cars to slip. The falling leaves also block drains both in the street and on private property when the leaves blow in.

I also believe that the policy that native trees are to be used in all cases unless there are significant reasons why they would not be appropriate.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5403

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:10 PM

Name Danielle Marks

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees help cool our city down. HCC signed up to the climate declaration in 2020 and we need to actively be heading into climate action. I walk home from town to my house in Fairfield and in summer its lovely walking along the treeline at Claudelands park and in our side streets. The immediate affect of having somewhere cool to walk or sit is needed in all our parks and neighbourhoods.

Our streets flood partially due to leaves because of a lack of kōrero to citizens about the hazard of not cleaning gutters.

However, if we are to get new street trees, it would be awesome to either have fruit trees or native trees.

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5404

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:11 PM

Name Not supplied

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Yes trees are an essential part of the landscape but you need to put them by the expressway and industrial areas not overcrowd our neighbourhoods. Trees in parks and reserves and playgrounds need to be well limbed up so you view people in those spaces so it doesn't make it dangerous to be.

Wellbeing support not everyone likes being shut in by trees it can make people really anxious and unwell. People like open spaces too. Supporting wildlife – what rats, it must cost a lot to keep them at bay. Especially when I have seen very large ones on River Road by the walkway down to the river. When trees shade footpaths in the winter they are dangerous to walkers and runners because of the dampness and you get black ice forming when there is a frost.

When trees drop seed pods they are a health and safety risk when they are planted on the berm in neighbourhoods especially which have a lot of retirement villages. The paths become slippery when wet with the decomposing pods.

Those trees are far too big in any case and break the concrete with their roots. I've talked to the men that repair the footpaths when I've been out walking myself and they agree that some of the trees are far too big and they wreck the paths. They saw it as a great cash cow for them to get the contract to repair the footpaths.

About shading. You say you won't prune trees. So what does that mean for people who can't afford the power to heat their homes. You have taken the sun off their homes which is a natural resource. I think that is a disgrace on your part HCC. I don't agree with you dropping trees and letting them decompose it adds to the untidiness of the city, you need to clean up your act and make the city nice.

What about the trees been dropped on the banks of the river or into the river. I don't get that at all.

What happens to those when it floods? You say you would unlikely remove trees because of minor allergic or irritant responses. I have grandchildren that have allergies and if you see how unwell they get you may understand where I am coming from. It is not nice. Plus the cost of Drs visits and medication. These children aren't the only ones, there are hundreds of people with allergies that native species of trees affect, especially when they are flowering.

I think that is very selfish of you again HCC.

I've noticed over the years the trees haven't been maintained properly. Just recently though I have noticed a flurry of activity, is that just because this survey has come out and it makes out you are doing something about it. Some of the people contracted seem dodgy, saw them on Wairere Drive.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5405

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:22 PM

Name Wyne Johns

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

It appears that the present decision making on the removal or retention of trees on HCC land can be very peace meal. Our city had many well established mature trees but due to storms or financial considerations many good examples of native and exotic species of trees have been lost over recent years. This leaves our current tree stock depleted and needing safeguards and a well thought out programme of retention.

I am now retired but was a professional horticulturist and arborist and am sad at the loss of many well situated trees within the city precinct.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5406

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:25 PM

Name Bill Ward, Margaret Evans, & Caroline Steemson

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

In part

Tell us your reasons

Refer attached submission:

Begin again, and develop an overall policy cluster connecting people and the land.

Submission to Hamilton City Council Re Draft Tree Policy - 15 June 2025

This submission is a call instead for a policy cluster connecting people and the land: the application of readily accessible knowledge, 'integrated thinking', and the restoration of commonsense, presented in a single document, concise, and with an expectation of quality & accountable tree & planting management. A sleek, focused, and coherent 'Nature in the City' strategy is expected to generate corporate operational savings to fund the activities we recommend.

Our focus is city and regional sustainability, and we remind councillors of the global concept of human ecology and the four pillars (economic, environmental, social and cultural) reflecting their local government responsibilities. This is also expressed in part in te ao Maori as kaitiakitanga, or interconnectedness with human responsibilities for guardianship.

Thank you for considering this submission. We are willing to appear in person to discuss this further.

Signed:

Bill Ward (horticulturalist, former TV presenter & City Councillor) – 022 5600132

Margaret Evans (Commonwealth Human Ecology Trustee & former Mayor) – 021 2044674

Caroline Steemson (retired university academic) – 021 332526

1. Better Policies for the People and the Land:

Our overall call is to begin again. Learn from the past and focus on the future; condense and integrate all policies relating to trees, Nature, streetscape, gateways, greenspace & city-keeping into a coherent ecological and action-oriented strategy, linking this with land development and infrastructure programmes.

Urgently develop this as an Urban Ecological Action Plan (with provision for Public Consultation and Public Hearings), in line with *Nature in the City* intentions and following on from Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park's "restoration of diverse ecosystems, wetlands and lowland forests" and the "rich ecological heritage of the Hamilton Basin"... "self-sustaining" and with public engagement.

Give priority to city-wide green and blue spaces (parks and reserves, gullies, lakes and streams), for both viewing impact and ecosystem restoration; promote ecological knowledge (and job training opportunities) with plantings for 'urban forests' wherever possible and logical, tree clusters as well as solo specimen trees. Aim to restore the city's reputation overall for beautiful gardens & 'love of Nature' (Garden Place...city entrances) rather than concrete traffic islands, humped streets, and even more high-cost low-usage cycleways.

At political level (nationally and regionally), negotiate formal partnership agreements for coinciding responsibilities (including Pest Free 2050), and establish a Nature in the City Hearings Panel within the City Council's committee structure.

In addition, associated recommendations include

- Promotion of micro-systems for stormwater management & ground water impact.
- Support for 'food forests', fruit trees, and community gardens in response to increased density developments (with greenspace funds out of development levies),
- A renewed power line undergrounding partnership with WEL (to protect heritage trees).
- public cat and dog neutering programmes and enforcement (to combat the feral cat and wandering dog problems),
- rat, pigeon and dove control (to combat building & bridge damage and indigenous species endangerment).

Further explanations follow:

2. Beyond cycleways, street humps, and bat retention

Our recommendations are intended to widen and deepen Council's current climate change responses beyond cycleways, street humps, and bat retention into the overall state of the city's human and ecological wellbeing now and for the future. This with local leadership and formal partnerships negotiated with relevant Central Government agencies (including DOC/Predator Free 2050 and MfE), Waikato Regional Council, neighbouring local governments, and city residents & their specific interest groups including gully restorations.

Waiwhakareke-style 'green islands' and 'stepping stones' within the wider city (along with our recommended rat, dog & cat controls) should replace the current programme of excessive cycleway developments and would bring longer-lasting benefits.

For clarity: we note that regardless of differing perspectives of global climate change science, locally recent record rainfall, land subsidence, and altered ground water levels (and continuing pollution), along with stormwater impact on the Waikato River, should prompt more clarity and ecological breadth of vision within Council leadership and new emphasis on climate and land resilience.

3. Urban Forests not Pines

We note current nationwide concerns at the impact of reliance on pine forests in response to the Emissions Trading Scheme and suggest the urban forest concept we are promoting provides a logical option that could be developed in partnership with Local Governments.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/country/563558/federated-farmers-campaign-against-pine-tree-planting-initiative>

4. Trees rather than weeds

At this time, as well as awareness of the changing weather pattern, there is mounting public disillusionment at poor city-keeping - with 'too many words, too little action' on the unkempt nature of the city's public spaces (including dirty roadside railings & bridges). The global reputation of Hamilton Gardens is celebrated alongside mounting public concern over the council's spending patterns.

The community focus is poorly maintained traffic islands and verges and weeds, weeds, weeds (with public opposition to concreting remedies). Lonely street trees are questioned ('solitary soldier' totara trees in Enfield Street?) when tree clusters (as in forests & copses) and 'green islands' better suit many species, reflect Nature, and sustain ecological and human health & wellbeing. There is ongoing Autumnal passion at the reduction & inconsistency in street leaf sweeping but also a continuing delight at the ancient leaf-dropping old trees remaining part of the city treescape and innovative suggestions that 'thinking local' maintenance policies could address (& provide new employment and training opportunities in these difficult economic times).

5. Associated ecological developments

'Thinking positively', our recommended 'Urban Forest' remedy reflects history and this land's pre-urban life as home to swamp-loving kahikatea (& their 'friends') – the motivation for Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park.

There is opportunity for associated ecological developments, including microsystems for stormwater management, pollution control, and Waikato River protection, as well as innovative hazard reduction and gully protection projects (such as stream daylighting raised with Council staff more than a decade ago & again by Blair Bowcott 10 June 2025). Hamilton's Lake Rotorua and the Waitawhiriwhiri Stream at Edgecumbe Park are two examples. The proposed Waters CCO provides new partnership opportunity.

6. 'Nature in the City' Hearings Panel

As part of this overall submission, we also recommend the establishment of a 'Nature in the City Hearings Panel' (with a quorum of three councillors, reflecting the Dog Control Hearings Panel) to report to the Community & Natural Environment Committee on ecological matters of interest to residents, this to include planting suggestions & requests to remove dangerous or nuisance trees. (Three recent cases – St Andrews, Victoria St North, Galloway Park)

7. Recommence undergrounding

As well, in the face of newly stormy weather, we recommend negotiations begin with WEL Energy Trust/WEL Networks to recommence the partnership power lines undergrounding policy in the remaining old city areas that originally occurred when the trust was established early this century – for both safety and aesthetic reasons, noting the cost-effective requirement for underground services for all new developments.

This should be combined with a renewed focus on coordinating city infrastructure maintenance & development, a review of the Downer's contract outcomes, and a further opportunity for cost savings.

8. Cat & dog neutering

Our initial grassroots chat indicates enthusiasm for our proposed council-led cat and dog neutering programme, seeking local vets offering free or discounted services and introduced with a bold marketing programme. This is not a new idea! An initial city or Waikato-wide cluster perhaps partnering with the regional council could further develop the concept. This links with PF2050 & the increase in feral cats and dogs impacting local neighbourhoods & surrounding rural land. We note current concerns at cat/kitten dumping & roaming dogs. Spring is ahead, & the current economy discourages cat & dog owners from vet visits (& dog registration). A local council-led community-partnership is a low-key long-term intervention concept with measurable impact.

9. Rat, pigeon & dove culling

And, in response to community concerns, we recommend Council also partner with DOC/PF2050 and develop rat controls plus pigeon and dove culling programmes for greenspace protection (and to reduce damage to city buildings and bridges, with initial focus on the Central City & Fairfield Bridge). (Perhaps Canadian geese as well).

* * *

Background:

1.The Draft Policy tracks back to a staff recommendation in response to storm damage, reported early last year: <https://www.waikatotimes.co.nz/nz-news/350179644/council-considers-new-tree-strategy>

"Hamilton City Council is looking at how it can care for the city's trees on the back of extreme weather events, one which saw a [massive oak tree fall on River Rd commuters](#). "Councillors were asked for their feedback on developing a tree strategy for Hamilton's 100,000 trees that would sit [alongside the city's streetscape and gateway policy](#). Those trees can be found on reserves, berms, and other council-owned and managed areas. It excludes trees on privately-owned land. Recent research shows urban tree canopy is in rapid decline, with the majority being lost through private land intensification, [council staff told councillors at the elected members briefing on Wednesday](#). "What it will mean is that public trees become even more important and the functions that they provide for our community become more important," Cait Cresswell, strategy and policy advisor for social development and recreation said. "Changes to the make-up to the city will continue to see the loss of canopy as competition for land increases. These are some of the challenges we face in the future but we also face challenges internally as well."

Those challenges include a lack of clear guidance for service delivery teams, damage to trees through environmental change, safety risks from falling branches or trees, legacy issues such as underfunded maintenance for establishing trees or from the planting of high-maintenance species. Cresswell said there was also a need to balance developments that benefit the community with tree protection. Based on those issues, it was suggested the policy's aim could be to provide consistency, clarity and transparency in decision making for the planning, planting, protection and maintenance and retention or removal Hamilton's trees. (Stacey Rangitonga 15 February, 2024).

The Draft Tree Policy includes a definition (Page 5) of 'invasive species' & we add 'privet', along with rats, feral cats & dogs. And 'notable trees' should include a discretionary reference to protect those not yet identified. We also note public concern at the impact of 'feral pigeons'

2. 2025 Reports to Councillors advocating 'Nature':

- "A key consideration for growth (is) access to nature, parks & open spaces and protection & restoration of significant natural areas ... key outcomes alongside delivering new homes & jobs." (Blair Bowcott report, 10 June 2025, p33/60)
- "A recent study from Waikato & Lincoln Universities that explored Hamiltonians' perceptions and experiences of nature in the city found that respondents valued native bush as 'restorative' and 'relaxing'. "We know that being around nature is magic for our 'wellbeing'. (Matt Vare, HCC programme manager, May 2025)
- "The 46,000 native plants put in the ground last year are thriving... More than 1800 Hamiltonians gave us a hand, and in 3500 hours they helped to plant more than 29,000 trees." (Mark Seebeck, HCC Nursery Manager, May 2025)

3. Council's current responsibilities:

Council's standard staff reporting requires a **Climate Change Impact Statement and Wellbeing Considerations**, and notes "The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings'). NB We note the Coalition Government has indicated their intention to amend & simplify that purpose.

4. The Southgate-era 'Vision':

"Our Vision: Shaping a city that's easy to live in, where our people thrive, with a central city where people love to be, a fun city with lots to do, a green city sharing best practice." "Hamilton is home to healthy, resilient, & connected communities that have a positive impact on the wellbeing of all of our people".

5. Council policies and strategies, including:

'Our Climate Future: Te Pae Tawhiti o Kirikiriroa': "Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our times", and "without immediate, bold & decisive action, we will continue to see the impacts intensify... As an urban area, we have little forestry so using plants and trees to capture & store (sequester) our emissions is a challenge compared to other parts of the country."

Nature in the City Strategy: "Our goal is to restore Hamilton's native vegetation cover from less than 2% to 10% by 2050. ...Nature is our most powerful taonga – it makes a stronger, healthier city. We know being around nature can be magic for people's wellbeing. By restoring more nature for people to connect with, we can help improve the wellbeing of Hamiltonians. Of the 11,000 hectares in Hamilton Kirikiriroa, only 168 hectares are covered by native vegetation. This strategy will add over one thousand more, revitalising and transforming our gullies and reserves. We'll also create new native areas. We know more native vegetation will make our city – and its people – stronger and healthier. We want to shape a healthy, vibrant and green city that future generations can protect and enjoy. (Maria Barrie, 23 January 2025).

Gateways Policy: *To identify gateway entrances and routes into Hamilton... to create a sense of arrival and reflect the city's character, history, and environment or cultural significance.*

Streetscape Beautification & Verge Maintenance Policy: *To prioritise maintenance efficiency for streetscape and landscaping ... to achieve quality streetscapes while ensuring essential utility services are protected and road user safety is maintained. Three categories - high level of amenity with mix of landscaping and planting, including bedding plants. or a medium level designed for lower maintenance, or planting designed for low maintenance and high resilience. Also references to utility services and access requirements, location and selection of plantings, conserving neighbourhood character, and verge mowing...*

Open Space Provision Policy (NB interpretation as 'wide-open space' rather than 'for the common use': *Will consider the needs of current and future residents ... Council's strategic planning and investment decisions will be well-informed and respond to growth and demand ... will apply consistent decision-making regarding requirements on the development community to set aside land for open space ... enable the delivery of a high-quality open space network that is well-distributed and well-connected to service communities; is functional and designed to support the community's formal and informal recreation needs; Protects, maintains and enhances Hamilton's ecological, cultural and heritage values; and responds to local contexts. And Council will work to partner with other open space providers such as schools and tertiary education providers on opportunities to efficiently deliver open space.*

Waiwhakareke: 'Green islands' & 'stepping stones' & the report by Environment Waikato's Deputy chair Prof Bruce Clarkson (et al) on the development of Waiwhakareke, which includes information applicable to cross-city, gully & green space linkages)

<https://researchcommons.waikato.ac.nz/server/api/core/bitstreams/5255e0fc-61ea-48f2-ae88-034bffb136f4/content>

Community & Social Development Strategy: We note the list of 'partners' does not include gully restoration groups, DOC & Ministry for the Environment, yet 'outcomes' describe the promotion of Community-Led Development. We are recommending council-led rat controls, plus cat and dog neutering programmes linked with Pest Free 2050 in response to the ongoing concerns plus the current increase in cat/kitten dumping & roaming dogs.

Waikato River, & the Joint Management Agreement with Waikato-Tainui: *The vision is for a future where a healthy Waikato River sustains abundant life and prosperous communities who, in turn, are all responsible for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato River, and all it embraces, for generations to come... (The Waikato-Tainui Raupatu Claims (Waikato River) Settlement Act 2010 required local authorities in the Waikato and Waipaa river catchments to enter into joint management agreements with Waikato-Tainui. As part of the Treaty settlement for the Waikato River, the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato was developed in 2008.)*

The developing Central Government framework - including the RMA & Waters reforms, Ministry for the Environment 'Freshwater' proposals, DOC's Predator Free 2050, and the Hamilton/Waikato Ecological District map (*topography, geology, climate, soils, vegetation & human-induced modifications*). The Draft Tree policy (page 6) references: "Local Government Act 1974, Local Government Act 2002, Reserves Act 1977, Crimes Act 1961, Hamilton City Operative District Plan, Waikato Regional Infrastructure Specifications, Hamilton City Council Bat Management Plan, Hamilton City Council Streetscape & Gateways Policy, Trees on Development Sites, NZ Aboricultural Association Inc (NZArb), Tree Protection Fencing, and Amenity Tree Pruning Guide."

And then there is Futureproof & all the background studies & discussions over the past two decades concerning Waters Reforms eg 2017 version (refer extracts, from page 38):

<https://www.futureproof.org.nz/assets/Future-Proof/Resources/SubRegionalThreeWatersActionPlan.pdf>

- *Ensure that planning and management tools sufficiently address and respond to the potential effects of climate change.*
- *Work together to develop and implement comprehensive planning tools (such as Activity/Asset Management Plans) that ensure a sound understanding of current infrastructure and future needs.*
- *Explore and implement opportunities ...For example: ...The potential benefits of adopting green infrastructure and low impact design solutions.*
- *Develop shared methods to ensure alignment and communication across and between Councils and Council departments...*
- *Develop integrated approaches to ...*
 - o *Efficiently use water.*
 - o *Produce less wastewater.*
 - o *Manage stormwater in a way that reduces adverse environmental effects and efficiently uses the water resource.*

Objectives

- *Ensure that .. respective District Plans, Development Manuals, design codes, emergency preparedness plans and other planning and management tools sufficiently address and respond to the potential effects of climate change.*
- *Work together to develop and implement other methods (statutory and non-statutory) for managing the potential effects of climate change.*

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5407

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:27 PM

Name Grant Nesdale

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance, particularly around health and safety – trees beautify the city and create a health psychological ambience as well as producing oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide. However it is good to provide the right kind of trees in the right places. Bulging roots can be hazardous and the accumulation of leaves block drains and gutters; Branches can be hazardous to power lines and private property, fences, and walls so maintenance is required.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5408

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 04:39 PM

Name Rimu Bhooi

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Yes, I would like to speak to my submission

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Developing policy where we don't have any is good governance. It makes clear the expectation, guidelines and rules for the general public and for local businesses and Council staff as well.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal. I care most about our trees and coverage because of health and safety reasons. The evidence shows us that without mature foliage and canopy, the effects of the environment on our citizens is massive. And in turn, the effects on our city, paid out in many cases by the ratepayers.

From reducing the stress on our stormwater systems during intense weather systems like the cyclones we've seen in neighbouring regions in recent years, to providing safer spaces outdoors for all manner of activities such as education, sports and recreation, outdoor business and the like through canopy cover.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5410

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 05:00 PM

Name Gurv Singh

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Yes, I am the official spokesperson for BCD Group Ltd

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

No

Tell us your reasons

See attached letter.



Date: 16 June 2025
Email: planning@bcdgroup.nz
Phone: 0272763208

Attn: Unit Manager
Hamilton City Council
Private Bay 3010
Hamilton, 3204
Submission made via email: info@hcc.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is BCD Group's submission on the Draft Tree Policy prepared by Hamilton City Council. (the Council).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Tree Policy currently under consultation. We appreciate the Council's commitment to enhancing Hamilton's urban forest and recognise the importance of a well-managed tree network for environmental, aesthetic, and community wellbeing. However, after reviewing the proposed policy and consulting with our team, we have several concerns and recommendations that we believe are critical to ensuring the policy is practical, equitable, and sustainable.

BCD Group submission seeks amendments and relief on the following matters:

1. **Maintenance and Responsibility** – There is a significant concern that the draft Tree Policy does not adequately consider the financial and operational implications of its implementation. Currently, the Council struggles to maintain existing trees to an acceptable standard due to ongoing budget constraints. This raises serious questions about the feasibility of expanding tree-related responsibilities without a clear understanding of the associated costs and impacts.
The policy, while well-intentioned, risks placing additional strain on Council resources and may result in unintended consequences for ratepayers if not accurately assessed. The Council must take a prudent and fiscally responsible approach before committing to increased funding or expanded maintenance obligations. We therefore recommend:
 - a. That the Council undertake a comprehensive cost assessment of the additional maintenance and operational requirements arising from the draft Tree Policy. This should be followed by a robust risk-versus-reward analysis of the findings, considering not only environmental and aesthetic benefits but also long-term financial sustainability.

- b. Importantly, this analysis should be conducted from a whole-of-Council perspective, rather than being confined to the Parks and Gardens team, to ensure alignment with broader organisational priorities and budgetary constraints.

These steps are critical to determining whether the Tree Policy can be realistically enacted, implemented, and sustained within existing and projected Council budgets, and to ensure that the policy delivers genuine value to the community without imposing undue financial burden.

- 2. Cost Burden on Developers** – The requirement to plant two replacement trees for every tree removed places a disproportionate burden on small-scale developers. It may also be impractical to plant two trees for every tree removed due to poor ground conditions, potential new vehicle crossings, limited space, limited deep soil area, environmental considerations, and the location of the two new trees may not be suitable, becoming a future burden. The policy must also acknowledge the economic implications of increased tree planting and maintenance. Overgrown parks and berms can reduce public safety and accessibility. We recommend:
- a. A scaled approach to replacement planting based on the size and impact of the development. Ensuring sight lines, lighting, and road safety are not compromised by overgrown vegetation.
 - b. Consideration of in-lieu contributions or alternative mitigation options.
 - c. The requirement to plant two replacement trees for every tree removed should not be mandatory in all cases. Site-specific considerations should be allowed, as replanting may not always be the most appropriate or necessary course of action.
 - d. Including a cost-benefit analysis of the policy's implementation.
- 3. Application Process and Timeframes** – The proposed approval process is complex and is likely to result in significant delays, particularly for minor works. The policy also lacks clarity on when community consultation is required. We recommend:
- a. Clearer guidance on when and where applications are required.
 - b. Exemptions for minor pruning or clearance.
 - c. Defining specific thresholds or criteria for when consultation is necessary.
 - d. Streamlined processes for low-impact activities.
 - e. Removing or reducing consultation requirements for low-impact removals.
- 4. Tree Species Selection** – Tree selection must consider long-term maintenance, stormwater impacts, traffic and amenity effects and safety. We question how the Council will 'police' the selection of tree species and how it will be assessed and evaluated to ensure appropriateness. We recommend:



- a. Avoiding species that contribute to stormwater blockage or excessive leaf litter.
- b. Prioritising species appropriate for urban environments to reduce future maintenance costs and safety risks.

5. Lack of Flexibility for Minor Nuisances – The policy currently prohibits tree removal for issues such as shading, leaf litter, or minor allergies. We believe this approach is overly rigid and does not reflect the lived realities of residents and developers. We recommend:

- a. Introducing discretion for minor nuisance cases.
- b. Allowing minor trimming or clearance without requiring full application processes.
- c. That the Council establish a clear and accessible process for residents to report and resolve nuisance or safety issues caused by Council-managed trees. This will help manage community expectations and ensure that tree-related concerns are addressed efficiently and transparently.

6. Definition of “Unacceptable Safety Risk” – The current definition is vague and open to subjective interpretation. We recommend:

- a. Providing a clear, objective definition of what constitutes an unacceptable safety risk. Including examples to guide decision-making.
- b. Provide clear guidance on the hierarchy of traffic effects vs amenity effects when doing works/vehicle crossings in/around trees on public land, or removal e.g. do traffic safety effects take priority, or amenity values of keeping the street tree.

7. Tree Protection – While we support the exclusion of private land from this policy, we encourage the Council to explore incentives to promote tree protection on private property.

We support the Council’s intent to protect and enhance Hamilton’s tree canopy. However, the current draft policy requires greater flexibility, clarity, and consideration of practical implications to be effective and fair. We urge the Council to revise the policy in line with the recommendations outlined above.

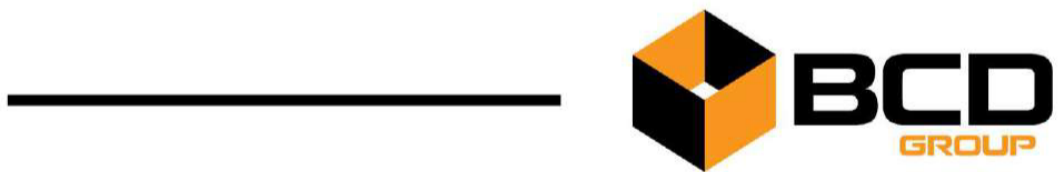
Thank you for considering our submission. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters further.

BCD Group wishes not to be heard in support of their submission at the hearing.

Jointly prepared by:

Gurv Singh
Planning Team Leader – BCD Group Ltd

Blair Currie
Managing Director – BCD Group Ltd



Item 5

Address for Service: PO Box 9421, Hamilton. Email: planning@bcdgroup.nz

Attachment 1

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5412

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:15 PM

Name Esther Chapman

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

The evidence is undeniable: the climate is changing, and with that comes increased frequency AND intensity of heatwaves and floods. Heatwaves in particular are silent killers, exacerbating illnesses and increasing cardiac crisis events. Protecting and planting trees in urban areas will reduce flood peaks (and the associated disease, property damage, and risk to human life) and reduce the intensity of resident experiences of heatwaves. This may sound dramatic, but planting and protecting urban trees will certainly save lives in a cost-effective and long-term manner. Additionally, "right trees right place" will provide habitat for native birds, insects, and reptiles, protecting local ecosystem functions.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5413

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:21 PM

Name Taylor Harvey

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

This is such a good idea for the local biodiversity of Hamilton, and such a good way to devise good management strategies for all trees on council properties, ensuring they are all taken care of xx

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5414

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:34 PM

Name Jack Couchman

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Ensuring the protection of our environment is essential for our way of life

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5415

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:34 PM

Name Goldie Crawford

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5416

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:40 PM

Name Azaria Chapman

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Trees will help support biodiversity, reduce the intensity of heatwaves, and reduce flooding

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5417

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 07:51 PM

Name Michelle Exton

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5418
Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 08:22 PM

Name Skye

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

It's important to protect our trees and plant more especially in the wake of urban development. Trees provide us with clean air which is essential for us. I volunteer at a local Hamilton gully where we sometimes plant natives to help grow the canopy. I hope these plantings will continue to be supported and promoted through this new policy.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5419

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 08:34 PM

Name olivia

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5420

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 09:02 PM

Name Tom Sims

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Attachment 1

Item 5

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5421

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 09:19 PM

Name Charlotte

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I love trees

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5422

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 10:03 PM

Name Joe Laybourn

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I love trees

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5423

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 10:23 PM

Name Trinity Jurgensen

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5424

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 10:46 PM

Name Aimee-Jane Anderson-O'Connor

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I love trees! They make Hamilton a more beautiful, climate resilient place to be. I want more tree shade as I think about the future of climate change.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5425

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 10:59 PM

Name Te Aorere Ngātai-Tautuku

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

i love trees and they deserve proper protection and management.

**Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025**

Contribution 5426

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 11:04 PM

Name Bob McLain

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Not sure who gets this message, but on behalf of several of us residents in Fairview Downs, we wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the city council's trimming trees around the power lines and repairing footpaths where roots where uplifting cement footpaths making it dangerous for those of us who take walks in our neighbourhood, especially on Raymond Street. It looks so much better and safer to walk around. Thank you councilors for this work in our area. ~Bob McLain resident on Powells Rd

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5427

Date submitted Jun 16, 2025, 11:11 PM

Name Jennifer Davies

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

See attached

Submission on Hamilton City Council's Draft Tree Policy

Jennifer Davies
Hillcrest
Hamilton

16 June 2025

As a Hamilton resident, I am supportive of HCC developing a Tree Policy to manage our City's trees. I think this policy is long overdue. However, I am also concerned that this draft policy will not effectively manage and protect existing trees, adequately mitigate their removal or encourage appropriate new planting. I would like to see HCC take a stronger and clearer leadership role in the management of trees to ensure that the many benefits provided by such a vital resource are maintained for future generations.

I am concerned about:

- The contradictory nature of the policy.
- The 'soft' and vague language used in parts of the policy that will make it easy for people to remove a tree and harder for HCC staff to do their job to protect and advocate for trees
- The low tree replacement requirement.

The 'death by a thousand cuts' impact of tree loss in our city is becoming more and more evident, particularly as trees are removed from private land to accommodate intensification or property owners who can't tolerate the autumn leaf drop. A ten percent reduction in tree canopy since 2019 is disheartening and disappointing given our climate crisis and the need to provide our growing community with access to nature and a high amenity public realm.

I see Council as having a critical role in reversing this depressing statistic and I hope that this policy will help equip Council with the means to proactively manage trees in the city.

As a landscape architect having worked in both the public and private sectors, I have first hand experience of how easy it is for the public, in particular developers, to remove mature trees and how hard it is for Council staff to protect them. We see time and time again, mature trees being removed from public land and either not replaced at all or replaced with one small grade specimen that will take decades to mature if it is lucky to survive the first few years. The impact this has on amenity, shade and biodiversity is always stark. A few examples that come to mind include:

- 3 Clyde Street, 2 large trees removed due to a development.
- 1 Putikiti Street, 1 very large pin oak removed due to a development.
- 6 Helena Road, 2 large birches removed due to a development, replaced with one small rewarewa which died after one season and has never been replaced.

200

Council itself also doesn't seem to be quick to replace trees or work hard to avoid their removal.

- In my quiet little cul de sac, two decent sized street trees have been removed in the last few years and neither has been replaced.
- The magnificent Ash tree at Hammond Park (next to 60 Malcolm Street) which still hasn't been replaced.
- The four established trees at the intersection of Cambridge Road and SH1C/Cobham Drive that could have been avoided but were removed by HCC for a minor pipe upgrade. They were replaced by Waka Kotahi (not HCC) with a few spindly, unstaked kowhai at the behest of an annoyed local.

These examples are by no means an exhaustive list but represent a tiny snippet of what occurs in the city. When I read the draft policy, I think it could be written in a way that is a lot more proactive, confident and clear that Council will protect and advocate for retaining trees, particularly the mature trees. I also feel that it will still be easy for a persistent, loud, squeaky wheel of a developer to whinge their way into having trees removed and with little obligation to adequately replace them.

I would like to see the following changes:

- Rewording the 'balanced approach' term in Section 8(c). The 'balanced approach' usually means developers get their way and remove large established trees because their personal/limited economic development trumps the wider public and ecosystem benefits.
- The 'balanced approach' is also contradictory with 8(a) which states that Council trees are "prioritised as critical long-term public assets". If trees are to be prioritised then the balanced approach is not achievable.
- Changes to 8(d) - Council will actively seek and create opportunities to plant new, ~~trees~~ of appropriate types tree species in suitable locations to maximise the canopy cover of the city and deliver ongoing environmental, economic and social benefits.
- Use of stronger language in section 19 to discourage damaging trees, Replacing 'may' with 'will' or 'likely to'.
- Add a similar policy to the Tree Removal section which clearly states that Council will investigate and are likely to seek compensation or enforcement action if a tree is *removed* without Council approval. While the policy states that approval to remove is required from Council, it does not state that there are any consequences for removal without permission.
- Expanding Section 40 so that it is clear that Council have the discretion to increase the quantity of replacement trees based on the physical, social, cultural, aesthetic and environmental qualities of the trees removed. I.e. that removal of a large, mature tree (like the one outside 1 Putikiki Street) would require, say, five new trees, all at a large grade.

Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5428

Date submitted Jun 17, 2025, 01:08 AM

Name Crystal Szanto

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

Native trees are so important to New Zealand's health. If the land is unhealthy, so are we. The beauty and uniqueness that comes from the native plants is integral to NZ pride. We need native plants with the trees to continue supporting them as well. Keep New Zealand beautiful and healthy by bringing back some of it's natural state

Draft Tree Policy 19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5430

Date submitted Jun 17, 2025, 06:33 AM

Name Rosanne Ludbrook

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No thanks

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

Yes

Tell us your reasons

I see street tree problems all the time, and also note where they work well. This interests me greatly. Early maintenance is vital to prevent damage, from leaning, ring-barking from weed whackers and smothering from lawn clippings etc. Some spraying around the base would help. The average person has no idea and no care. See tree on River Road 1074 approx- it's virtually horizontal. See derelict titokis on Langdale Court Huntington (photo provided)

Messy high maintenance trees like Melia, gleditsia need excluding. Magnolia grandaflora cultivars shed all the time and have spreading roots as do prunus campanula and other prunuses.

A canopy for summer cooling is great, but consideration must be given to winter sun for houses,so,putting huge native species on the northern side of a house can be unfair eg the fashion for titoki plantings.

Take a leaf out of Cambridge plantings in new suburbs Smaller trees like some maples and kōwhai can work well.



Draft Tree Policy
19 May – 16 June 2025

Contribution 5433

Date submitted Jun 19, 2025, 07:40 AM

Name Jennifer Wallbank

Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

No, these are my own personal views.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

No

Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?

1

Tell us your reasons

I love trees, Hamilton is blessed with many beautiful trees but; trees keep growing!

1) Health and Safety - The short answer is more money for intensive maintenance.

2) Tree planting – Another short answer “right tree in the right place”. My life is blighted at this time of year. Several years ago some strange Council worker planted trees down Fairfield Rd with huge pods and multiple Autumn leaves.

3) Tree removal – Agree with Policy but more money and Arborists needed, an intensive “catch up” would save time and money in the future. The Ranfurley Gully needs urgent attention.

4) Quote from notes – “Ensure trees planted are fit for place and purpose”.



Tree Policy Insights Report

19 May - 16 June 2025



Background

- Trees are an essential part of the landscape of Hamilton Kirikiriroa. In addition to aesthetic and cultural value, trees provide a range of environmental benefits including cleaning air by absorbing carbon dioxide, cooling through shade, and managing storm water. Council does not currently have a policy that addresses the management of trees, outside of Notable Trees protected through the District Plan.
- The draft Tree Policy aims to ensure:
 - all trees on Council-owned land are managed in a balanced way
 - there are clear guidelines around decision making regarding trees
 - tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community outcomes.
- Council sought feedback on the proposal from people in the community who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the draft policy.
- This consultation was live from 19 May - 16 June 2025.
- We received a total of **165 submissions** – 157 individuals and 8 representatives.

Tree Policy Insights Report

Processing feedback

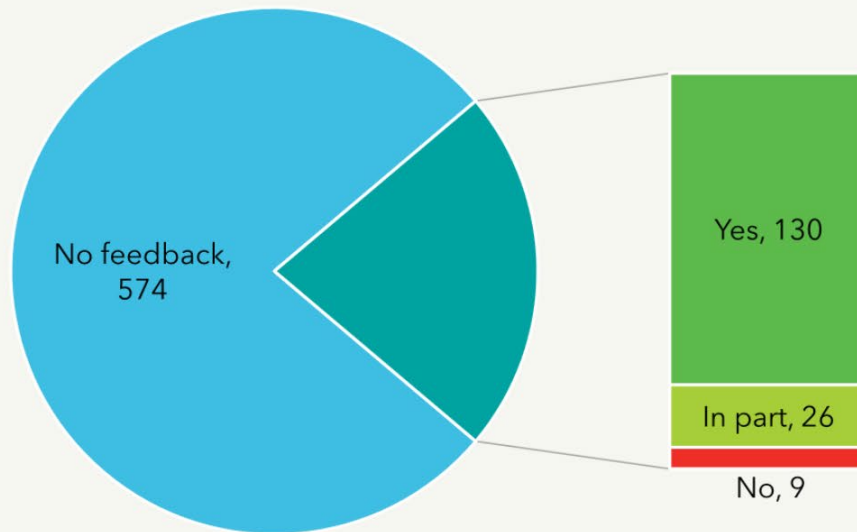
- Respondents were asked one multi-choice question and had one free-text questions where they could expand on their thoughts.
- The majority of our submissions were made through our online survey tool, hosted on Council's Have Your Say page.
 - Any emails or hardcopies were entered into our online survey tool.
 - There was one duplicate submission (e.g. someone had responded twice) - we kept their most recent response.
- Counts and percentages were calculated using Microsoft Excel. Text comments were grouped into themes.



Tree Policy Insights Report

Feedback snapshot

“Do you agree with Council’s proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton’s trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?”



Tree Policy Insights Report

- ‘No feedback’ is the number of unique visitors to the survey page who did not create a submission.
- Note that this measure does not offer demographics insight; we don’t know much about those in the ‘no feedback’ group.
- There is currently no equivalent measure for hardcopy submissions.



Submission insights

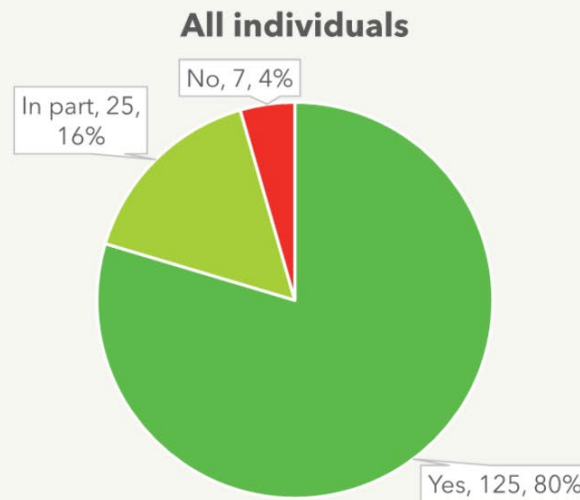
Individual responses

Item 5

Attachment 2

Individual responses

“Do you agree with Council’s proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton’s trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?”



Tree Policy Insights Report

Themes from individual responses

"Tell us the reason for your response"



Support for having trees around Hamilton /trees are taonga

n = 72

"Planting the right tree in the right place can support the social, emotional & physical health of humans & support a thriving ecosystem of other beings also. More trees, more good."



Generally support the proposed policy

n = 50

"It is important that our city values its trees, a tree policy will ensure that the correct decisions can be made to create/retain and manage our urban forest."



Want to see more trees

n = 25

"Would like to see better coverage in Hamilton, not just in legacy suburbs, especially with natives."



Natives should be protected/prioritised

n = 22

"Yay trees! Love them. Thank you for writing a policy that recognises the importance of them for our city. The only thing I'd add would be prioritising natives when planting."

Tree Policy Insights Report

Themes from individual responses

"Tell us the reason for your response"



Complaint about gutter/street cleaning related to trees

n = 20

"Gum trees in parks drop leaves year round onto neighbouring properties, blocking gutters and increasing household time and expense to manage the problem."



Tree maintenance is important/should be done more frequently

n = 19

"You need to start by managing the trees you currently have. Many need arborist attention, with low hanging branches and disrupting footpaths. And many have height now touching overhead lines"



Trees should be well-planned - right tree in the right place

n = 17

"More thought needs to be given to trees planted in certain areas especially our streets. It seems that currently trees are planted randomly without looking at long term effects of them."



Support the tree replacement aspect of the policy

n = 14

"A policy is needed and what is suggested seems good to me. Love the idea of two or more new trees planted for every one removed by development."

Tree Policy Insights Report

Themes from individual responses

"Tell us the reason for your response"



Complaint about root damage and disruption

n = 13

"In our street we have Magnolia grandiflora which is well known for its shallow roots and can grow 60-80 ft tall. As the trees mature, the many surface roots lift up footpaths creating serious trip hazards."



Mature trees should be protected

n = 12

"We value the mature trees in our neighbourhood. They add character, shade, and bring bird song. They also indicate how old each suburb is, and add value in intangible ways. We want them cared for."



Want to see fruit trees/edible flora planted

n = 8

"It would be great to have more fruit trees in our parks. They add more life to our green spaces and support local food security."



Concern for leaves as a slip hazard

n = 6

"Considerations should include leaf fall impacting storm water drains, safety for pedestrians and cyclists including visibility and slip hazards."

Tree Policy Insights Report

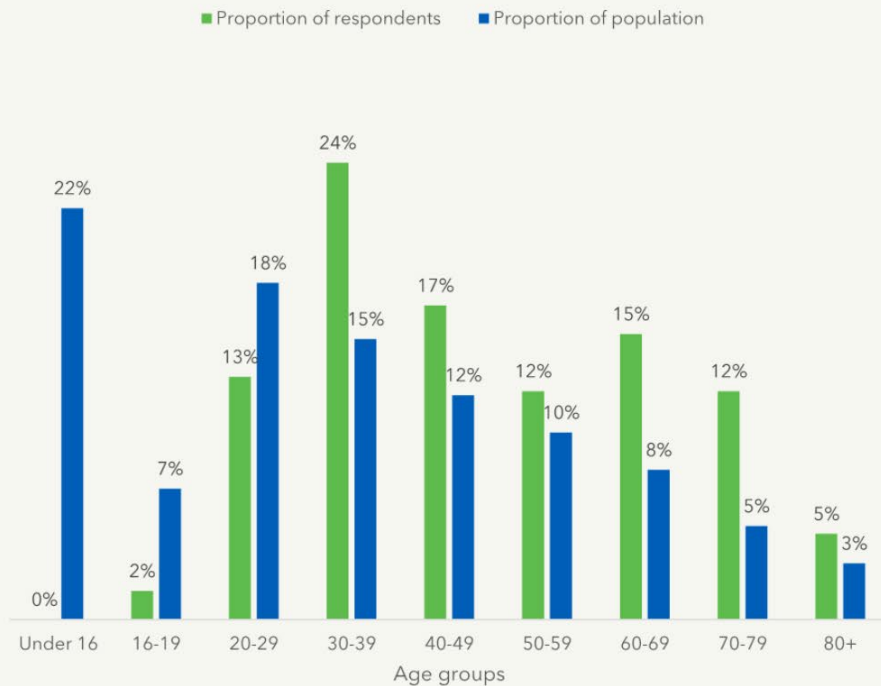
Key findings

- We heard feedback from **157 respondents** writing as individuals.
- **Almost all respondents (96%) support or support in part Council's proposal** to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets.
- **Trees are deeply valued by respondents.** Respondents often spoke to the benefits of trees, such as shade provision, climate action, and beautification. Many respondents wanted to see more trees around Hamilton, particularly native trees. Mature trees are also well loved.
- Numerous respondents voiced **concerns around the maintenance of existing trees**, especially those planted in suburbs. Several complained about leaves blocking gutters, covering streets and root damage. Some hoped the proposed 'right tree in the right place' approach would prevent these issues in future plantings.
- Overall, respondents were **overwhelmingly supportive** of the policy, and excited by the thought of Hamilton's trees receiving more attention and protection.

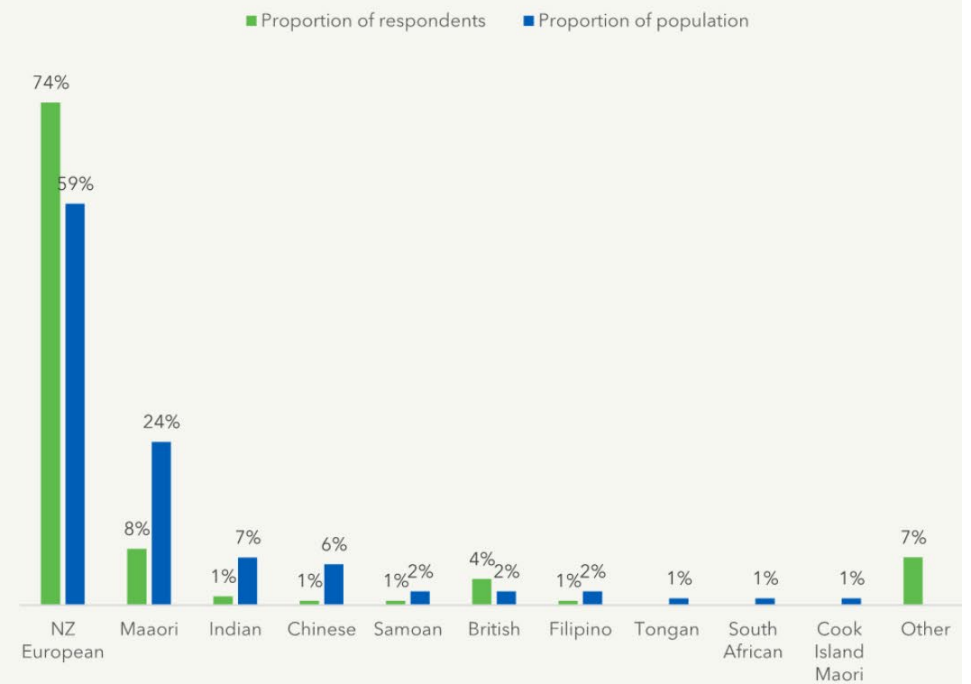
Tree Policy Insights Report

About our respondents

Age comparison



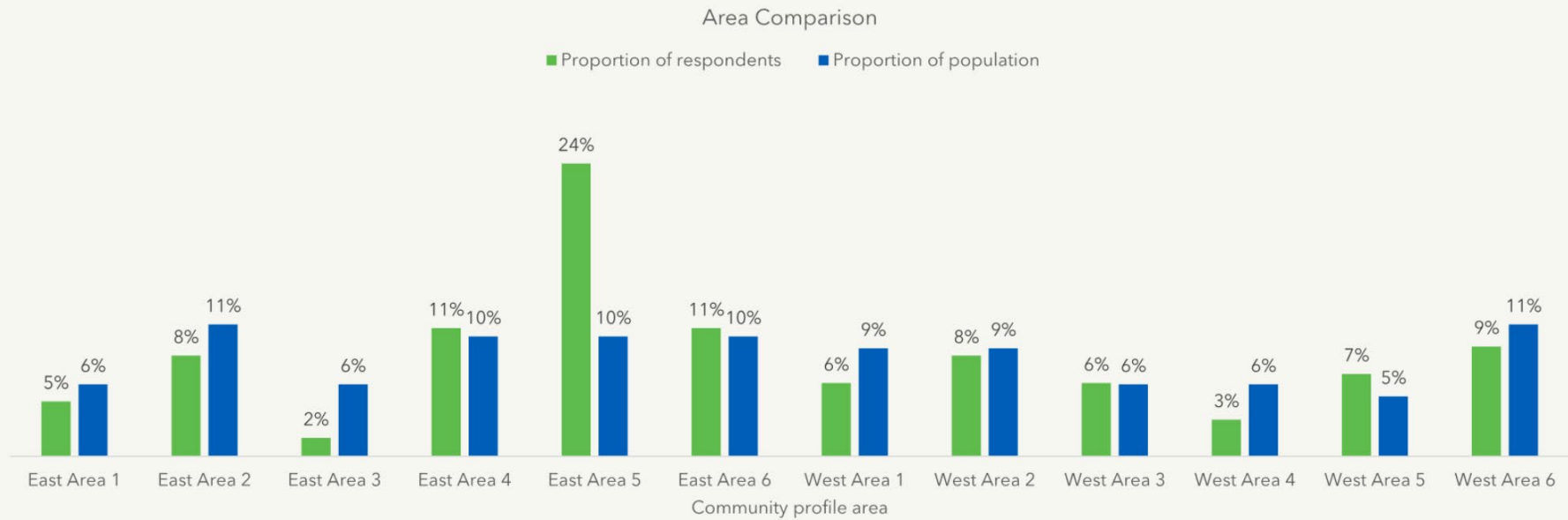
Ethnicity comparison



131 of the 157 respondents disclosed their age.
129 disclosed their ethnicity.
Respondents could select more than one ethnicity.

Tree Policy Insights Report

About our respondents



East Area 1	Flagstaff	West Area 1	Avalon, Beerescourt, Forest Lake, Pukete, St Andrews, Te Rapa
East Area 2	Callum Brae, Huntington, Rototuna, Rototuna North	West Area 2	Crawshaw, Grandview Heights, Nawton, Rotokauri, Western Heights
East Area 3	Chartwell, Chedworth, Harrowfield, Queenwood	West Area 3	Aberdeen, Dinsdale, Temple view
East Area 4	Enderley, Fairfield, Fairview Downs	West Area 4	Frankton, Maeroa, Swarbrick
East Area 5	Claudeland, Hamilton East, Peachgrove	West Area 5	Hamilton Central, Hamilton Lake, Hospital, Whitiara
East Area 6	Hillcrest, Ruakura, Riverlea, Silverdale	West Area 6	Bader, Deanwell, Fitzroy, Glenview, Melville, Peacocke

141 of the 157 individual respondents mentioned their location.
Of these, 131 live in Hamilton.



Submission insights

Organisation responses

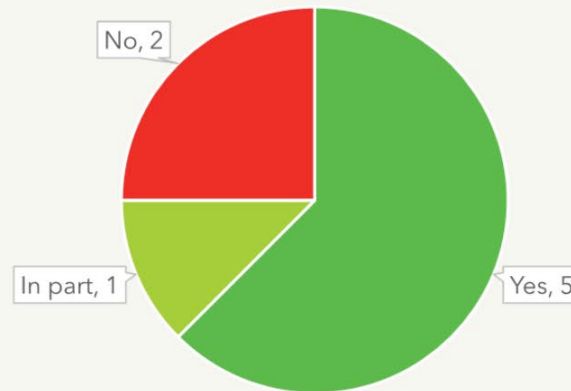
Item 5

Attachment 2

Organisation responses

“Do you agree with Council’s proposal to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton’s trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets?”

All organisations



Tree Policy Insights Report

Organisation responses

Response by organisation

Organisation name	Preferred option	Organisation name	Preferred option
Disabled Persons Assembly (DPA) New Zealand	Yes, agrees with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy	Western Community Centre	Yes, agrees with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy
Esplanade Tree group	Yes, agrees with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy	Pragma Homes Limited	Agrees in part with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy
Go Eco	Yes, agrees with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy	Whaingaroa weedbusters	Does not agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy
Hamilton Central Business Association	Yes, agrees with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy	BCD Group Ltd	Does not agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy

Tree Policy Insights Report

Themes from organisation responses

"Tell us the reason for your response"



Tree maintenance is key/concerns for safety

n = 6

"Currently, the Council struggles to maintain existing trees to an acceptable standard due to ongoing budget constraints. This raises serious questions about the feasibility of expanding tree-related responsibilities."



Support for having trees around Hamilton/trees are taonga

n = 5

"We commend the Council for recognising trees as critical, intergenerational public assets contributing to community, environmental, and economic wellbeing."



Natives should be prioritised & beware of pest/annoying trees

n = 5

"We advocate for Hamilton City Council to prioritise native tree species wherever possible... recognising their vital role in restoring indigenous ecosystems and strengthening long-term ecological resilience."



Concerns for cost and financial implications

n = 3

"The policy... risks placing additional strain on Council resources and may result in unintended consequences for ratepayers if not accurately assessed."

Tree Policy Insights Report

Key findings

- We heard feedback from **eight** respondents submitting on behalf of an organisation.
- **Most organisational representatives (n = 6) support or support in part Council's proposal** to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton's trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets.
- Common themes from comments were also similar to those made by individual respondents – interest in tree maintenance, support for Hamilton's trees and the prioritisation of native tree species.

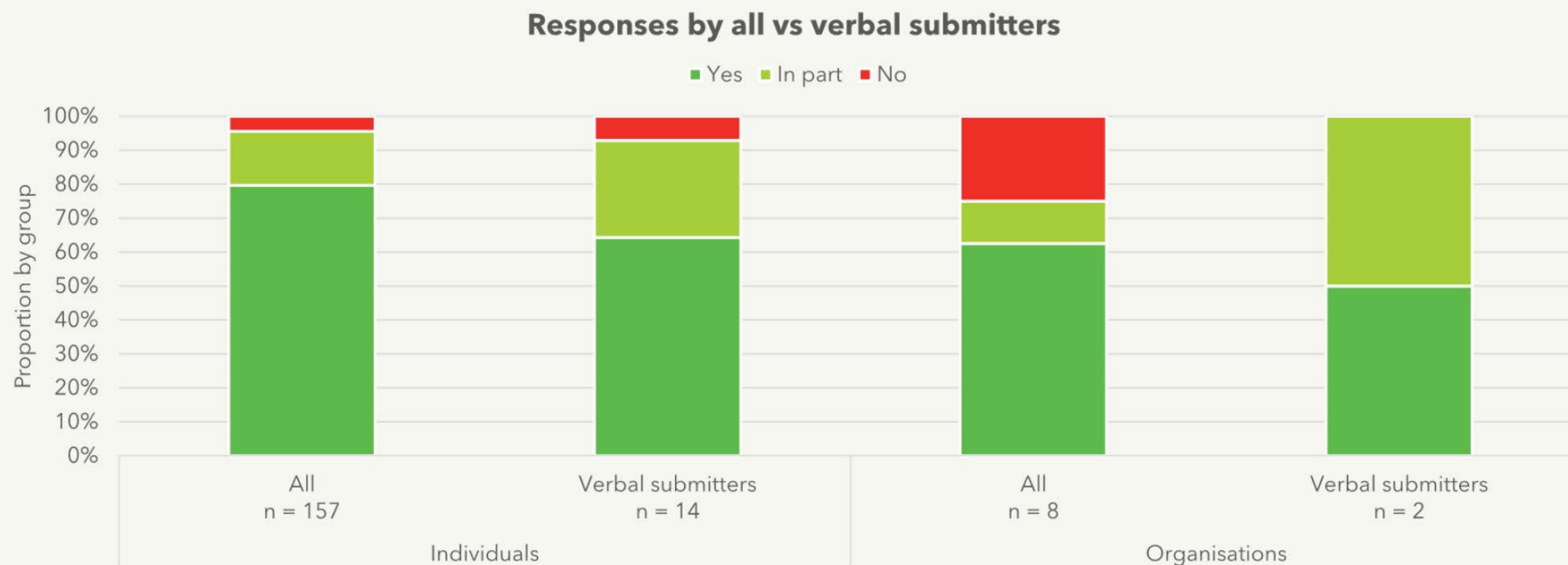
Tree Policy Insights Report

Submission insights

Verbal submitters

Verbal submitters vs all submitters

"Do you agree with Council's proposal to create a Tree Policy [...]?"



Tree Policy Insights Report

**note this comparison presents respondents who at the time of making their submission indicated interest in providing a verbal submission*

Engagement results

Social media feedback

Themes from social media

Our social media approach focussed on raising awareness of the draft Tree Policy while educating the community on some well-known myths about trees. This included polls via stories, targeted community page posts and promoted wall content.

- We received 16 relevant comments across our social media posts.
- Social media commentary was de-identified, then analysed using CoPilot.
- The most common themes from these comments were:



**Plant more trees,
especially natives**



**Complaint about
maintenance issues/
street cleaning/tree
planning in the past**



**Support for trees and
their benefits**



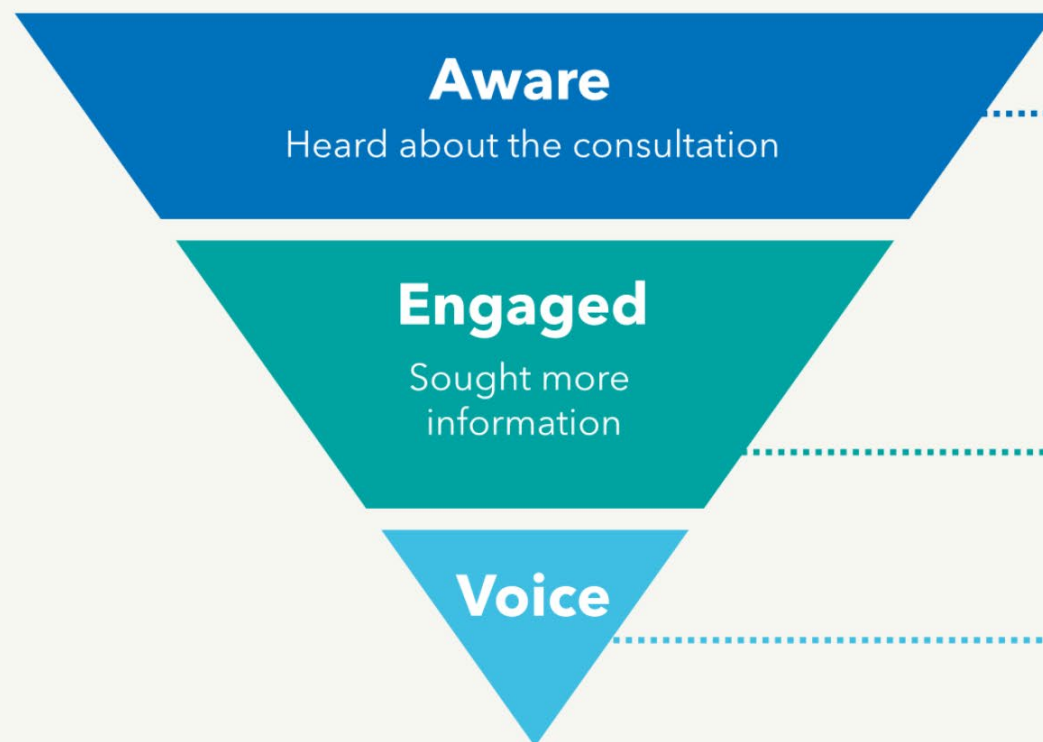
**Desire for more tree
education**

Tree Policy Insights Report

Engagement results

Outreach

Engagement results



Tree Policy Insights Report

Item 5

Attachment 2

What's next?



**Community
consultation**

19 May – 16 June 2025



**Hearings for
verbal submissions**

22 July 2025



**Decision
made**

18 September 2025



**Hamilton
City Council**
Te kaunihera o Kirikiriroa

First adopted:	August 2024
Revision dates/version:	
Next review date:	August 2027
Engagement required:	
Document Number	D-
Associated documents:	
Sponsor/Group:	Parks Services Manager

Tree Policy

Trees are an essential part of the landscape and natural infrastructure of Kirikiriroa Hamilton. In addition to aesthetic and cultural values, trees provide a range of benefits including cooling through shade, carbon sequestering, wellbeing support, improving air quality, supporting wildlife and resilience to effects of extreme events.

Ko te Puutaketanga

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Provide guidance for the planning, planting, maintenance, and retention or removal of Council owned trees.
2. To manage risks resulting from Council owned trees, including risks to health and safety.
3. To protect trees which have high amenity, botanical and ecological value and to encourage, whenever possible, development practices that avoid damage to trees.
4. To ensure Council tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community and environmental outcomes.
5. Provide consistency, clarity and transparency around service requests and Council decision making.

Ko te Whaanuitanga

Scope

6. This Policy applies to trees:
 - a) On Council owned and/or managed open spaces (including transport corridors (roads and the road reserve), parks, reserves, cemeteries, Council facilities, and service corridors).
 - b) Managed through the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, Stadia Reserve Management Plan and Te Kaaroro (Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke).
7. This Policy does not apply to:
 - a) Trees on private land or outside of HCC boundaries (except for the Hamilton Park Cemetery, Taitua Arboretum, and any other HCC owned land).
 - b) Notable Trees listed in Schedule 9D of the Hamilton City Operative District Plan and trees in Significant Natural Areas listed in Schedule 9C of the Hamilton City Operative District Plan.

Note: Rules and standards pertaining to Notable Trees and Significant Natural Areas are provided in the Hamilton City Operative District Plan.

- c) Planting and maintenance of other vegetation in the transport corridor, which is covered by the 'Streetscape and Gateways Policy'.

Ko ngaa Tikanga Whakahaere Kaupapahere

Principles of Policy

8. The guiding principles of this policy are:
 - i. The tree canopy of Hamilton Kirikiriroa is essential to community, economic and environmental wellbeing, and Council owned trees are managed and prioritised as critical, long-term public assets.
 - ii. Council will prioritise public health and safety over the amenity, ecological or historical value provided by individual trees.
 - iii. Council will take a balanced approach to tree management to achieve the best possible community, economic and environmental outcomes.
 - iv. Council will seek opportunities to plant new trees of appropriate types in suitable locations to maximise the canopy cover of the city and deliver ongoing benefits.
 - v. Tree planting and management is future focussed, financially sustainable and provides value for money in the long-term.

Ko ngaa Tikanga Policy

Tree Species Selection and Planting

9. Council will take a “right tree in the right place” approach to tree planning and planting to ensure tree species are appropriate for their particular location and context and will contribute long term benefits to the city.
10. All tree planting on Council land (including berms) must be approved by Council and follow standard Council procedures.
11. Council will select a diverse range of native and exotic tree species to strengthen and enhance ecological resilience.
12. Council tree planting will be prioritised in areas where shade is desirable, (for example in playgrounds and high pedestrian and cycle routes) or in areas where there are few trees.
13. Succession planting will be undertaken to ensure there is a wide range of species and maturity in parks and open spaces.
14. To ensure that all trees are fit-for-context, Council must consider whether the location and species of a tree will compromise both the current and planned function, safety, efficiency and operation of the road corridor (including its role as a corridor for infrastructure). In particular:
 - i. Overhead, and underground infrastructure (e.g. power, water, utility services).
 - ii. Operating speeds and traffic safety (e.g. speed limit, visibility of signs and driver sight lines).
 - iii. Accessibility and clearance requirements of the corridor (e.g. freight route, over-dimension route, Bus Rapid Transit).

Pruning and Maintenance

15. Council undertakes maintenance on street trees to keep trees healthy and minimise risk to people or property. Inspections and maintenance are carried out using Council approved risk management practices and are in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards.
16. Only Council approved persons may undertake pruning or maintenance of Council owned trees.
17. Council will prune trees that obstruct powerlines, footpaths and roads, street lighting, vehicle access to public areas, traffic signage and road visibility.
18. Council will generally not undertake pruning to reduce shading or manage debris, or for the establishment, retention, or enhancement of views.
19. Council will investigate and may seek compensation or take enforcement action for any damage caused by pruning under the appropriate legislation, including the Hamilton City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002, and/or the Reserves Act 1977.
20. Where appropriate in natural reserve areas, unhealthy, dead, or felled trees will be left in place to decompose for ecological benefit.

Working around trees

21. Appropriate care must be undertaken to avoid potential damage to Council trees during construction works or any other activity.
22. Council must be notified during the early stages of development design of any development, work, or activity proposed near a Council owned tree (e.g. concept design stage). An **Application for Tree Owner Approval** should be submitted to Council no less than **two weeks** before any works commence that includes vehicle crossings (driveways), installation of services and infrastructure, buildings or other developments that could impact any Council trees.
23. All works on Council land must comply with Council health and safety procedures and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
24. Council may seek compensation or take enforcement action for any damage or loss to Council trees under the appropriate legislation, including the Hamilton City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002, and/or the Reserves Act 1977.
25. Damage or loss may include but is not limited to:
 - a) Death or decline of tree(s) health.
 - b) Damage to the structure of the tree(s).
 - c) Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil.

Tree Removal

26. Good quality, mature trees are of significant value to the city and removal will only be considered when all other options have been explored and are determined by Council to not be viable.

27. Council trees that are in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound may be removed at any time by Council if required for public safety or to avoid serious damage to property or infrastructure.
28. Council will assess and allow removal of trees that pose an unacceptable safety risk that cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions.
29. Council may remove a tree on a case-by-case basis if it is causing, or is likely to cause, serious damage to buildings, services, property, or infrastructure (both public or privately owned) and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree.
30. Council will **not** consider the removal of a tree in the following circumstances:
 - a) To provide better views,
 - b) To reduce leaf and fruit litter or debris from trees,
 - c) To reduce nuisance from native fauna that may be inhabiting the tree,
 - d) To reduce shading,
 - e) To allow for the installation of solar panels,
 - f) For unjustified property damage claims,
 - g) For causing minor allergenic or irritant responses,
 - h) If there are practical means for canopy or tree retention.
31. There will be no removal of trees on Council land unless approved by Council in writing.
32. Any removal of trees on Council land will only be considered by Council following submission of an Application for Tree Owner Approval.
33. Council may consider the removal (and replacement) of trees on a case-by-case basis to allow for an activity or development where no other alternative design option is available.
34. An Application for Tree Owner Approval must be submitted for consideration during the early stages of development design (e.g. concept design stage).
35. Removal of trees must be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a suitably qualified arborist employed, approved, or contracted by Council, or a network utility operator in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards.
36. If Council approval is given, tree removal shall include stump grinding to a minimum depth and the ground must be left in a reasonable condition for replanting.
37. Tree removal approval will be subject to tree replacement requirements (as per clause 43).
38. In sites where trees are identified as likely containing protected indigenous fauna (e.g. bats, lizards or native bird species) an ecological assessment will be required to be provided alongside any Application for Tree Owner Approval.
39. Council will endeavour to consult with impacted communities prior to the removal of trees. However, in the event of emergency or urgent removal, notification may not be possible.

Tree Replacement

40. Council will require the planting of a minimum of two new trees for every Council tree removed for development.

41. The cost of tree replacement, including all relevant costs, will be calculated, and paid to Council prior to tree removal being approved.
42. For removals within the road corridor, the location of any replacement trees will be on the same site, or on a designated place as chosen by Council.
43. Tree replacement planting will occur at the next appropriate planting season.

Vandalism

44. Council will investigate and may seek compensation or take enforcement action for deliberate acts of vandalism that result in the death of, or damage to, a Council tree, under the appropriate legislation, including the City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002 and/or Reserves Act 1977.

Community plantings

45. Council encourages and supports community engagement and involvement in tree planting projects and will consider requests for community planting projects in Council owned open space through volunteer programmes.
46. While making every effort to retain community planted trees, Council reserves the right to move or remove trees, if necessary, in accordance with this policy.

Ko te Aroturukitanga me te Whakatinanatanga

Monitoring and Implementation

47. Implementation of this policy will be monitored by the General Manager Customer and Community.
48. This policy will be reviewed every three years, at the request of Council, or in response to legislative changes and statutory requirements (whichever occurs first).

Ko ngaa Whakamaaramatanga

Definitions

Term	Policy Definition
Amenity	The 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.
Canopy cover	The total area that leaves, branches and stems of trees shade the ground.
Council	Means the Hamilton City Council and includes any committee, subcommittee or person acting under delegated authority.
Exotic trees	Means trees which do not occur naturally in New Zealand.

Invasive species	Species that spread rapidly throughout large areas of the country, often displacing native species or causing significant environmental harm.
Irreversible decline	The decline of a tree's health which is to such an extent that it is unlikely to recover.
Mature Tree	A tree reaching its ultimate potential size, whose growth rate is slowing down, with limited potential for any significant increase in size.
Native trees	Trees that occur naturally in New Zealand or arrived in New Zealand without human assistance.
Notable trees	Individual or groups of trees identified in Schedule 9D of the District Plan that are located on either public or private land and have been assessed as 'notable' because of their link to the community, scientific importance, species type, age and/or the contribution they make to the city.
Other vegetation	A plant that does not have the potential to grow taller than 3 metres in height and have a stem diameter of, or exceeding, 100mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground.
Road Corridor	Means whole corridor that provides for road carriageway, berms, services and any adjoining pedestrian or cycle paths, landscaping and lighting, and includes roads and access segregation strips.

Ko ngaa Tohutoro

References

- The Local Government Act 1974
- The Local Government Act 2002
- The Reserves Act 1977
- The Crimes Act 1961
- Hamilton City Operative District Plan
- Waikato Regional Infrastructure Specifications (RITS)
- Hamilton City Council Bat Management Plan
- Hamilton City Council Streetscape and Gateways Policy
- Trees on Development Sites, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)
- Tree Protection Fencing, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)
- Amenity Tree Pruning Guide, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)