

## Steve Rice

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**To:** Lloyd Stephenson  
**Subject:** RE: Hamilton City Council PC9 hearing appearance

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 25, 2023 9:15 AM  
**To:** Steve Rice  
**Subject:** RE: Hamilton City Council PC9 hearing appearance

Hi Steve,

Re my appearance today for Notable Tree 207.3. I have picked up my kids' illness and won't be able to make a physical appearance today. Its probably fair to say, I don't have the capacity to appear online either. I apologise for this following the attempt from council to provide an alternate date.

If it is possible for the below and attached to be relayed – I would appreciate it. I have attached an arborist report received from Mark Doyle Trees recently. The report considers good potential in development being carried out within the RPZ (and outside the SRZ). Having reviewed the summary document of the submission I find it difficult to accept that we would be able to remove the Notable Tree designation under PC9. The majority (if not all) that seek to remove the designation are opposed at this stage.

That being said, our preference would be to remove the notable tree designation given that the RPZ covers approximately 23% of the site. In any event, it would not be our intent to damage the tree- however, given the location/shape of the RPZ, the site is considerably implicated, particularly in relation to zoning rules under the City Living Zone – for example, no parking to be located at the road frontage with new development. Meaning any building footprint that would help maximise the site's development potential would sit well within the RPZ. The RPZ is clearly unavoidable.

As I have mentioned before – I find it difficult to see a scenario that the notable tree designation is removed – particularly given its STEM score which is well above 130. In that event, we ask that there are two further considerations given:

1. Remove the need for RC with strict arborist input and oversight into development within the RPZ.
2. Council compensation for root probing and/or other activities within private property where a RPZ exists. This would provide further certainty as to the root structure and how development can be carried out and how notable trees can best be protected whilst potentially avoiding loss in underlying land value by removing development potential.

Regards

LLOYD STEPHENSON  
Development Manager

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16 May 2023

Attn: Lloyd Stephenson

**Advise About Construction Near the Protected Elm Tree at 3 Hardley Street, Whitiora.**

**Summary** - I believe that development and construction at 3 Hardley Street, Whitiora can be undertaken whilst ensuring the health and structural stability of the protected *Ulmus procera* is not compromised.

I believe if the structural root zone (SRZ) has an exclusion zone enforced around it, it will prevent any damage or compaction within the SRZ.

Development can successfully be undertaken within the root protection zone (RPZ), but not encroaching into the SRZ, if sound arboricultural advice and supervision was employed.

Measurements and formulas to determine the SRZ can be found below in the Methodology and Findings.

If guidance documents such as Auckland City Council's "Guidelines for Works in the Vicinity of trees" or equivalent were adhered to, tree health can be maintained.

Lloyd and Fosters understand that before any building removal, deconstruction, or development, of the site begins a formal arboricultural report will need to be completed to outline the requirements of working within the RPZ and creating the exclusion zone for the SRZ. This report will also give guidance as to when arboricultural supervision will be needed on site. This report will need to be written by a qualified and experienced arborist.

I believe Lloyd and Fosters have a proactive approach to not only improving the urban environment but also to ensuring the health and wellbeing of the urban forest.

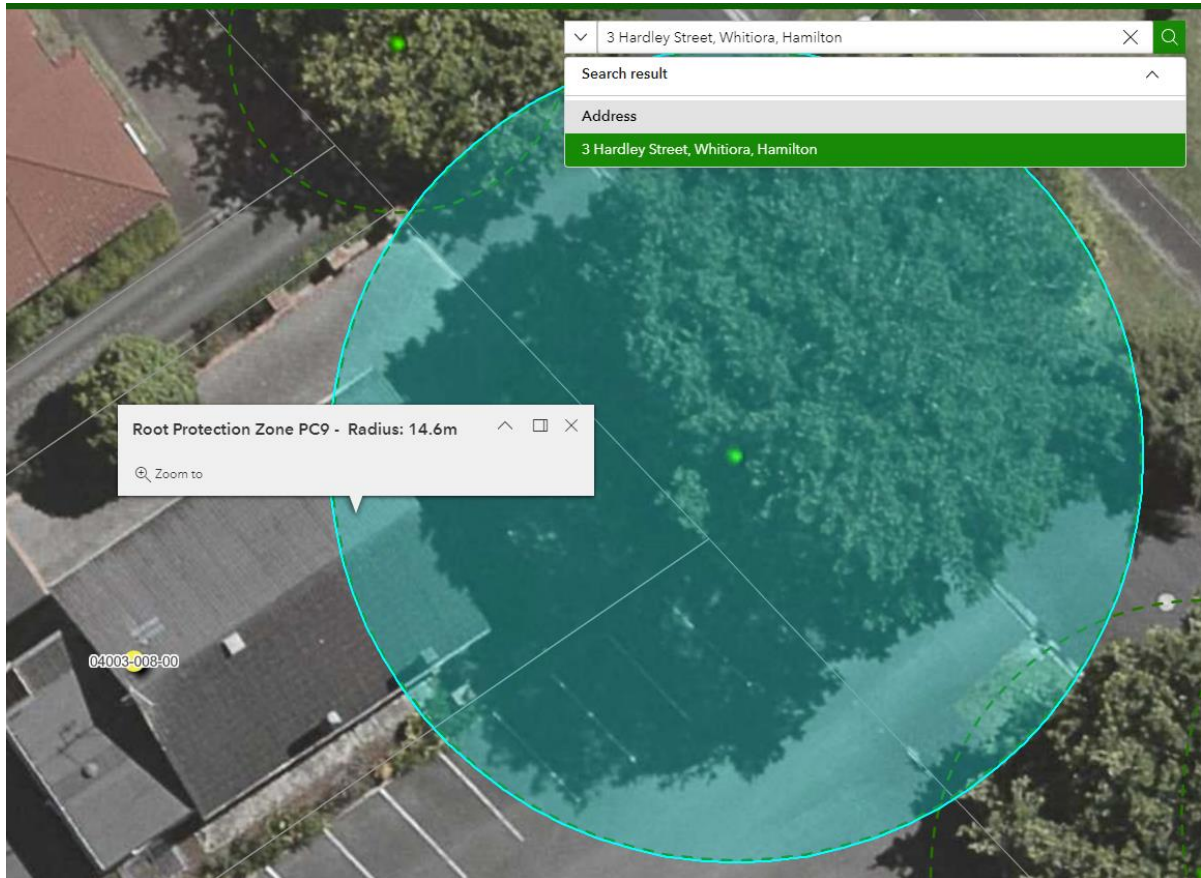
I would be more than happy to assist Fosters with any development and create a relationship that works together to ensure a high standard of urban forest management.

Sincerely

Craig Lamb Dip (Dist.)  
Arborist

## Methodology and Findings

1. On 9 May I meet with Lloyd Stephenson, of Fosters Construction, at 3 Hardley Street to discuss a proposed development, as Lloyd was requiring arboricultural advice about working within a designated root protection zone (RPZ).
2. Lloyd had previously emailed me with an image showing the RPZ encroaching into the proposed development site, and was concerned about any damage that may be caused to the tree during construction.



3. When I arrived on site, I performed a Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) to ascertain the health and structural integrity of the protected *Ulmus procera* – English Elm, which I determined to have good vigour and vitality.
4. I observed that the trees drip line did not encroach much over the boundary of the property at 3 Hardley St and determined that it would be plausible to undertake construction at the site with no or minimal damage to the roots or canopy of the tree.
5. I determined that construction can be completed within the RPZ under strict arboricultural supervision, to prevent or minimise root disturbance and damage, ensuring that the structural root zone (SRZ) was not compromised whatsoever.

6. The New Zealand Arboriculture Association's (NZARB) advise when working within a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) is:

“The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) which is a circle taken from the centre of the trunk with a radius equal to 3.31 times the diameter of the trunk measured just above the above the root buttress. No works should take place within the SRZ”<sup>ii</sup>

7. I then took measurements of the tree's diameter at the top of the root crown. To determine this, I measured the circumference of the tree at the top of the root crown which is 420cm. The formula to find the diameter is, circumference (C) ÷ π (3.14)

$$420cm \div 3.14 = 133.76cm$$

8. To ascertain the SRZ the equation is, diameter (D) X 3.31

$$133.76cm \times 3.31 = 442.75cm$$

9. The above SRZ measurement puts the outer limit of the SRZ approximately 1metre on the roadside of the boundary to 3 Hardley St.
10. After presenting these findings and discussing the SRZ with Lloyd he expressed the belief that development could be undertaken with creating an exclusion zone around the SRZ.
11. Lloyd also agreed that construction and development could happen within the RPZ whilst maximum care and consideration is given to the health and structure of the tree.
12. I proposed a few examples of what will be needed to ensure maximum care of the tree was upheld and these included, but not limited to:
- All works done within the RPZ will be done under arboricultural supervision.
  - Any root severance will be no more than 50mm (or limited to Hamilton City Council specifications).
  - Any root severance will be done under supervision with clean and sharp tools.
  - Root compaction shall be minimised within the RPZ.
13. Lloyd said that Fosters would be happy to work with guidance and supervision to prevent or minimise damage to the tree during any development and construction.
14. Lloyd understood that this guidance process will involve multiple arboricultural reports and steps to ensure the process is fully understood, documented and the health of the tree is maintained.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/council/documents/central/pdfs/annexure05.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.nzarb.org.nz/safety-and-guidelines>