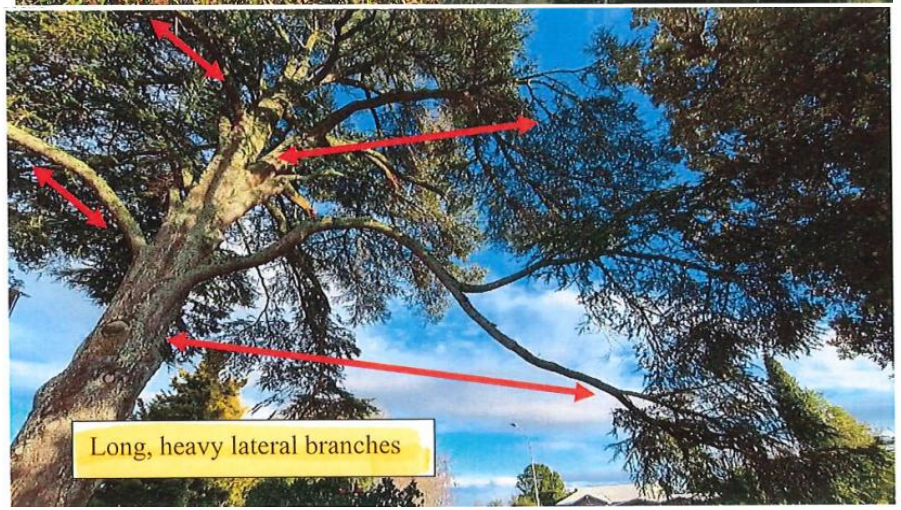
Protected Tree Appeal for 1 Blue Cedar Lane

Cameron Gray

Arborist Safety Assessment findings Appendix 1



Approximate Height: 25 metres

7.1. The tree is good health for its age and size, however there are multiple sites of historic branch failure and two examples of recent branch failure that are of a significant size. The branch that has landed on the Insoll Avenue footpath is large enough to have caused serious injury or death to a person underneath at the time.

7.2. Future branch failures are extremely likely, especially in high wind situations. Future failures could strike targets such as the Insoll Avenue Footpath, the house at 1 Blue Cedar Lane, neighbouring properties, and Blue Cedar Lane itself. Branches are large enough that they pose a risk to both people and property.

7.3. It is hard to predict exactly where branches are likely to fail in future, they can fail along the branch, not necessarily at the union where branch meets stem. Without a climbing inspection it is difficult to see the condition of all branches in the upper canopy.

7.4. Branch failure is a common occurrence in large *Cedrus* species in the Waikato region. It is a trait of the genus because of the heavy lateral branches grown and relatively brittle timber. Examples are shown of similar failures in other *Cedrus* below. One was at St Joan's Rest Home and Hospital, which is only a few hundred metres from the site at Blue Cedar Lane.

Protected root zone

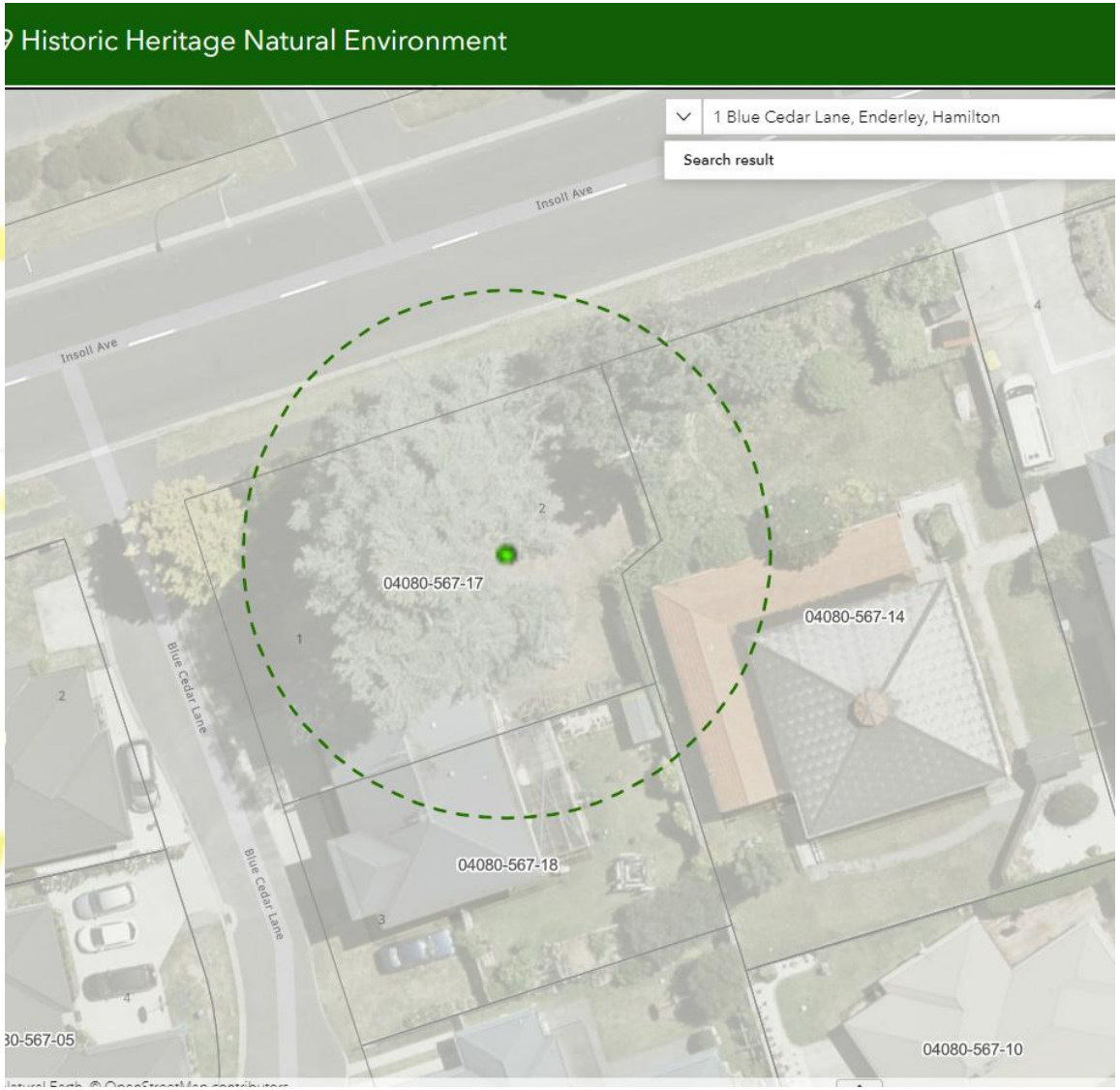
6.5. The tree is very close to the house on the property. The stem sits 1.6 metres from the corner of the building. Approximately a third of the canopy is directly overhanging the house's roof. The extent of root damage caused during construction is unclear.

Using these formulas with the trees current DBH gives a SRZ radius of 3.81 metres and a TPZ radius of 15 metres.

7.7. It is concerning that a concrete slab building was constructed so far within the trees structural root zone. Especially considering the tree's size and protection status. The extent of any root damage caused during construction is unclear and the tree canopy still appears healthy after 15 years. **Major root damage can affect the mechanical stability of the whole tree.**

7.5. The house at 1 Blue Cedar Lane is extremely close to the stem of the tree. The corner of the house sits only 1.6 metres from the stem of the tree. The house was constructed in 2006. It is reasonable to expect a mature cedar has not experienced a massive increase in DBH over the past 15 years.

7.6. At the tree's current size, and using the widely accepted Australian Standards for tree protection in development sites, values can be generated for the SRZ (Structural Root Zone) and TPZ (Tree Protection Zone)



Root zone under slab of 2x properties

Hamilton City Council Stem Review

ref: T12

Audited: 2022-02-23 04:04:37 UTC
uni ID: 408336c2-4d1e-4bc6-968e-39218593cc42

Classification	Existing
Address	2 Insoll Avenue Enderley Hamilton Waikato 3214 NZ

Assessment Details

Date	11/03/22
Tree Species	Cedrus atlantica 'Glauca'
Age Class	Mature
Height	25.1
CSR	14.1
Girth	4.39
RPZ	16.77707006
Ownership	Private
Structure	[redacted]
Canopy Shape	Fair

STEM Condition Evaluation

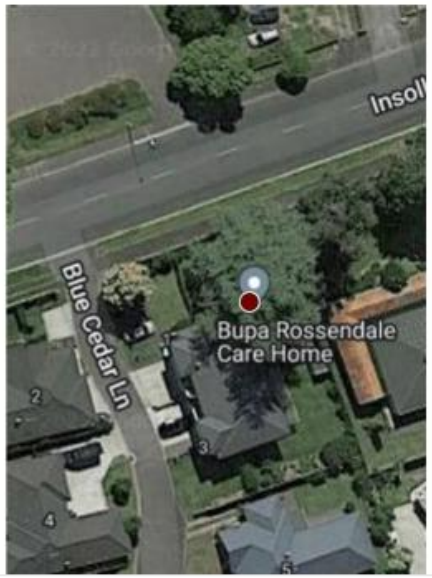
Form	Moderate	9
Occurance	Infrequent	15
Vigour	Some	9
Function	Important	15
Age Years	40 - 79	15
	Condition Evaluation Total	**63**

STEM Amenity Evaluation

Stature	21 - 26	21
Visibility	0.5	3
Proximity	Group 3+	21
Role	Significant	21
Climate	Significant	21
	Amenity Evaluation Total	**87**

STEM Total Evaluation

Notable Evaluation Total	Not Scored
STEM Total	**150**



Latitude: -37.76388616
Longitude: 175.2903624

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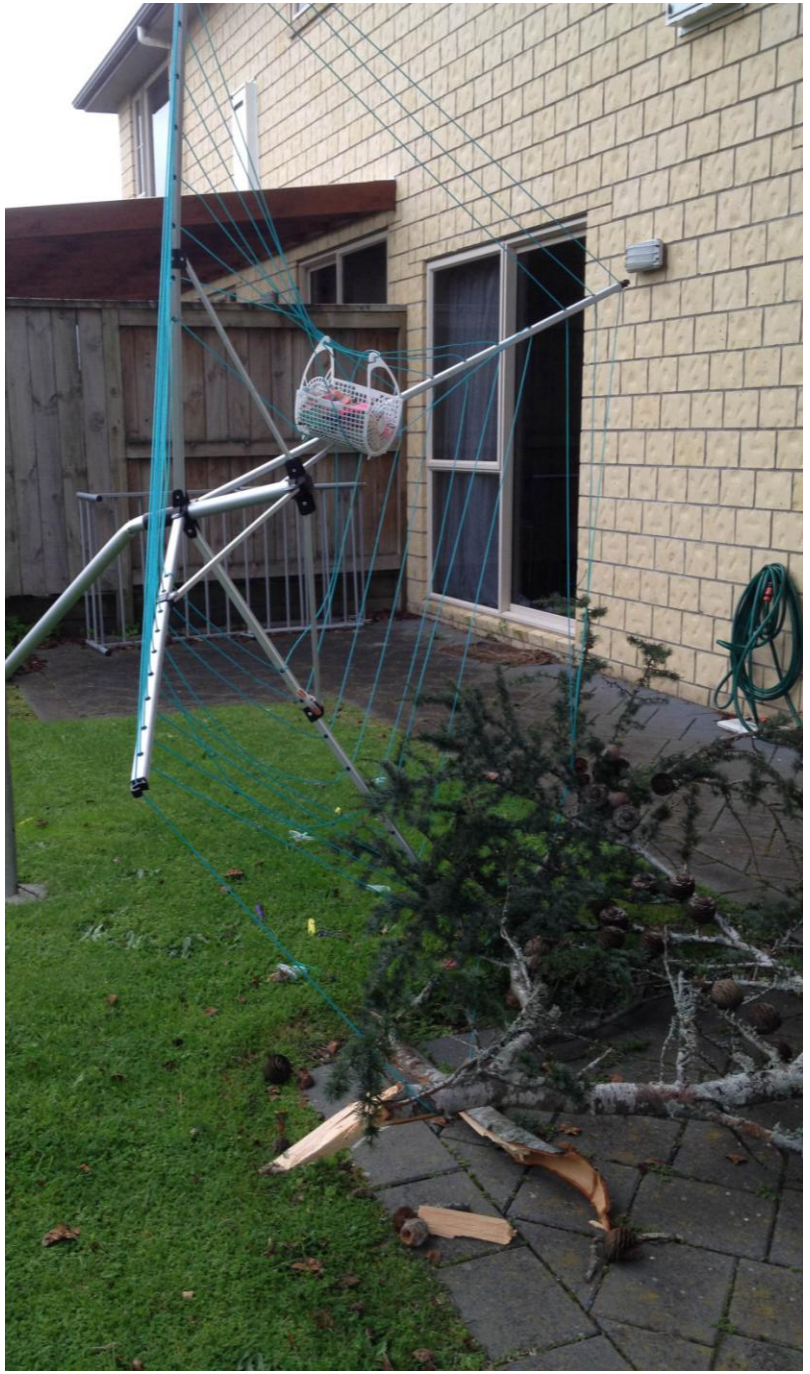
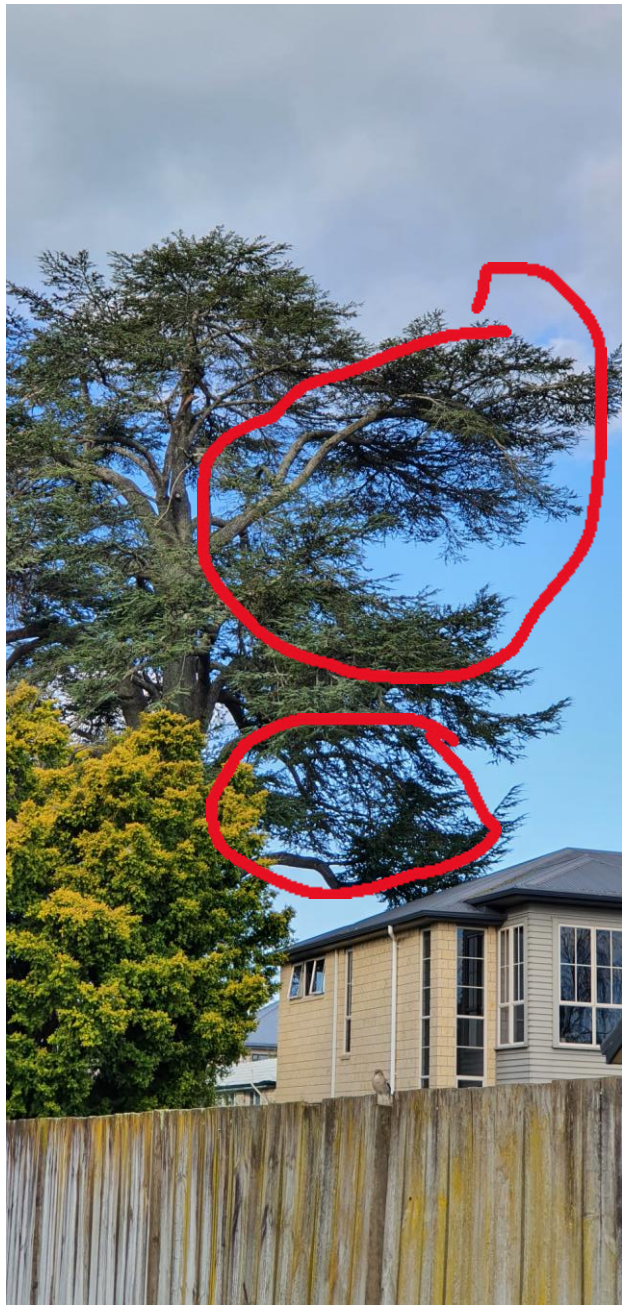
Produced by Arborlab
1/07/2022

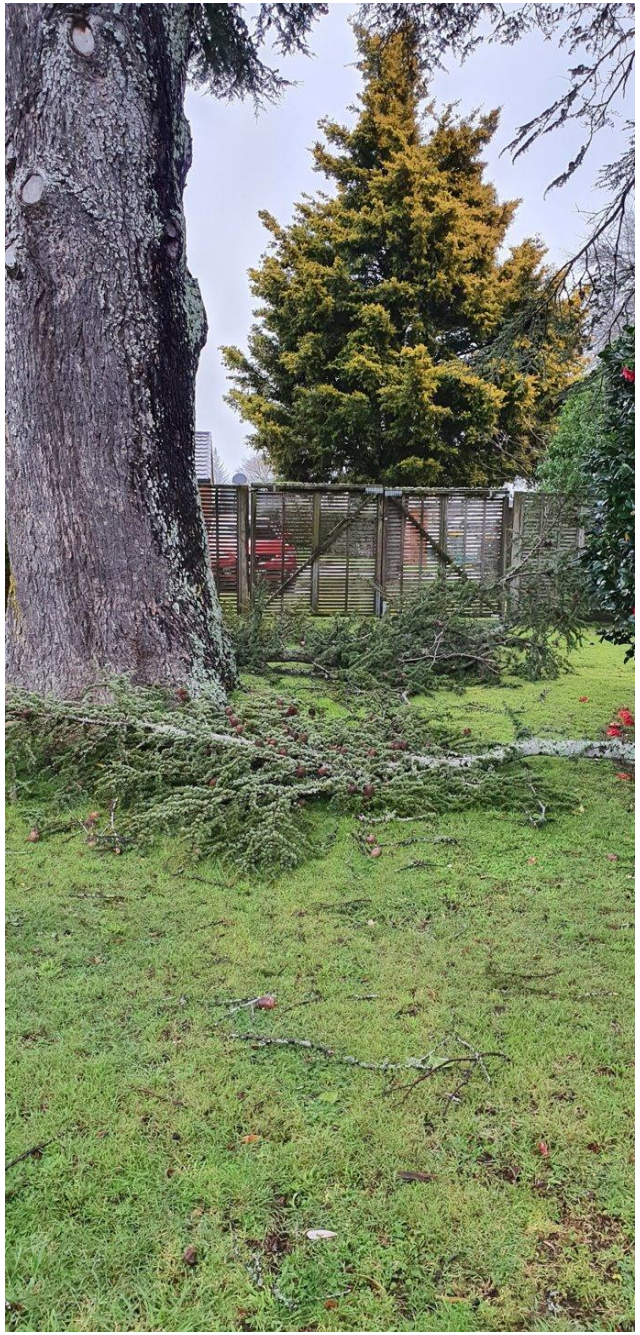
Arborist Response

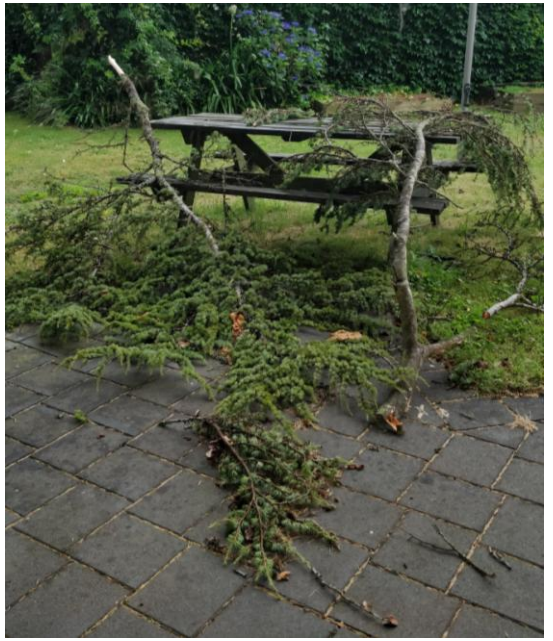
- The tree was visually reassessed post-submission.
- Recommend that the tree be retained until further information, assessment or evidence is provided.
- The tree is an existing tree listed in Schedule 9D of the ODP and it exceeds the 130 STEM point requirement for inclusion.
- Branch failures are evident which, as indicated by the supplied arborist report, occurred in high winds, July 2021. It is also accepted that widespread damage and tree failure occurred during this weather event.
- It is noted that the tree is in conflict with the dwelling, and it is understood that recently there has been an increased instance of branch failure. This could indicate a wider issue of vitality, wood production and self-optimisation.
- [redacted], however as indicated above, given the increased branch failure, vitality and wood production could be in decline.
- As outlined in the supplied arborist report, any decision for the removal of a notable tree should consider its integrity, significance to the community and safety risk. In addition, the report recommended further assessment, including a climbing inspection to identify any other areas of concern, a risk assessment, an investigation of the root zone, and weight reduction of branches most at risk.

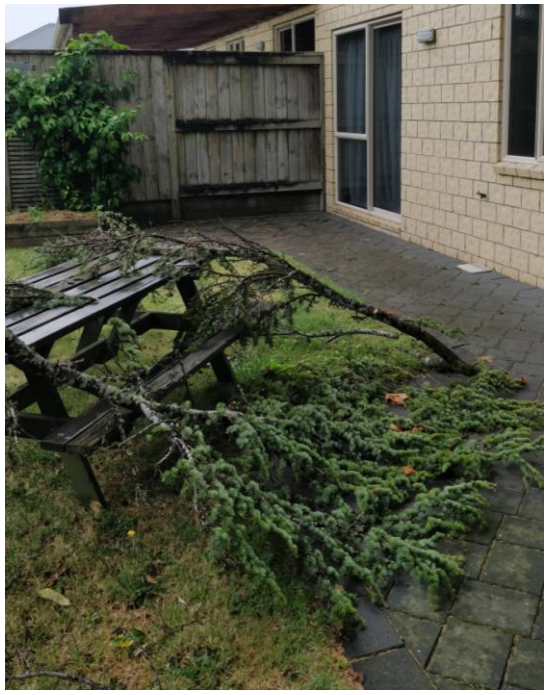
NOTE: Appendix 5A – May 2022 – Protected tree in Cambridge falls killing women. Tree assessed as healthy only a short time before this by Waipa Council with no previous concerns noted. In contrast to the numerous concerns raised for this tree.



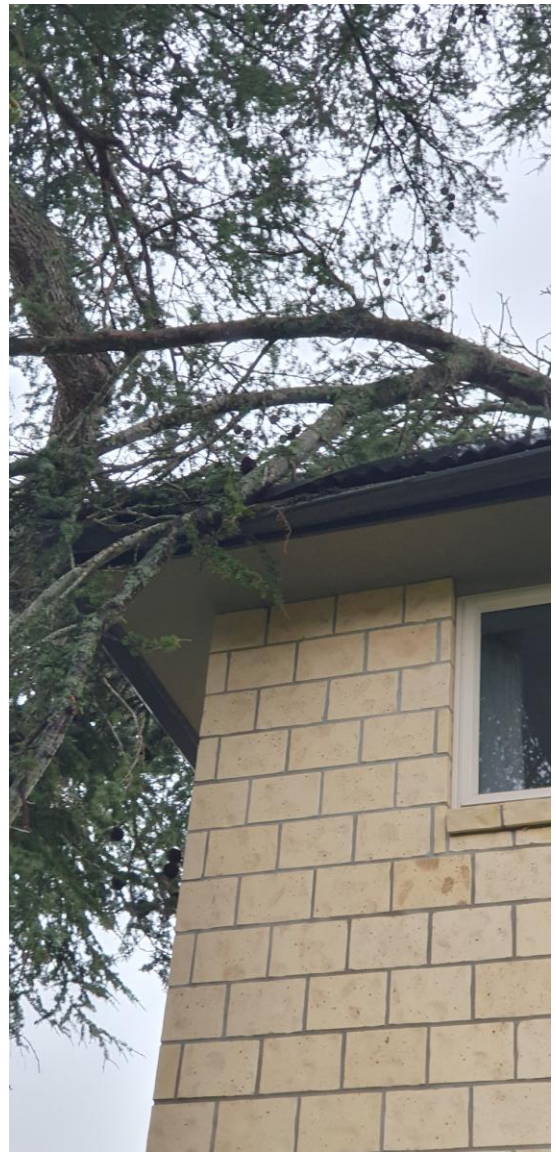


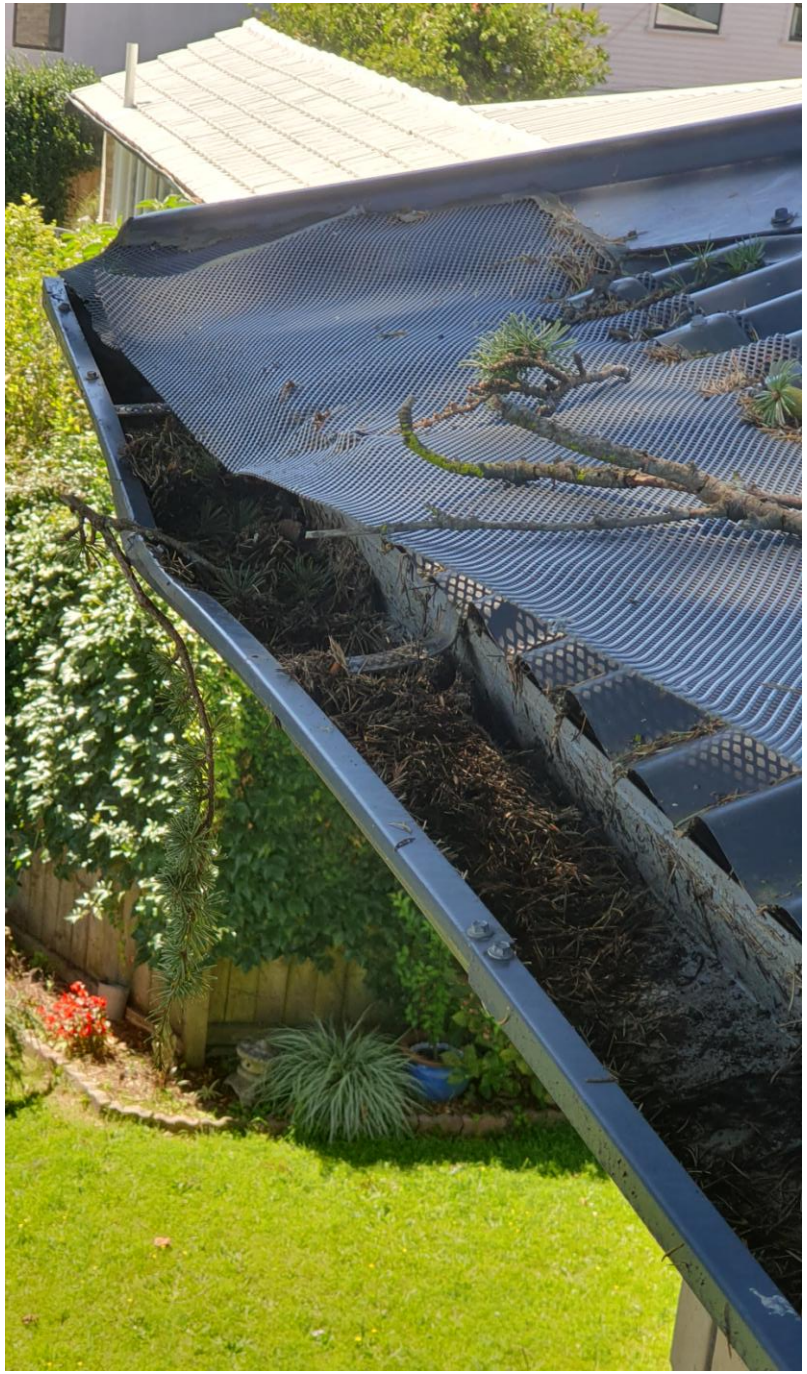


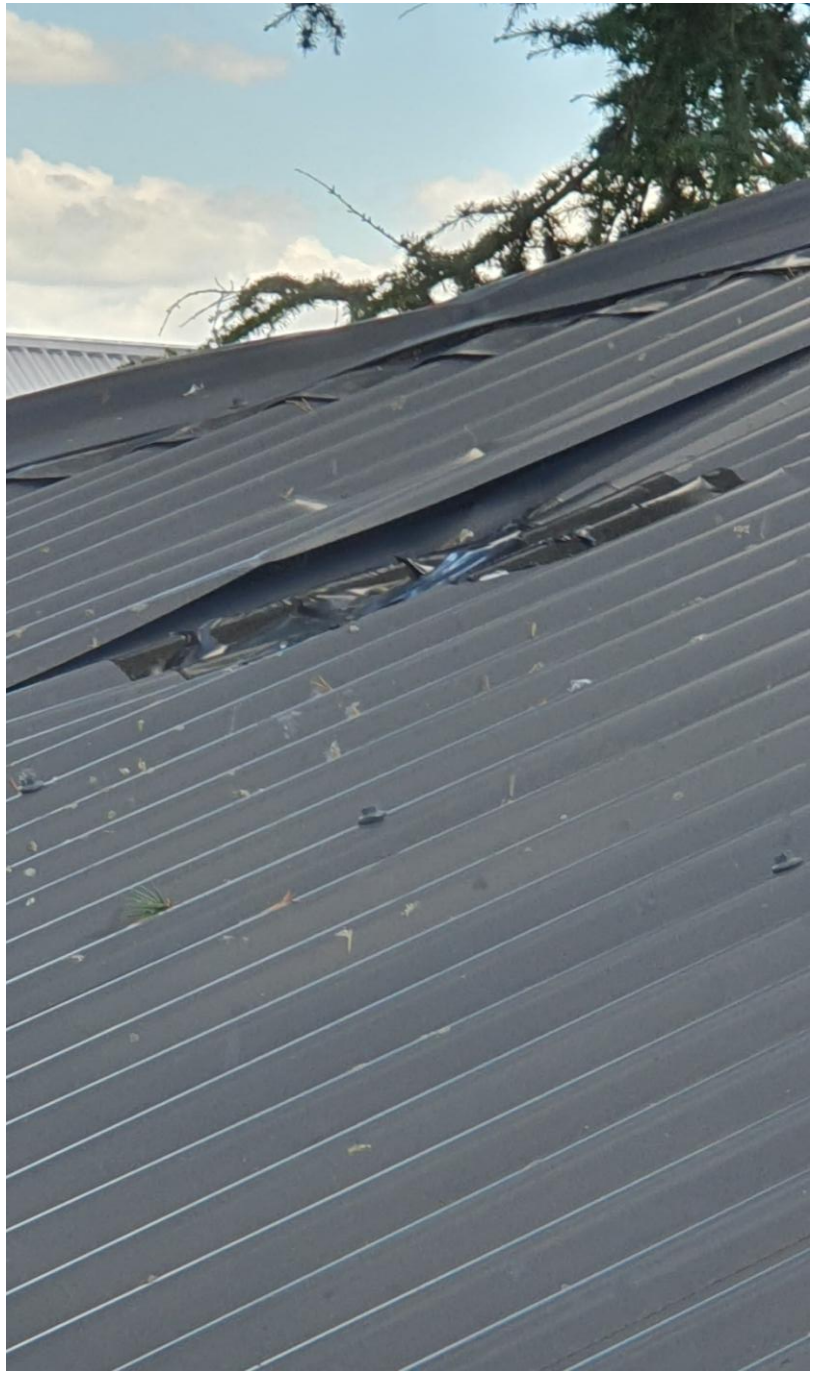


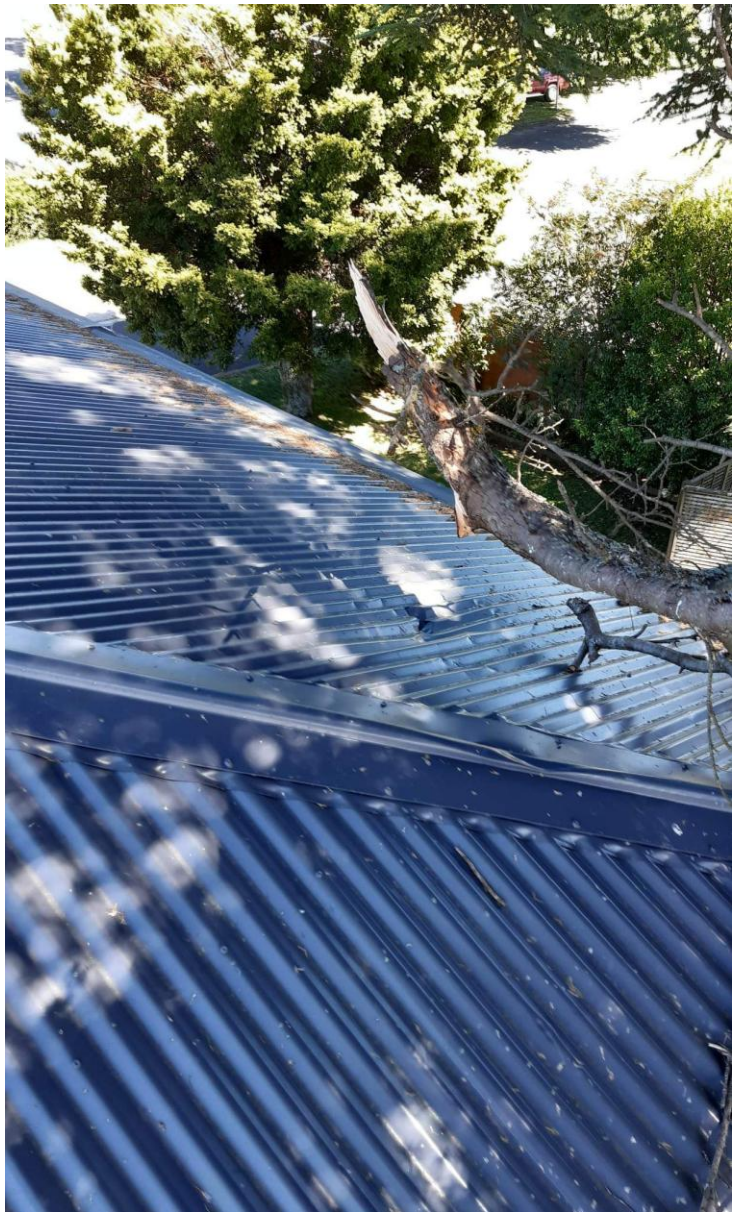


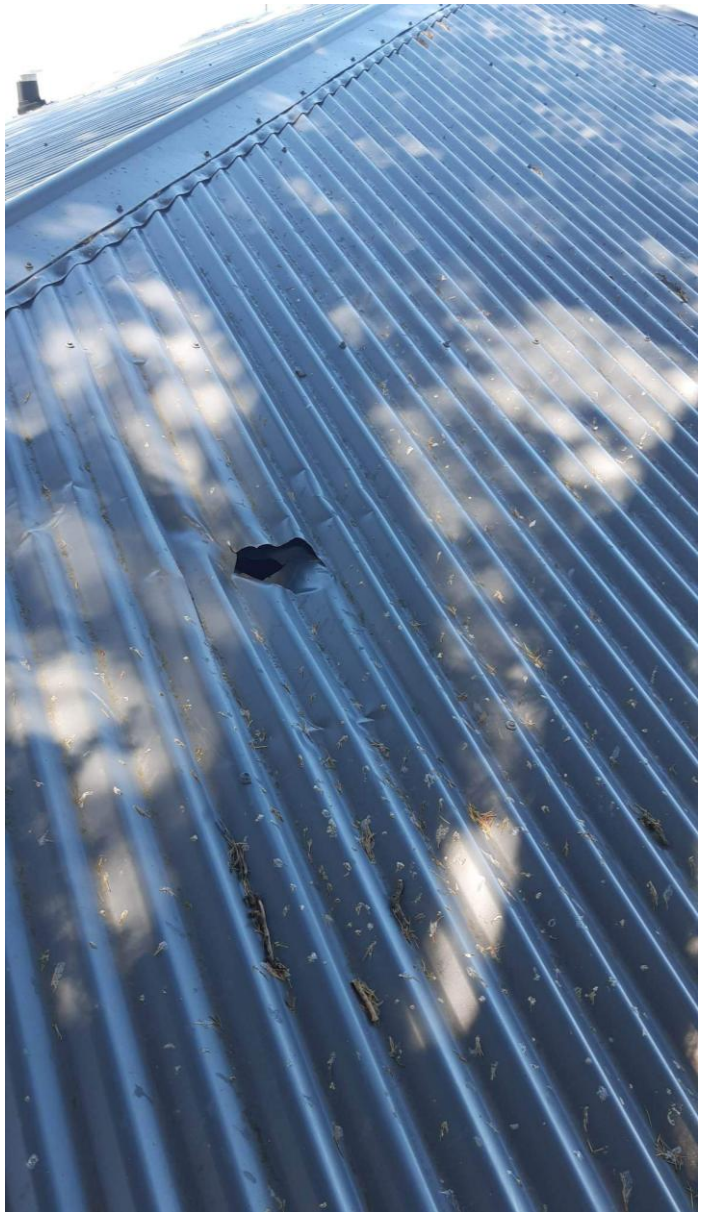
Fell 15 Metres

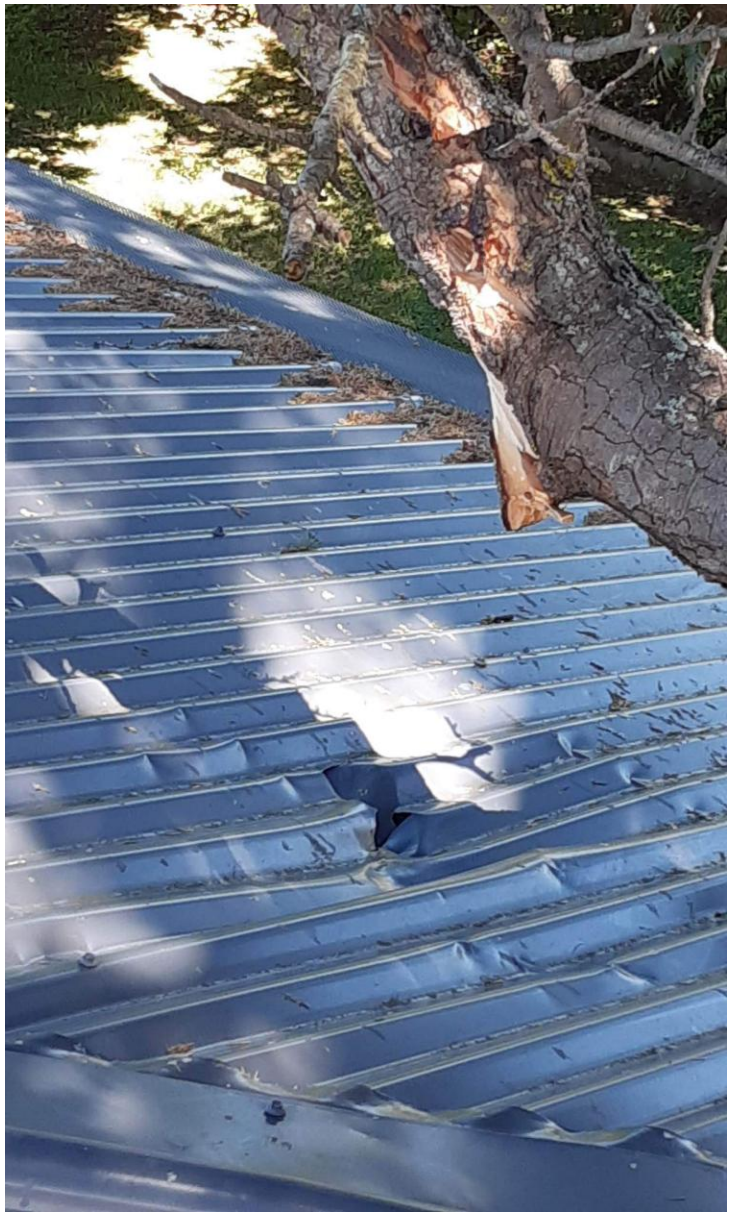




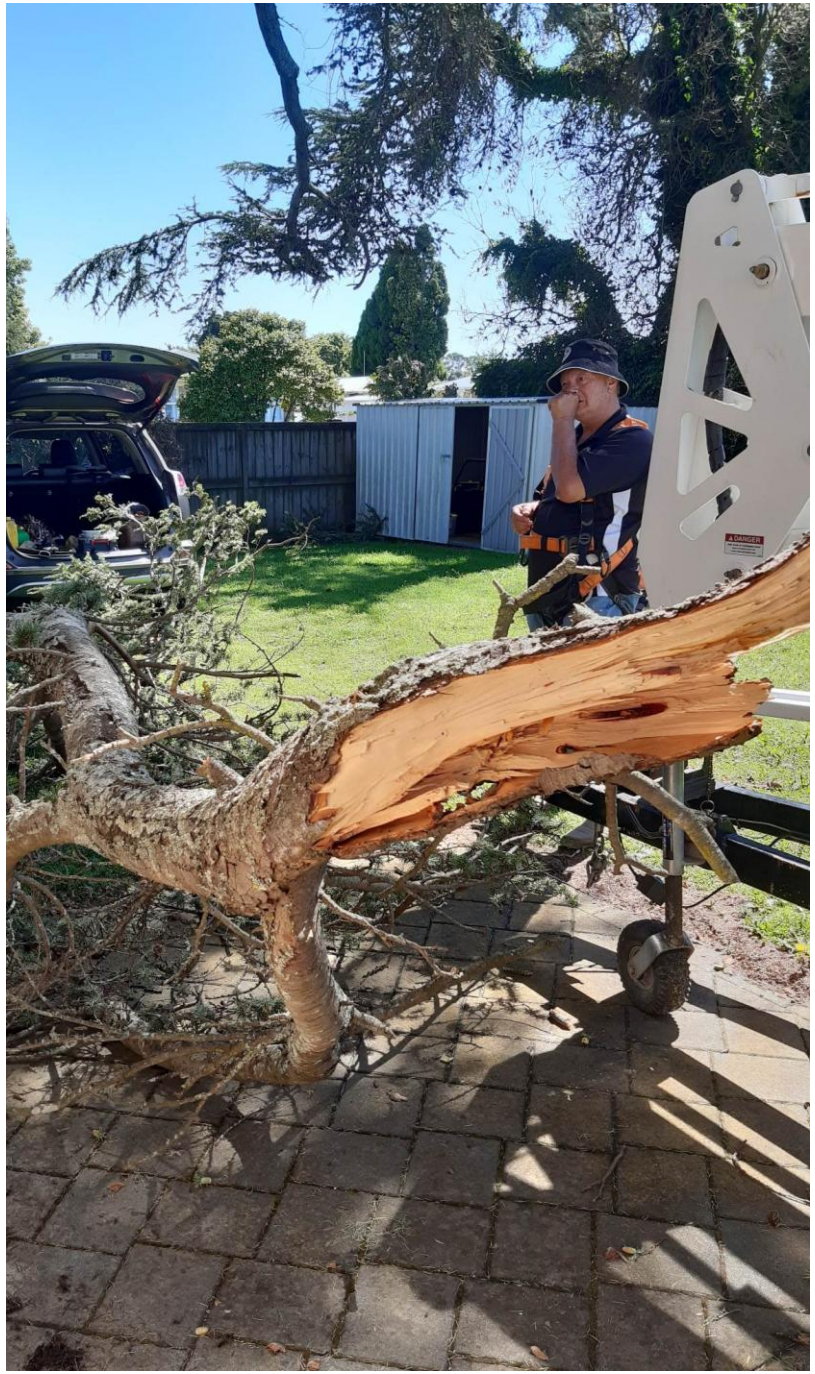


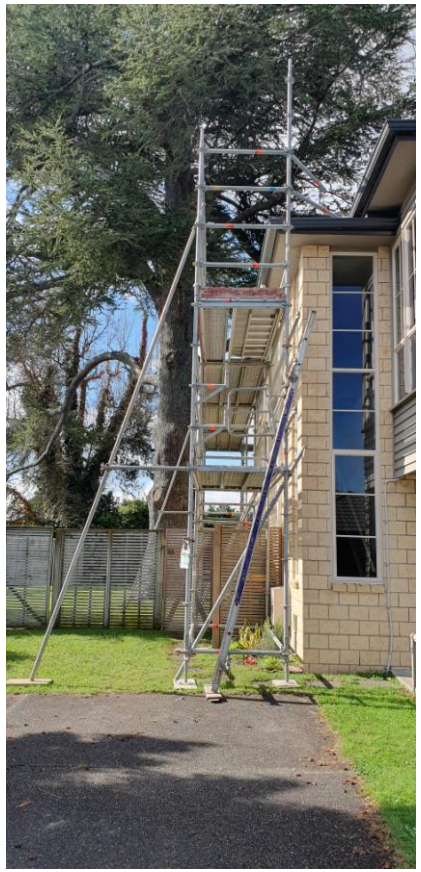


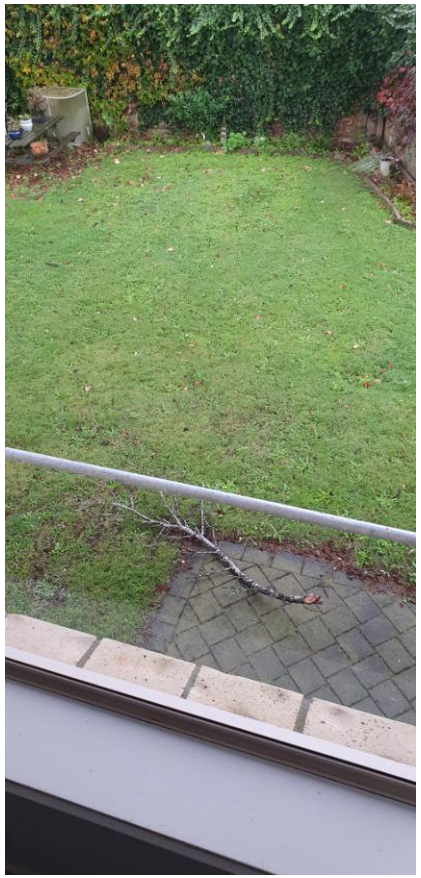


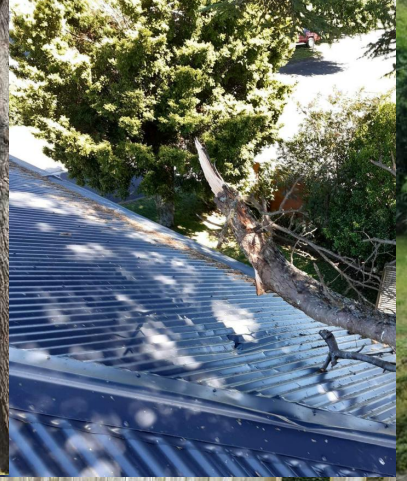


Snorkel
MHP







2019

2022