

RMA FORM 5



# Submission on publicly notified Proposed Porirua District Plan

Clause 6 of the First Schedule, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Porirua City Council

1. Submitter details:

Full Name	Last Harpham	First Sheryn
Company/Organisation <i>if applicable</i>	<b>On behalf of Myself, David Harpham, Progeni Ltd, the owners of Lot 5,6 and 7 DP519099 and other people this would affect.</b>	
Contact Person <i>if different</i>		
Email Address for Service	<a href="mailto:sheryn@harpham.nz">sheryn@harpham.nz</a>	
Address	<b>68 Exploration Way, Whitby</b>	
	City Porirua	Postcode 5024
Address for Service <i>if different</i>	Postal Address	Courier Address
Phone	Mobile <b>021642482</b>	Home
		Work

2. This is a **submission** on the **Proposed District Plan** for Porirua.

3. I could  I could not   
gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.  
(Please tick relevant box)

If **you could** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission please complete point four below:

4. I am  I am not   
directly affected by an effect of the subject matter of the submission that:  
(a) adversely affects the environment; and  
(b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.  
(Please tick relevant box if applicable)

Note:

*If you are a person who could gain an advantage in trade competition through the submission, your right to make a submission may be limited by clause 6(4) of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.*

5. I wish  I do not wish   
 To be heard in support of my submission  
*(Please tick relevant box)*

6. I will  I will not   
 Consider presenting a joint case with other submitters, who make a similar submission, at a hearing.  
*(Please tick relevant box)*

Please complete section below (insert additional boxes per provision you are submitting on):

<b>The specific provision of the proposal that my submission relates to:</b>
Significant natural areas.
<b>Do you: Support? Oppose? Amend?</b>
Oppose in part. (Amend?)
<b>What decision are you seeking from Council? What action would you like: Retain? Amend? Add? Delete?</b>
Amend or remove part of.

<b>Reasons:</b>
As attached to the email.

Please return this form no later than **5pm on Friday 20 November 2020** to:

- Proposed District Plan, Environment and City Planning, Porirua City Council, PO Box 50-218, PORIRUA CITY or
- email [dpreview@pcc.govt.nz](mailto:dpreview@pcc.govt.nz)

Sheryn Harpham

20/11/2020

Signature of submitter  
(or person authorised  
to sign  
on behalf of submitter):

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*A signature is not required if you make  
your submission by electronic means*

## **Fire risk and the Health and Safety Act.**

We are concerned with fire risk and the liability council may be opening itself to when SNA are within 30m of a dwelling/workplace. (The recent bush fires in Australia are a point in case where the local council was liable, and also had to repay fines that had been issued due to bush clearance around homes).

The Health and safety Act requires that a business or person does what is reasonable and practicable to eliminate risks in the workplace. With so many people working from home this includes for many of us our homes.

With the controls in place for a SNA, home (and business) owners will not be able to follow the recommendations as made by the NZ fire service. These basically apply to a buffer zone around buildings extending to 30m. Although the recommendations are for rural land, I feel that these are also valid for any house near larger areas of bush. (As those within or near a SNA will be). If this is the recommendation from NZ fire Service and people are legally unable to comply with it, who is at fault if a fire occurs that endangers life (and property) due to the closeness of vegetation? If people have the opportunity to follow these recommendations, then any doubt as to fault is removed. So the council will no longer have a liability issue.

I have included some recommendations from the NZ fire service website in section 2.

## **Removal of Areas already protected.**

Some areas are already protected with vegetation covenants (or similar). These have been created to be the best for a specific site. Applying blanket protection rules to these areas (although simplifying council maps) can lead to a lesser amenity value and therefore a poorer result.

## **How does this affect us specifically?**

We have placed suitable controls in the vegetation covenants on Lot 5,6,7,8 and 10 DP 519099 (Progeni still owns Lots 8 and 10) that allow for people to choose low flammability indigenous species and maintain them as a suitable buffer zone in case of fires if they so choose. This also allows for the planting of fruit and nut trees in the areas closer to houses where the human environment will most benefit from them (there are low flammability fruit and nut trees). Native birds love plum and other fruit trees, so an ecological balance can be achieved between both goals. We ask that the SNA protection be dropped from these lots in favour of the already existing vegetation protection. The vegetation is already protected so no further action was needed.

Our house lot (Lot 9 DP 519099) has no such covenant in place, but I ask that the SNA be removed from any land withing 30m of any building. As mentioned earlier we work from home and also use the out buildings for business purposes. We require the opportunity to keep our work place safe. This area of regrowth bush is of a lesser value and contains non natives as well as natives.

Sheryn Harpham

BSurv, BSc.

## SECTION 2

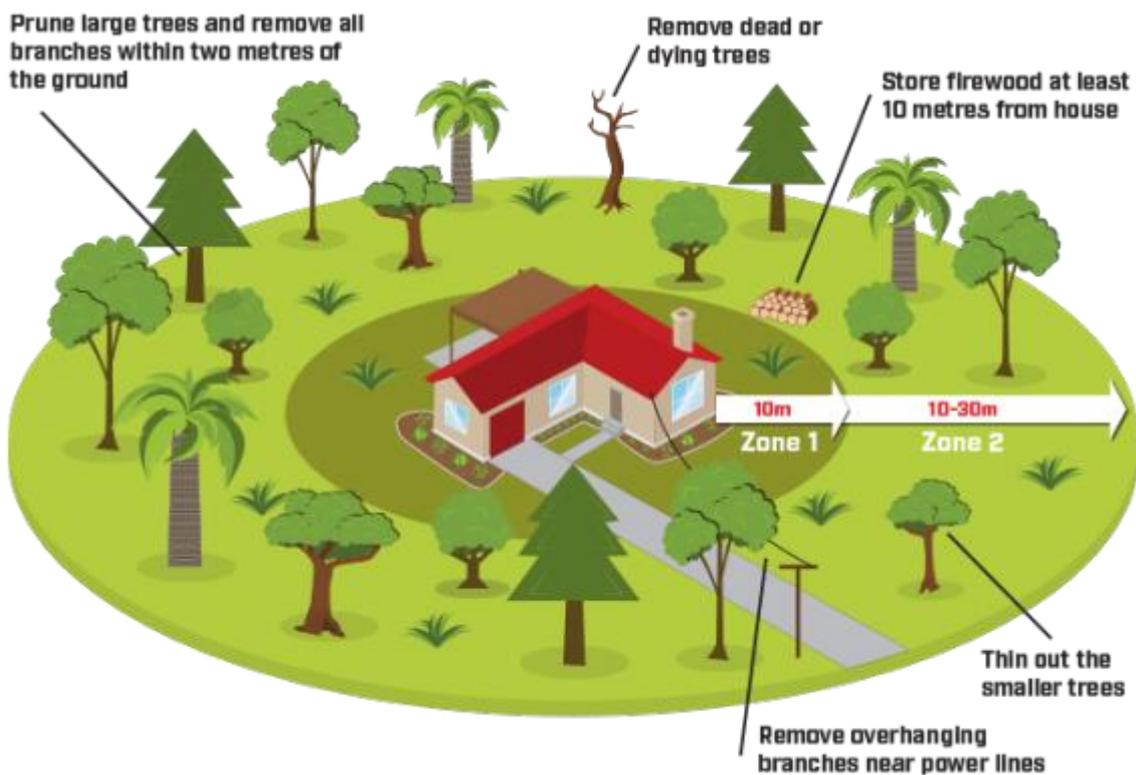
<https://www.fireandemergency.nz/farms-rural-properties-and-rural-businesses/landscaping-fire-safety/>

Low flammability species are suitable for green breaks or safety zones, but when in the immediate vicinity of structures, there should be at least a 3-4 metre break between the crowns to reduce fuel continuity. Native species include:.....

(con)..... High flammability species burn readily at low to moderate forest fire danger conditions. Not recommended for green breaks or safety zones. Native species include:

- kunzea ericoides – commonly called kanuka
- leptospermum scoparium – commonly called manuka.

### Create a safety zone



Rural homeowners are at greater risk of fire and must take precautions to protect their lives, homes and property. The 2017 Port Hills fires showed that homes located near trees, scrub or dry grass can be at risk of wildfire during times of extreme fire danger.

One way to do this is to create a safety zone around your home - this is also known as 'defensible space'. This is the area around your home, where vegetation has been modified, reduced or cleared to create a barrier and slow the spread of fire toward your home. A safety zone also allows space for firefighters to fight the fire safely.

Creating a safety zone involves reducing fuels around your home and using fire-resistant plants for landscaping. Reduce the threat of fires by establishing and maintaining the following three safety zones around your home.

**Zone one extends to 10 metres on all sides of your house:**

- convert to lawn and plant fire-resistant plants and trees
- remove flammable material and debris

**Zone two is from 10 to 30 metres of your home:**

- remove scrub and thin excess trees
- evenly space remaining trees so they aren't touching
- prune large trees and remove all branches within two metres of the ground
- remove dead or dying trees
- remove overhanging branches near power lines