

Review of Decision to Remove Nile Street Trees

1. Introduction

- 1.1 I have been asked by Peter Grundy, Horticultural Supervisor, Nelson City Council, to review advice received that recommends the removal of five *Platanus orientalis* 'Autumn Glory' located on Nile Street between Tory Street and Maitai Valley Road. A brief statement of review has been requested.
- 1.2 The subject trees are shown in red below and are numbered 2, 3, 4, 7 and 16.



- 1.3 For the purposes of this statement the trees were inspected in the company of Peter Grundy and Trish Luddon on the 9th of September 2018.
- 1.4 It is worth noting at the outset that a very poor batch of *Platanus orientalis* 'Autumn Glory' was purchased by NCC in the 1990's and were planted in several locations around the city. This batch of trees was subsequently identified as being genetically inferior with the result showing in the establishment of trees with very poor structural form.
- 1.5 There has been a move by NCC in recent years to replace these defective trees.

2. The Trees Proposed for Removal

- 2.1 The trees identified for removal are generally trees that have very poor structural form with many having a history of limb failures. Remedial pruning to correct faults in the trees is not considered to be practical and will not remove the underlying genetic flaws that the trees have.
- 2.2 Tree 16 located outside 168a Nile Street illustrates well the structural weakness of the trees as there are active failures in this tree which have been temporarily stabilised by straps.
- 2.3 Having re-inspected the trees I support the proposed removal of 4 out of the 5 trees recommended for removal in the Nelmac arborist report given the very poor structural condition of the trees. These trees are numbered as 2, 3, 4, and 16 as shown on the map above.

3. Proposed Retention of Tree Number 7

- 3.1 Following inspection of tree number 7 (located outside 208 Nile Street) I came to the conclusion that this tree was able to be managed by appropriate arboricultural management rather than being removed as proposed.
- 3.2 In my view, this tree could be successfully pruned to reduce loading on several low over-extended lateral limbs and to develop good structural form in the remainder of the tree.
- 3.3 My recommendation is to retain this tree and carry out appropriate pruning.

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