

Attachment B: Table of changes made to the Tree Policy 2022

**ATTACHMENT B: Changes to the Tree Policy 2022**

Policy #	Tree Policy 2022	Draft Tree Policy 2023	Comments
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Tree Planting</b>	<b>1.0 Tree Planting</b>	
1.1	QLDC will seek planting opportunities to deliver ongoing social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits and ensure iconic landscape features are always present.	1.1 Seek planting opportunities to deliver ongoing social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits and ensure iconic treescapes are maintained.	Simplified
1.2	QLDC will endeavour to plant appropriate tree species in appropriate places. Appropriateness is guided by the characteristics of the tree, in both juvenile and mature form and its ability to support biodiversity, landscape character, urban walkability, the purpose of the land use, pedestrian and road user safety, climate resilience and community aspirations. This includes both native and exotic tree species.	1.2 Plant appropriate tree species in appropriate places.	Simplified
1.3	Succession planting will be undertaken to provide replacement trees ensuring a continuity of trees in advance of when mature trees require removal.	1.3 Plan for succession planting in advance of removal of mature trees to ensure a continuity of trees and the benefits they provide.	Simplified
1.4	All projects on Council land, including QLDC-led projects, will prioritise retaining existing mature trees and the incorporation of new tree planting and planting sites from the outset of the design process. Projects must allow for sufficient rooting environment for new trees and meet the minimum requirements of QLDC's Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice. This may include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning underground services to allow sufficient rooting environment for new trees</li> <li>• Including centre islands or median strips wide enough for tree planting</li> <li>• Optimising potential width of grass berms to allow for tree planting</li> <li>• Varying carriageway alignment (E.g., intersection improvements)</li> <li>• Using setbacks, especially in commercial zones</li> <li>• Using New Zealand Standard SNZHB 44:2001 Subdivision for People and the Environment</li> <li>• Mitigating adverse effects from large car parking areas, by using trees to screen cars</li> </ul>	1.4 Prioritise retaining existing mature trees and the incorporation of new tree planting and planting sites from the outset of the design process, for all projects that occur on QLDC land.	Simplified

	and provide shade, whilst also maintaining a safe environment for car park users		
1.5	Large tree species will be selected, both individual specimens and groves, where space permits. Planning and development must include spaces that can accommodate large species.		Removed - covered in Policy 1.2
		1.5 Require that the planting of new trees meet the minimum requirements of QLDC's Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice.	New policy inserted
1.6	Quality stock will be selected for planting to support longevity and heritage value and incorporate eco-sourced nursery stock where possible. Choosing quality stock maximises the health and longevity of the planting, which reduces long-term maintenance costs.	1.6 Select quality stock for planting to support longevity and heritage value and incorporate eco-sourced nursery stock where possible.	Simplified
1.7	For trees planted in the road reserve, the species selected will have sufficient space to grow into mature and healthy specimens, without causing significant damage to existing infrastructure in place prior to the planting of the tree or impacting the safety of pedestrians and road users (providing there are no reasonably practical engineering solutions available).  <i>Note: 'Significant damage' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.</i>		Removed - captured in Code of Practice
1.8	Trees will be planted under power lines only where the species selected is able to grow to maturity without requiring line clearance pruning, which can result in poor tree form or structure.		Removed - captured in Code of Practice
1.9	Developments are required to submit plans for any planting to be vested in QLDC for approval to the Council as part of QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice. As part of the consent process, a street tree planting plan detailing species, size, location, irrigation, and an outline of on-going maintenance regimes is required.		Removed - captured in Code of Practice
1.10	The cost of planting and establishing street and park trees within new subdivisions will be covered by the developer. All trees will have a minimum establishment maintenance period of 36 months. Planting must meet the maintenance standards required in the QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice.		Removed - captured in Code of Practice

1.11	Any private individual seeking to plant a tree on Council land will require a Licence to Occupy from the Council. QLDC is entitled to remove unauthorised plantings and recover the costs of the removal process.	1.7 Require a Licence to Occupy for the planting of any tree(s) by a private individual.	Simplified
1.12	<p>Council shall continue to partner with community groups which manage wilding control strategically, with an approach based on profile and vulnerability of landscapes. Vulnerable landscapes include sub-alpine tussock land and grey shrub land.</p> <p><i>Note: Planting wilding exotic species, those with potential invasive growth, is prohibited for most species as identified in QLDC's District Plan Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter (Chapter 34 of the Proposed District Plan).</i></p> <p><i>Note: For more information on tree planting refer to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• QLDC District Plan - Wilding Exotic Trees Chapter</li> <li>• QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice</li> <li>• QLDC Trail Design Standards &amp; Specifications</li> </ul>		<p>Moved to Tree Removal section – new Policy 4.14</p> <p>First note - now Policy 1.8</p> <p>Second note - added to reference list at bottom</p>
		1.8 Prohibit the planting of wilding exotic species in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 34 of the Queenstown Lakes District Plan.	Previously a note attached to Policy 1.12
		1.9 Encourage opportunities to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.	Moved from Ecological & Heritage Improvements section – previously Policy 2.16
	<b>Tree Replacement section moved to own section 5.0</b>		
	<b>Community Tree Planting and Activities</b>		
1.14	QLDC encourages community involvement and will endeavour to support and enhance community planting and engagement opportunities.	1.10 Encourage community involvement and support and enhance community planting and engagement opportunities.	Simplified
1.15	Community-initiated tree planting requires prior approval from the asset owner of the land (i.e. the specific Council department). Information to be provided for approval should include the proposed site, planting locations, species, the perspective of surrounding neighbours, effects on land uses such as tracks and infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance arrangements.	<p>1.11 Require prior approval for all community-initiated tree planting and removal.</p> <p><i>Note: Community planting sites are subject to Community Agreements with QLDC.</i></p>	Simplified

	<i>Note: Community Harvest Gardens and orchards are subject to management agreements with QLDC.</i>		
	<b>Commemorative Trees</b>		
		1.12 Ensure commemorative tree planting is undertaken to honour a person or event of significance to the local community.	New policy inserted
		1.13 Ensure the tree location and species are suitable for the site.	New policy inserted
		1.14 Ensure the tree species and location are relevant to the commemoration and contribute to the amenity of the surrounding environment.	New policy inserted
1.16	Requests for commemorative tree planting in public open space will be dealt with by Parks Officers. Applications will be considered according to the commemorative purpose, site, and tree species. Decisions will be made by the relevant Committee or Board.		Removed – covered in new section 6.0
1.17	While QLDC will make every effort to retain a commemorative tree, we reserve the right to remove commemorative trees in line with our removals policies. The tree replacement policy applies, however the replacement trees will not be commemorative trees.  <i>Note: For more information on commemoration and memorials refer to:</i> · QLDC Plaques, Memorials & Monuments Policy · QLDC Cemeteries Handbook	1.15 Acknowledge that while Council will make every effort to retain a commemorative tree, commemorative trees may be removed.	Simplified  Note added to reference list

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Tree Policy 2022</b>	<b>Draft Tree Policy 2023</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Tree Maintenance</b>	<b>2.0 Tree Maintenance and Risk Management</b>	
		2.1 Maintain trees in their natural form as this is best for tree health.	Previously included in Policy 2.9

2.1	QLDC will maintain tree canopy clearances over footpaths, cycle ways, tracks and trails, carriageways, vehicle crossings, and on-street car parks where it is practical to do so. In instances when pruning is likely to cause long or short-term detriment to the tree, Council will prune the tree to the extent required for the interest of public safety.	2.6 Maintain tree canopy clearances over footpaths, cycle ways, tracks and trails, carriageways, vehicle crossings, on-street car parks and infrastructure where it is practical to do so, including to maintain vehicle and pedestrian sightlines. Where pruning is likely to cause long or short-term detriment to the tree, Council will prune the tree only to the extent required for public safety.  <i>Note: Trees will be maintained to a minimum of 4.5m height clearance above a road and 3m height clearance above a cycle path that is next to a road or highway, as per the QLDC Subdivision Code of Practice.</i>	Simplified + note added
2.2	Trees which compromise and/or conflict with shipping navigation aids or radio and telecommunications operations shall be pruned and/or removed as deemed necessary to maintain safety and essential services.		Removed - not relevant
2.3	Trees on urban connector routes and roads shall be pruned or replaced to provide adequate visibility where they impede or obstruct access for pedestrian, active travel and vehicular traffic.		Removed - covered under Policy 2.6
2.4	QLDC will prune trees to provide necessary clearances to above-ground infrastructure such as power lines and other overhead services. Where pruning is likely to cause long term detriment to the tree's health and structure, we will engage with the network owner to explore alternative options to pruning, such as the bundling of wires.		Removed - covered under Policy 2.6
2.5	QLDC will prune trees obstructing street and reserve lights to limit any reduction in light penetration.		Removed - covered under Policy 2.6
2.6	Where required, public trees will be pruned to improve public safety. This may include but is not limited to pruning to improve sightlines or pruning for crime prevention purposes.		Removed – covered under Policy 2.6
2.7	All pruning shall be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by QLDC or a network utility operator. Where Council property leaseholders have agreements to maintain their trees, they must use a qualified arborist.  <i>Note: 'Works arborist' and 'Qualified arborist' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.</i>	2.3 Require all pruning be undertaken by, or under the supervision of a works arborist or a qualified arborist.	Simplified
2.8	Tree work shall be carried out in alignment with the minimum recognised and accepted contemporary arboricultural standards according to the New Zealand Arboricultural Association (NZARB) Minimum Industry Standards (MIS).		Removed - covered under Policy 2.3

2.9	QLDC will not undertake full height reduction pruning to alleviate tree issues such as shading or debris, or the establishment, retention or enhancement of views (trees shall not be topped). Maintaining trees in their natural form is best for tree health. Topping can create additional maintenance issues, e.g., by creating an entry point for decay. Topping is internationally recognised as unsound arboricultural practice.	2.2 Prohibit topping of trees due to it being internationally recognised as unsound arboricultural practice.	Simplified
		2.4 Avoid pruning for enhancement of views.	Previously included in Policy 2.9
2.10	QLDC may consider other forms of pruning, branch removal or targeted canopy reductions to alleviate boundary encroachment, views, adverse shading or debris at the request of an individual. Provided, in a Council arborist's opinion, this will not negatively affect the health or structural integrity of the tree or the environmental, aesthetic, landscape or amenity benefits provided by the tree.	2.5 Consider pruning, branch removal or targeted canopy reductions to alleviate boundary encroachment or significant adverse shading, where this will not negatively affect the health or structural integrity of the tree or the environmental, aesthetic, landscape or amenity benefits provided by the tree.	Simplified
2.11	Where a tree pruning request has been approved by a Council arborist, and the benefits of the pruning are considered to be solely beneficial to the property owner(s), Council reserves the right to request the resident(s) meet(s) the financial costs of pruning. Expected costs will be provided prior to any works being undertaken.		Removed – covered in new section 6.0
		2.7 Utilise the Visual Tree Assessment and Quantified Tree Risk Assessment methodologies to manage the risk posed by trees in a proportionate and practical way.	Moved from old Tree Risk section – previously Policy 2.13 Simplified
		2.8 Customise maintenance for trees protected by the District Plan and for trees of significance that are likely to be worthy of protected status in the future.	Moved from old Ecological & Heritage Improvements section – previously Policy 2.18 Simplified
	<b>Tree Risk</b>		
2.12	QLDC will maintain our trees to promote structurally sound growth and reduce branch and whole tree failure where it is likely to increase risk to people and property to an unacceptable risk.  <i>Note: 'Unacceptable risk' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.</i>		Removed – covered in Tree Maintenance and Risk Management section  Note moved to Tree Removal section – Policy 4.2

2.13	<p>QLDC has developed and adheres to an internal Tree Risk Management Procedure to manage the risk posed by trees in a proportionate and practical way.</p> <p>This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to identify high risk trees</li> <li>• Details of different types of assessments</li> <li>• Frequency of assessments</li> <li>• How these trees will be managed</li> <li>• Process for escalating tree risk once identified.</li> </ul>		Moved to Tree Maintenance and Risk Management section – Policy 2.7
2.14	QLDC will improve and maintain a publicly available database of tree assets.		Removed
2.15	The management of risk posed by trees shall be prioritized over the amenity or historical value provided by the tree. The management of risk should include tree pruning and/or adapting the area surrounding the tree. Removal should only be considered as a last resort.		Removed - covered in Tree Maintenance and Risk Management section 2.0
	<b>Ecological and Heritage Improvements</b>		
2.16	Council will encourage opportunities to provide habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.		Moved to Tree Planting section - Policy 1.9
2.17	Council will support the ecological benefits provided by trees through our tree maintenance programme.		Removed
2.18	Council will customise maintenance for Protected Trees on Council administered land and for trees of significance that are likely to be worthy of protected status in the future. Protected Trees have achieved their status through the public District Plan process due to attributes such as historic significance, species and health. They have been afforded a level of protection that means they should be well cared for.		Moved to Tree Maintenance and Risk Management section – Policy 2.8

Policy #	Current policy	Proposed policy	Comments
3.0	Working Around Trees	3.0 Protection	

3.1	<p>A Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) for any activity or work proposed near a public tree where the works are within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), or likely to impact the tree, is to be submitted by the person(s) undertaking/managing the works to QLDC for approval prior to works commencing. See Diagram 1.</p> <p><i>Note: An incursion of any more than 10% of the area of the TPZ is considered a major incursion.</i></p> <p><i>No works should take place within 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.</i></p>	3.1 Require a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) for any activity or work proposed near a public tree where the works are likely to impact the tree or its root zone prior to works commencing.	Simplified
3.2	Development projects on Council land will prioritise the retention of mature trees through all aspects of the project.		Removed
		<p>3.2 Recognise that any above or below groundwork or activity within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) can potentially damage the tree's root system and compromise tree health and stability.</p> <p><i>Refer to Diagram 1 below.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The TPZ is the combination of the root area and crown area requiring protection. TPZ = (12 x Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) + any need for crown protection.</i></p>	New policy inserted + new diagram showing TPZ
		3.3 Establish a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) in accordance with any required Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) for the duration of any works.	Previously included in Policy 3.1
		3.4 Avoid work within the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) unless there are exceptional circumstances.	Previously included in Policy 3.1
		3.5 Require arborist assessment where works within a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) are to exceed 10% of the area of the TPZ.	New policy inserted
		3.6 Consider root pruning of trees only where it is associated with the installation, repair, renewal, or maintenance of assets near a tree subject to TPZ being followed. This may include arborist consultation during the design, implementation and completion of a project or activity.	New policy inserted

3.3	<p>QLDC reserves the right to seek compensation and/or remediation for loss or damage to public trees and their immediate environment as a result of works.</p> <p>Damage or loss will include but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Death or decline of tree(s) health</li> <li>• Physical damage to the tree(s)</li> <li>• Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil</li> <li>• Loss of environmental and ecological benefits provided by the tree.</li> </ul> <p>QLDC will determine the value through either the cost of replacement/repair of loss/damage or through an approved tree valuation method (refer to Policies 3.4-3.6), whichever we deem to be most appropriate.</p> <p>Replacement costs include removal of tree debris, stump grinding, new tree establishment, irrigation, and formative maintenance.</p>	<p>3.7 Seek compensation and/or replacement where works around trees result in damage or loss to trees in accordance with Policies 4.19, 5.1 and 5.2 below. Damage or loss includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Death or decline of tree(s) health</li> <li>- Physical damage to the tree(s)</li> <li>- Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil</li> <li>- Loss of environmental and ecological benefits provided by the tree.</li> </ul>	<p>Simplified</p> <p>Costs covered in new section 6.0</p>
	<b>Tree Value</b>		
3.4	QLDC will implement, and adapt if required, a recognised system for valuing public trees.		Removed – covered in Definitions section
3.5	The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture’s (RNZIH) Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) shall be used as the standard for assessing the health, condition, heritage significance and if required monetary value of trees, unless superseded by a more appropriate method.		Moved to Tree Removal – Policy 4.19 as a Note
3.6	If a monetary value has been deemed the most appropriate compensation method, see Policy 3.3, payment to QLDC will be required prior to the removal of any tree approved for removal on Council land, at the rate used in the recognised valuation tool.		Removed – covered in new section 6.0

<b>Policy #</b>	<b>Current policy</b>	<b>Proposed policy</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Tree Removal</b>		
	<b>Removal of Trees</b>	<b>Removal of Trees Policies</b>	
4.1	Trees in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound, as determined by a Council or technician arborist, may be removed as part of routine maintenance and renewal programmes, or sooner, if urgent action is required for public safety or to avoid damage to property.	4.1 Allow removal of trees in a state of irreversible decline, that are dead and/or which are structurally unsound, as determined by a Council arborist, where they pose an unacceptable risk to the public or property.	Simplified
4.2	Trees that are unhealthy, dead and/or structurally unsound may be retained for ecological purposes if they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the public or property. This is established through the Tree Risk Management Procedure, described in Policy 2.13.		Removed – covered in Policy 4.1
4.3	Tree removal will be considered where the tree is causing, or likely to cause, significant damage to buildings, services or property (both public or privately owned), and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree. More suitable replacements will be sought and planted in the same location or vicinity if it can be achieved.	4.3 Consider tree removal where the tree is causing, or likely to cause, significant damage to buildings, services or property (both public or privately owned), and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree.	Simplified
4.4	Trees that are posing an unacceptable safety risk to the public and cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions will be removed as per the tree replacement Policy 1.13.	4.2 Allow removal of trees that pose an unacceptable safety risk to the public or property that cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions.  <i>Note: The unacceptable safety risk is determined by using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA).</i>	Simplified  Note moved from Tree Risk section 2.12
4.5	Trees that are impeding consented legal access will be removed only when all other alternatives have been explored and are not viable.	4.4 Consider removal of trees that are impeding consented legal access only when all other alternatives have been explored and are not viable.	Simplified
4.6	Council will approve tree removal to carry out repairs or replace underground infrastructure only when available alternatives have been explored and are considered not viable.	4.5 Approve tree removal to carry out repairs or replace underground infrastructure only where all available alternatives have been explored and are not viable.	Simplified
4.7	Council approval for tree removal to facilitate projects on Council land will consider the value of the project to the community, including public health and/or the local environment, in conjunction with the benefits of retaining		Removed

	existing trees compared with their loss and proposed replacement planting.		
		4.6 Consider tree removal for public works only where all available alternatives have been explored and are not viable.	New policy inserted
4.8	Council may consider tree removal where the necessary pruning clearances for overhead electrical lines (as required by the relevant 'hazards from trees' regulations) are not able to be achieved without causing long term detriment to the tree and no alternative to removal can be reached with the network utility operator.  <i>Note: Electricity Act (1992) takes precedence over this tree policy.</i>	4.7 Consider tree removal where the necessary pruning clearances for overhead electrical lines (as required by the relevant 'hazards from trees' regulations) are not able to be achieved without causing long-term detriment to the tree and no alternative to removal can be reached with the network utility operator.  <i>Note: Electricity Act (1992) takes precedence over this tree policy.</i>	Simplified
4.9	Council will only accept tree removal in emergency situations where the removal is considered absolutely necessary for immediate access to critical infrastructure. This will only be undertaken where failure to access critical infrastructure will lead to an unacceptable risk to public health, or significant property damage or harm to personnel.  <i>Note: 'Critical infrastructure' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.</i>	4.8 Allow tree removal in emergency situations where the removal is absolutely necessary for immediate access to critical infrastructure. This will only be undertaken where failure to access critical infrastructure will lead to an unacceptable risk to public health, or significant property damage or harm to personnel.	Simplified  Note removed
4.10	Healthy and structurally sound trees may be removed to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases. This includes the removal of pest trees where they are deemed a threat to indigenous flora and fauna and non-pest species.	4.9 Consider removal of healthy and structurally sound trees that are pest or noxious species where they are assessed as being sources of disruption to a specific ecosystem or to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases.	Simplified
4.11	Wilding noxious or pest trees may be strategically removed where they are determined to be a threat as a pest species or cause a nuisance in a particular location, to manage or prevent the spread of pests and diseases. This includes the removal or poisoning of pest trees. Requirement for replacement planting will be determined by any amenity values the trees provided.		Removed – covered in Policy 4.9
		4.10 Restrict removal of trees for health reasons unless there is certification from a medical practitioner or a clinical immunologist confirming that the tree(s) is/are the sole cause of the Applicant(s) condition and that removal of the tree(s) is the sole option available for improving the applicant(s) condition.	New policy inserted

4.12	Tree removals must be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a works arborist employed or contracted by QLDC or a network utility operator.	4.17 Require all tree removals to be undertaken by a suitably qualified works arborist.	Simplified
4.13	<p>QLDC will not remove trees for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise obstruction of views</li> <li>• To minimise obstruction of commercial or advertising signage</li> <li>• To reduce leaf or fruit litter and other debris</li> <li>• To reduce shading</li> <li>• For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.17.</li> <li>• When the risk posed by the tree meets the requirements of the Tree Risk Management Procedure.</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Tree Removals will be subject to the tree replacement policy.</i></p>	<p>4.11 Prohibit tree removals for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To minimise obstruction of views</li> <li>- To minimise obstruction of commercial or advertising signage</li> <li>- To reduce leaf or fruit litter, blossom, bird droppings and other debris</li> <li>- To reduce shading</li> <li>- For contributing to allergenic or irritant responses unless approved under section 4.10.</li> </ul>	Simplified
		4.12 Require removal of unauthorised plantings where they do not meet the requirements of this policy and recover the costs of the removal process where possible.	Moved from Cost of Tree Removals section – previously Policies 4.20 and 4.21
		4.13 Avoid tree removal, other than in exceptional circumstances, where the QLDC Arborist has assessed the tree as being unsuitable for its location due to species type.	Moved from Public Requests for Tree Removals – previously Policy 4.18
		4.14 Ensure ongoing partnership between Council and community groups to manage wilding conifers in accordance with relevant wilding conifer control strategies.	Moved from Tree Planting section – previously Policy 1.12  Simplified
		4.15 Require planting and establishment of replacement trees prior to the removal of the existing tree(s) where possible, particularly where a significant tree(s) are proposed to be removed.	New policy inserted
		4.16 Undertake public consultation where a significant tree is proposed to be removed.	New policy inserted
		4.18 Ensure that the costs associated with the removal of trees are met by the Applicant.	Moved from Cost of Tree Removals section – previously Policy 4.21

		<p>4.19 Require financial compensation for the loss or removal of trees where they are not able to be replaced in accordance with the policies in Section 5.0 below. Payment is required prior to the removal of the tree.</p> <p><i>Note: The Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture's (RNZIH) Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) shall be used as the standard for identifying the required financial compensation, or any such tree evaluation methodology such as iTree that QLDC adopts in future.</i></p>	<p>New policy inserted</p> <p>Note moved from Tree Value section – previously Policy 3.5</p>
	<b>Public Requests for Tree Removals</b>	<b>Requests now covered in Section 6.0 (Application, Decision Making and Undertaking Works)</b>	
4.14	<p>A 'Tree Works Application' form must be submitted for any tree work requests, including tree removals.</p> <p><i>Note: A Tree Works Application form can be found on the QLDC website or requested from QLDC Customer Services, or the Parks &amp; Reserves Department.</i></p>		Removed - covered in new section 6.0
4.15	<p>A tree removal request will be assessed against Policies 4.1 - 4.5. Should the request meet any of the policy requirements, the tree may be removed as part of routine maintenance, or sooner if the risk posed is unacceptable. If it does not meet the policy requirements QLDC will work with the applicant to seek alternative solutions to removal, e.g., targeted pruning.</p> <p>Applications for tree removals can be made under the following Policies' criteria 4.16-4.18.</p>		Removed – covered in Tree Removal section 4.0
4.16	<p>Health - Requests for removal of tree(s) will be considered for health reasons where there is confirmation from either the applicant(s) medical practitioner, a clinical immunologist or the medical officer of health confirming that the tree(s) is/are the sole cause of the applicant(s) condition and that removal of the tree(s) is the sole option available for improving the applicant(s) condition.</p>		Moved to Tree Removal section – Policy 4.10
4.17	<p>Property damage - Requests for removal of tree(s) that are causing property damage will be considered where the damage is confirmed by the Council arborist to be a direct result of the tree and where no alternative measures (including engineering solutions) can be used to mitigate the problem.</p>		Moved to Tree Removal section – Policy 4.2

4.18	<p>Other - Requests for removal of tree(s) due to other issues will only be approved under exceptional circumstances and will be required to meet all the criteria below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The issue caused by the tree has a significant effect on the applicant's day to day living</li> <li>• The tree is the sole cause of the issue</li> <li>• The issue is not able to be mitigated through general maintenance by the applicant (e.g., clearing gutters of leaves)</li> <li>• The issue caused by the tree cannot be mitigated by pruning</li> <li>• No reasonable engineering solution can mitigate the issue caused by the tree.</li> </ul>		Moved to Tree Removal section – Policy 4.18
4.19	<p>If no alternative resolution to a tree removal request is acceptable, the person requesting the removal of the tree will need to raise a request to the relevant Committee or Board to consider the decision. This must be accompanied by a tree report prepared by a technician arborist and include any other relevant information pertaining to the application. If a resource consent is required, the request for tree removal must be made prior to applying for resource consent.</p> <p>All reporting and consents must be provided by the applicant at the applicant's cost. Payment for removal is determined by Policy 4.21.</p>		Removed - covered in new Section 6.0
	<b>Cost of Tree Removal</b>	<b>Costs now covered in Section 6.0 (Application, Decision Making and Undertaking Works)</b>	
4.20	<p>Where the removal of a tree is requested and subsequently approved by QLDC, and the tree can be removed in accordance with Policy 4.15, then QLDC will undertake the removal as part of routine maintenance and renewal programmes at no cost to the applicant.</p>		Removed - covered in new Section 6.0

4.21	<p>Where the tree removal request does not meet the criteria of 4.15, but is approved by the relevant committee or board, the committee or board may resolve that the applicant is required to pay part or all of the costs, including the application fee (as per Council's Fees and Charges Schedule), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any additional costs associated with reporting on the tree removal application</li> <li>• Actual cost of tree removal and replacement</li> <li>• The value of the environmental, economic, and social services provided to the district by the tree (as determined by our approved tree valuation method)</li> </ul> <p><i>Note: Projected costs will be supplied to the applicant for approval prior to any removal works.</i></p>		Moved to Tree Removal sections – Policies 4.12 and 4.18
	<b>Vandalism</b>		
4.22	<p>QLDC takes damage, vandalism and unauthorised removal of public trees very seriously. We will investigate and enforce under the appropriate legislation, including the Reserves Act (1977) and the Local Government Act (2002). Matters will be referred to the Police when appropriate.</p>		Moved to Protection section 3.0 and included as a statement rather than a policy

Policy #	Current policy	Proposed policy	Comments
	<b>Originally in Tree Planting section</b>	<b>5.0 Tree Replacement</b>	
1.13	<p>A minimum of two new trees will be planted for every tree removed, with the projected canopy cover replacing what is lost within 20 years. This means more than two trees may be required.</p> <p>The location of replacement trees will be based on the following, in order of priority:</p> <p>Removals within road reserves:</p> <p>(1) In the same road corridor where the tree was removed; or  (2) If no further planting can be practically located in the road corridor, then in the closest road corridor that requires either new or additional planting; or  (3) Within the urban forest.</p> <p>Removals on land owned or administered by QLDC:</p> <p>(1) On the same land or in the reserve where the tree was removed; or  (2) If no further planting on the land or in the reserve is required, then in the closest road corridor or reserve that requires either new or additional planting; or  (3) Within the urban forest.</p> <p><i>Note: Trees approved for relocation are not subject to replacement policies.</i></p> <p><i>Note: 'Urban forest' can be found in the Definitions section of this document.</i></p>	<p>5.1 Require the planting of a minimum of two new trees for every tree removed, with the projected canopy cover replacing what is lost within 20 years. This means more than two trees may be required.</p>	Simplified
		<p>5.2 Require the planting of replacement trees in the following locations, in order of priority:</p> <p>Removals within road reserves:</p> <p>(1) In the same road corridor where the tree was removed where this is practicable; or  (2) At another location determined by the QLDC arborist.</p> <p>Removals on land owned or administered by QLDC:</p> <p>(1) On the same land or in the reserve where the tree was removed where this is practicable; or  (2) At another location determined by the QLDC arborist.</p>	Simplified