



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO ALL NEW HOME/LAND OWNERS**

### **STREET TREES AND IRRIGATION**

The Selwyn District Council would like to make all new home/land owners and their contractors aware of the process of gaining approval to relocate/remove street trees, or alter Council irrigations systems.

In some areas of the Selwyn District, various types of linked dripper irrigation systems are installed to water establishing street trees. In some cases, the system has not been installed very deep in the ground. It is particularly important that any contractors who are going to be excavating within road berms are aware of this and excavate carefully to locate irrigation lines or drippers, or seek assistance from Council as to their presence/location before excavating. Similarly, care should be taken when excavating near street trees to avoid damage to tree roots.

The developer has put a lot of effort into enhancing the streetscape and providing an attractive environment within your subdivision. It is accepted that in some cases when a new home is built, a planted street tree and associated irrigation system may need to be shifted or removed to facilitate vehicle access to the site. Upon formal request, Council will consider giving approval for such changes to the initial planting plan or irrigation system on a case by case basis, after exploring all alternative options available.

Where it has been qualified that trees can be removed or relocated and/or an irrigation system needs to be shifted, then these works are to be organised by Council and/or the Developer and carried out by one of their approved contractors. All costs associated with these works are to be borne by the requesting land owner.

Please be aware, that in some situations, street trees can be removed and landscaping in a subdivision might still be under the management of the developer. In such cases, Council should still be contacted in the first instance, who will forward the request onto the developer for a response.

The following procedure is to be followed by a land owner who is wanting to request removal or relocation of a street tree and/or associated irrigation systems, in order to facilitate vehicle access to their property.

Requests for the removal or shifting of a tree must be made in writing to the Council Reserves Department stating:

- Street address of the property and the lot number;
- Name of the contact person;
- Contact details;
- Reason for the tree to be removed

On receipt of this formal request, Council staff will assess the following:

- Quality of the tree and whether or not the tree can successfully be moved;
- Whether an irrigation system is present and also needs shifting or decommissioning;
- Any conditions of sale by the developer;
- Any Resource Consent conditions;
- Streetscape theme and amenity value contribution of the tree.

If a tree is not able to be shifted and has to be removed, the landowner may also be required to pay for the cost to plant another tree of the same species and of similar size within the road berm as a replacement.

If an agent of the land owner makes the request to Council, then the agent is deemed to be the person responsible for the payment of all expenses relating to this procedure.

#### CARE FOR ESTABLISHING STREET TREES

Although the Developer and/or Council endeavours to water in newly planted street trees during their initial establishment years, the public is encouraged to assist with watering trees on your road berm. Establishing a tree in an urban environment faces many challenges so give your tree the best chance of reaching its full potential and value.

Follow the simple directions below to help your tree survive.

When should I water?

During the dry summer periods of November – March and if your trees shows signs of drought stress like wilting and upward curling or rolling, browning of leaves, twig and branch dieback.

If you can, avoid watering during the hottest part of the day.

Any method below can be followed once a fortnight while during dry periods

- If your tree has been planted with a piped watering system. Lift the cap pour down 15-20 litres of water and replace the cap to allow the water to then slowly soak into the root zone of the tree.
- If you have in-ground irrigation on your berm lawn, let it run an extra 30 minutes in the zone where you have trees. This will allow the water to penetrate through the turf and thatch and allow more water to soak down to the roots of the tree.
- You can also use a garden hose turned on to a very slow trickle placed 40-90cm from the trunk. Turn the water on to deliver a very slow trickle and let the water soak into the ground for about 2 hours around the tree pit.

Council implements an annual programme of street tree inspections and maintenance throughout the district. Street tree maintenance is the responsibility of the Council, who employs a contractor to provide arboricultural services. It is critical that any other tree maintenance required is undertaken by our appointed contractor to ensure consistency in both quality and tree form.

Please contact us by lodging a Service request if your tree requires any tree maintenance.

Thank you for your assistance and co-operation

Reserves Maintenance Staff  
Selwyn District Council