



NZ-0016

**ASPLUNDH**

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165564

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Conrad Pattison  
District Arborist  
New Plymouth District Council  
New Plymouth

Hi Conrad

### **BROOKLANDS PARK RACE COURSE ENTRANCE**

Thanks for taking the time to meet with me to discuss the proposed access way development through the race course entrance to Brooklands Park (Pukekura), New Plymouth.

Due to the evolving use of greater Pukekura Park, particularly with entertainment and events being held at the Bowl of Brooklands, a need has arisen to develop the access road down to the bowl to accommodate heavy and high transport vehicles. There is evidence of slippage on the existing road tarmac near the large puriri (*Vitex lucens*) which is expected to deteriorate further, and will not maintain the current volumes of heavy traffic.

To my knowledge there has been a proposal that the current access way be retained and rebuilt to accommodate the high trucks that are required to transport equipment to and from the bowl. Removing the unstable fill under the Puriri dripline and replacing with spec fill to be compacted would be severely detrimental to the Puriri. The damage to the existing root structure of the tree would be huge and I doubt the tree would survive such treatment.

This option will be detrimental to the health of the large puriri, and possibly result in tree instability below ground level. Puriri are known to be very sensitive to even minor changes in their immediate environment, especially changes that affect their rooting system. This particular tree is considered to be of an age where its vigour and vitality is no longer resilient to combat the adverse effects of physical damages and ground level changes that can be expected of a much younger tree. This option may only be feasible if the ground level remains unaltered, and the road is re-routed beyond the dripline of the puriri, this would take significant engineering at very high cost which maybe impractical.

The tree is a grand specimen that should be given utmost importance to preserving its health and current structure without human intervention. The trees age is difficult to determine accurately but it is estimated to be no less than 300 years old. The main trunk has a diameter of 2.45 meters (girth 6.55m), its height is approximately 12.0 meters, and it has a spread of 25.0 meters. These specifications put this tree in the very large category for its species.

The option of creating a new access track below the puriri that will join the existing road below the area of tarmac slumpage is considered the best option when considering the long term value of the affected trees, should the development go ahead. This option will involve deep ground contouring and the removal of several trees of differing species and ages, however the combined value of the trees to be removed does not exceed the value of the single puriri. This option will see two large

kohehe (*dysoxylum spectabile*) that appear to be reliant on each other for support, either completely removed or at best, significantly altered through arboricultural intervention.

No doubt careful consideration has been given to all aspects of this project including the affects to the immediate environment and retention of specimen trees as a valuable botanic collection. As with all rate payer funded projects, the cost of the job must be reasonable for the desired project outcome. In this case, it would be prudent to consider the value of the trees as both specimens and as individuals and their retention as long term assets, prior to finalising any ground work near the trees that have been identified as high value.

Please contact me directly if you have any further queries.

Kind regards

***Bruce MacDonald***

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