

# Arboricultural Report

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13<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Waimakariri District Council Notable Tree Report  
STEM Tree Assessment

Report Author – Liz Warner

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# WDC Notable Tree Report - STEM Tree Assessment

## 1.0 Executive Summary

This report was commissioned by Trevor Ellis, Development Planning Manager at Waimakariri District Council.

Waimakariri District Council are currently undergoing a review of its District Plan, including all trees listed as Notable protected trees within the district plan.

I was asked to assess all privately-owned Notable trees using the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM), which is the method used by many Councils throughout New Zealand for assessing their Notable trees. The trees were previously assessed using STEM in 2011/2012.

The tree assessments were carried out in November and December 2019. All trees were surveyed from ground level only, with a visual tree assessment (VTA) and STEM evaluation carried out, including a valuation for each tree or group of trees. Photographs of each tree or group of trees were taken. No soil samples or tree samples were collected.

The full tree assessment results have been collated in an Excel spreadsheet (see attached); a summary of the results can be found below.

All historical information relating to the notable trees, supplied by WDC on the previous survey has been included in this survey and has not been verified in any way. All tree ages have been either estimated by the assessor or taken from the previous survey.

All additional trees that did not already have a Tree ID number have been given a new Tree ID number starting at P100.

Waimakariri District Council have asked me to recommend a STEM threshold, this threshold decides which trees are included in the district plan as protected notable tree and which are not. After looking at the thresholds of several other councils throughout New Zealand I believe a threshold of 130 points would be suitable to include all significant trees within the district.

If the threshold of 130 STEM points were to be applied to this tree survey, then 59 of the 68 trees or groups of trees would be included in the new district plan.

WDC Notable Tree Report - STEM Tree Assessment

<b>WDC Notable Trees STEM Tree Assessment - Summary</b>	
Total number of individual trees assessed	60
Total number of groups of trees assessed	8
Total Number of Properties/Sites visited	28
Total Number of different tree species assessed	28
Trees/groups under 100 STEM Points	1
Trees/groups between 100-130 STEM Points	8
Trees/groups between 130-150 STEM Points	18
Trees/groups between 150-200 STEM Points	38
Trees/groups above 200 STEM Points	3



**Liz Warner** - *BSc (Hons) Arboriculture*

**Consultant Arborist**