

Brief Submission for General Public to Select Committee on Natural & Built Environments Bill

1. Delete the restriction on councils protecting trees in s125 of Natural and Built Environments Act, noting that as proposed this removes and prevents the current general tree protections on public land, undeveloped land and rural land in the Resource Management Act.
2. Support the proposed directions to councils protecting trees in the National Planning Framework.
3. Require the urgent and immediate introduction of the elements of the National Planning Framework that will direct councils to protect trees, not waiting for up to 8 years to implement this element.
4. Note that definition of “specimen trees” will be critical in the National Planning Framework.
5. Support the Government involving The Tree Council and New Zealand Arboricultural Association in discussions to help define policy matters (such as the definition of “specimen trees” to protect trees in the National Planning Framework.
6. Support a requirement for councils to maintain a schedule of notable trees for their region and require those councils who do not currently have such a schedule to create one by a specified date.