

30 October 2020

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Colin Lunn  
Economy and Development/Infrastructure Contracts  
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Our reference: DOC/20/96728

Dear [REDACTED]

**Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

We refer to your official information request dated 1 October 2020 for information relating to the recent removal of Pohutukawa – Raymond Terrace

The information you have requested is included.

Three quotes to remove the 12 Pohutukawa were sought. Two Contractors provided quotes to remove the trees (including stump grinding) ranging in price from \$28,945.00 to \$32,750.00 + GST.

The lowest quote was accepted and the work carried out by our incumbent contractor Downer.

The trees were reluctantly removed for the following reasons:

- The trees had outgrown their existing berm spaces with no room left to grow, with no opportunity to widen the existing berm space
- The concrete footpaths, kerb and channel and pavement surface in Raymond Terrace have been regularly repaired and requires further repair at the Brasell Street end. Repairs are programmed to occur shortly
- The trees planted on the powerline side of the street had been v-pruned to meet minimum required growth limit zone clearances from the powerlines. Once strategy of Council's Urban Forest Plan is to remove or reduce the number of trees planted under power lines. Due to the age of the trees/size of the scaffold limbs growing toward the road and private property the trees were more at risk of failing. A Pohutukawa outside 92 Copeland Street was recently removed after a large limb failed, fell through a fence, damaging a car with the resident trapped inside the car!
- The trees were also causing significant damage to private property footpaths, motor vehicle crossings and fences. I do have photos of the damage if required.

Although we have no recent CCTV footage of underground service damage in Raymond Terrace, experience with Pohutukawa of similar size has proven that these trees cause significant damage to sewer, potable water and storm water drains. The trees on Raymond Terrace were planted directly on top of these services.

If you have any issues with our response or wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me direct.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Colin Lunn – Contracts Manager Green Assets