

**11.2.13 REQUEST FOR THE REMOVAL OF 3 NEW ZEALAND CHRISTMAS TREES, 46 OZONE PARADE, COTTESLOE**

**File No:** PR50770  
**Attachments:** [Copy of letter re Street Tree Removal Ozone Parade](#)  
[Photos of NZ Christmas Tree](#)  
[Copy of Plan of Site Ozone Pde](#)  
[Description of Tree Type](#)

**Responsible Officer:** Carl Askew  
Chief Executive Officer

**Author:** Geoff Trigg  
Manager Engineering Services

**Proposed Meeting Date:** 22 May 2012

**Author Disclosure of Interest** Nil

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**SUMMARY**

Three New Zealand Christmas trees grow as verge trees in front of 46 Ozone Parade. The property owners have requested the removal of these trees and their replacement with WA Peppermint trees. The reasons for this request are the very aggressive root system of the species and their heavy use of water.

The recommendation is that Council agree to the owners of 46 Ozone Parade removing three New Zealand Christmas trees from the verge, with the owners to fund this removal and the planting of two new WA Peppermint trees as replacements.

**BACKGROUND**

These street trees are mature and are not breaking up kerbing or footpaths. Several of the same species have been removed over the last few years due to the tree dying, the tree being in the way of an approved crossover / entry or to a combination of damage and poor health.

A large development on the corner of Margaret Street and Ozone Street originally had a dying pine tree and two poor quality gum trees fronting the site which were removed. As part of the landscaping to be undertaken on the site, the verge planting will include WA Peppermint trees as street trees. All other gaps in this verge will be planted with the same species. Council no longer uses the New Zealand Christmas trees as a street tree because of the root issues.

**STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS**

Nil

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Council's Street Tree policy applies.

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**STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT**

There are no legal or statutory issues relating to the planting of street trees or the choice of species for such planting.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The removal of these trees would be by Council staff, at an estimated total cost of \$2,000, which is recommended to be met by the owners of 46 Ozone Parade.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The New Zealand Christmas Tree is not a native species of Australia and the most sustainable street tree type is normally a local native species such as the WA Peppermint tree.

**CONSULTATION**

Nil

**STAFF COMMENT**

There is a general push from residents on this section of Ozone Parade to have all of the New Zealand Christmas Trees replaced with WA Peppermint trees. The main reason is because of the extensive root system that spreads out to find moisture. With the existing gaps in the line of trees or this street section being planned to receive WA Peppermint trees as part of new landscaping efforts, the time is appropriate to allow the removal of these three New Zealand Christmas trees (one will need removal because of the crossover location), with the owners funding the removal plus installation of two new WA Peppermint trees.

**VOTING**

Simple Majority

**COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

In light of the determination made in relation to item 10.2.1, Committee were of the opinion that a similar recommendation should be made.

**OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

Moved Cr Rowell, seconded Mayor Morgan

THAT Council agree to the owners of 46 Ozone Parade removing three New Zealand Christmas trees from the verge, with the owners to fund this removal and the planting of two new WA Peppermint trees as replacements.

Lost 0/5

**NEW MOTION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

Moved Cr Boland, seconded Cr Strzina

**THAT Council, in accordance with its Street Tree Policy, obtain an expert's report and conduct public consultation in relation to the removal and replacement of either one or all of the New Zealand Christmas Trees fronting 46 Ozone Parade, and report back to Council.**

**AMENDMENT**

**Moved Cr Strzina, Seconded Mayor Morgan**

**That the words 'obtain an expert's report and' be deleted.**

**Carried 7/1**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

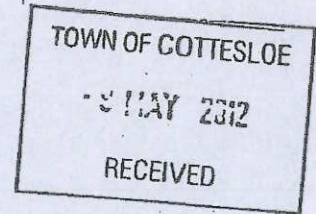
**THAT Council, in accordance with its Street Tree Policy, conduct public consultation in relation to the removal and replacement of either one or all of the New Zealand Christmas Trees fronting 46 Ozone Parade, and report back to Council.**

**THE AMENDED SUBSTANTIVE MOTION WAS PUT**

**Carried 6/2**

7 May 2012

Mr Carl Askew  
Chief Executive Officer  
Town of Cottesloe  
109 Broome Street  
COTTESLOE WA 6011



Dear Mr Askew

**STREET TREE REMOVAL - 46 OZONE PDE COTTESLOE**

We would like to request the removal of the 3 existing New Zealand Christmas Trees on the verge of our property at 46 Ozone Parade Cottesloe

We refer to Ms Liz Balston's letter to your offices dated 19 March 2012, regarding a similar request for her property at 48 Ozone Parade Cottesloe and note that trees at the corner of Ozone Parade and Margaret Street, and Ozone Parade and Broome Street (48 Ozone Parade) have already been removed setting a precedent for our request. We understand that Peppermint Trees are to be planted in their place.

Cottesloe council has removed the New Zealand Christmas Tree from its verge planting list, having recognised that it has a particularly aggressive root system and it is a terrible consumer of scarce water resources.

It also appears that all the remaining New Zealand Christmas trees along this section seem to be coming to the end of their life.

We are now constructing a new residence, and had hoped to extensively landscape and beautify our front verge in the next few months.

There are four houses in a row under construction/renovation in our section of the street, with two of these having had their New Zealand Christmas Trees removed. Perhaps this is an opportune time to replace all of the remaining street trees to create a unified look.

Thank you for your consideration, and please contact us on 9384 9683 should you wish to discuss the above request further.

Yours sincerely

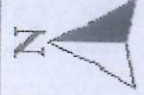
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul and Naomi Quinlivan".

Paul and Naomi Quinlivan  
46 Ozone Parade  
Cottesloe WA 6011









Scale 1:580

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

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STREET TREES, 46 OZONE PARADE,  
COTTESLOE



TOWN OF COTTESLOE



# Metrosideros excelsa

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Pōhutukawa** (*Metrosideros excelsa*) is a coastal evergreen tree in the myrtle family, Myrtaceae, that produces a brilliant display of red flowers made up of a mass of stamens. The Pōhutukawa is one of twelve *Metrosideros* species endemic to New Zealand. Renowned for its vibrant colour and its ability to survive even perched on rocky, precarious cliffs, it has found an important place in New Zealand culture for its strength and beauty and is regarded as a chiefly tree (*rākau rangatira*) by Māori.<sup>[1]</sup>

Pōhutukawa



Pōhutukawa trees

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### Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae  
 (unranked): Angiosperms  
 (unranked): Eudicots  
 (unranked): Rosids  
 Order: Myrtales  
 Family: Myrtaceae  
 Genus: *Metrosideros*  
 Species: *M. excelsa*

### Binomial name

*Metrosideros excelsa*

Gaertn.

### Synonyms

*Metrosideros tomentosa*

## Etymology

The generic name *Metrosideros* derives from the Ancient Greek *metra* or "heartwood" and *sideron* or "iron". The species name *excelsa* is from Latin *excelsus*, "highest, sublime". Pōhutukawa is a Māori word. Its closest equivalent in other Polynesian languages is the Cook Island Māori word *po'utukava*, referring to a coastal shrub with white berries, *Sophora tomentosa*.<sup>[2]</sup> The -hutu- part of the word comes from \*futu, the Polynesian name for the Fish-poison tree (*Barringtonia asiatica*),<sup>[3]</sup> which has flowers similar to those of the Pōhutukawa.

## Distribution

The natural range of the Pōhutukawa is the coastal regions of the North Island of New Zealand, north of a line stretching from New Plymouth (39° S) to Gisborne (38° S),<sup>[4]</sup> where it once formed a continuous coastal fringe. By the 1990s pastoral farming and introduced pests had reduced Pōhutukawa forests by over 90 per cent.<sup>[1]</sup> It also occurs naturally on the shores of lakes in the Rotorua area.



A giant Pōhutukawa at Te Araroa on the East Coast is reputed to be the largest in the country, with a height of 20 metres and a spread of 38 metres (125 ft).<sup>[5]</sup> The tree is renowned as a cliff-dweller, able to maintain a hold in precarious, near-vertical situations. Like its Hawaiian relative the 'ōhi'a lehua (*M. polymorpha*), the Pōhutukawa has shown itself to be efficient in the colonisation of lava plains – notably on Rangitoto, a volcanic island in the Hauraki Gulf.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Description

The Pōhutukawa grows up to 25 metres (82 ft) in height, with a dome-like spreading form. It usually grows as a multi-trunked spreading tree. Its trunks and branches are sometimes festooned with matted, fibrous aerial roots. The oblong, leathery leaves are covered in dense white hairs underneath.<sup>[6]</sup>



The yellow-flowering "Aurea" cultivar

The tree flowers from November to January with a peak in mid to late December (the southern hemisphere summer), with brilliant crimson flowers covering the tree, hence the nickname **New Zealand Christmas Tree**. There is variation between individual trees in the timing of flowering, and in the shade and brightness of the flowers. In isolated populations genetic drift has resulted in local variation: many of the trees growing around the Rotorua lakes produce pink-shaded flowers, and the yellow-flowered cultivar "Aurea" descends from a pair discovered in 1940 on Mōtiti Island in the Bay of Plenty.

## Conservation

In New Zealand, the Pōhutukawa is under threat from browsing by the introduced common brushtail possum which strips the tree of its leaves.<sup>[1]</sup> A charitable conservation trust, Project Crimson, has the aim of reversing the decline of Pōhutukawa and other *Metrosideros* species - its mission statement is "to enable pohutukawa and rata to flourish again in their natural habitat as icons in the hearts and minds of all New Zealanders".



A Pōhutukawa around Mount Maunganui

## Cultivation

The Pōhutukawa is popular in cultivation, and there are fine examples in most North Island coastal cities. Vigorous and easy to grow, the tree flourishes well south of its natural range, and has naturalised in the Wellington area and in the north of the South Island. It has also naturalised on Norfolk Island to the north. The Pōhutukawa has been introduced to other countries with mild-to-warm climates, including south-eastern Australia, where it is naturalising on coastal cliffs near Sydney. In coastal California, it is a popular street and lawn tree, but has caused concern in San Francisco where its "incredibly invasive" root systems are blamed for destroying sewer lines and sidewalks.<sup>[7]</sup> In parts of South Africa, the Pōhutukawa grows so well that it is regarded as an invasive species. The Spanish city of La Coruña has adopted the Pōhutukawa as a floral emblem.<sup>[8]</sup>







## Lydia Giles

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**From:** Lydia Giles  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 July 2012 4:44 PM  
**To:** Lydia Giles  
**Subject:** FW:

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**From:** Greg Boland [mailto:gregboland1@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 03, 2012 4:58 PM  
**To:** BELINDA TARANTO  
**Cc:** Carl Askew  
**Subject:** RE:

Belinda,

Thanks for your contribution on this.  
Council resolved on 28 May for this subject to get out for public comment.  
I will forward your email to the CEO.  
I assume your email can be taken to be your comment (unless you want to add more).  
The CEO can let you know if that approach has any difficulties.

Regards,

Cr Greg Boland  
Town of Cottesloe  
Ph/Fax: 9284 6363  
Mob: 0438 265252

-----Original Message-----

**From:** BELINDA TARANTO [mailto:belinda.taranto@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 May 2012 11:51 AM  
**To:** mayor@cottesloe.wa.gov.au  
**Cc:** cr.jeanes@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.boland@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.walsh@cottesloe.wa.gov.au;  
cr.downes@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.strzina@cottesloe.wa.gov.au; cr.hart@cottesloe.wa.gov.au;  
cr.rowell@cottesloe.wa.gov.au  
**Subject:**

Hello

Unfortunately I am unable to make the Council meeting tonight.

However, I just wanted to register my total disbelief about the possible removal of both the Congdon St and also the Ozone Pde trees. I read with great sadness about the possibility of this on the front page of the Post Newspaper. This particular tree is so beautiful - it actually looks like a Streeton painting!

The number of mature trees in Cottesloe is fast dwindling and I find it very sad that these beautiful trees which provide the character of our 'leafy suburb' could be removed.

I find it unbelievable that a few residents whose only complaint it seems is the 'mess' they make (!! ) have the ability to perhaps orchestrate these beautiful and established trees to be removed permanently.

Trees do tend to have the habit of dropping leaves but please let us remember the benefits of the provision of shade and habitat for birds and insects in our suburb.

I have witnessed the removal of the beautiful fig tree on Curtin Ave and also the beautiful mature eucalypt on the railway reserve west of the Cottesloe Railway Station (in order to construct an electricity pylon which I'm sure could have been positioned slightly differently in order to accommodate this aged tree) with great sadness. It takes decades for these to grow and once gone, they leave an empty sterile place where they once grew.



With increasingly large building footprints, it makes it even more important to keep the mature trees we have.

**I refer to the Cottesloe Council's 'Street Trees Policy'. Part 5**

5. Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees. The Manager Engineering Services must give approval for any tree removal.

The following reasons do not justify tree removals: **tree litter/leaf fall ("messy:" tree)**,

restoration of a view,

alternative species requested by resident,

a desire to re-landscape,

house alterations requiring crossover relocation,

shading of lawns, pools,

swimming pool installation – root or falling leaf problems,

perception that tree may fall in a storm.

I would say that the above says it all. What is the point of having such a policy if the council does not abide by it.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Regards

Belinda Taranto  
107 North St  
Swanbourne 6010  
041 226 9090  
(08) 9384 7826