

Kōrero mai | Let's talk

## **Feedback on Shirley Street trees planting plan**

Aug 02, 2026 - Aug 16, 2026

Response No:  
1

Contribution ID: 46028

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Somewhat

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text Replacing trees that are unsafe is acceptable but would it not be a wise decision to make them of the shorter variety where powerlines would not be affected and also EVERGREENS as the amount of leaves from all these deciduous trees does block drains and gutterways. (houses and roads) I have lived in my street for 39 years and every year I have unblocked my gutter way at the street side. I must admit it has been much better having the gutters cleared at a more regular interval in leaf falling season lately and I thank the council for that. My tree at front is smaller than other surrounding trees and my leaves are lost earlier than others. But I do get my property filled with heaps of leaves to try to remove, in season.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text Wet leaves are very slippery to walk on and can be dangerous to the older members of our community. Large trees like the mighty Oak should be restricted to Parks where there is more room available for them to spread out. I love the Birds that come with the trees and it is so nice to hear their birdsong. Trees are essential for the environment. Parks are the place for Big Tall Trees.

Response No:  
2

Contribution ID: 46012

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Mairehau

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice No

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text Because i have a huge tree outside my house that ive asked to get cut down and nobody will, it leaves acorns hitting cars and screeing up my lawn mower, leaves all over my yard, its entwined with power lines and it scares me when its windy and its in the way of me mowing my front lawn

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text Yes dont put trees by my house

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Mairehau

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice No

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text

There are a number of reasons the I object to the proposed tree planting, also on behalf of my family, where we have lived and made our home at 15 Jebson Street for nearly 21 years.

The Mairehau and Shirley suburbs already have a significant number of trees, with the majority of those trees being large and well established trees that line many of the Streets and Parks across both suburbs.

It is a well established fact that these large trees require significant maintenance to ensure they do not obstruct or damage the power supply to a large proportion of houses across both suburbs.

Additionally, a number of these large trees have caused, and will continue to cause, damage to the asphalt footpaths and in some areas damage to curbs and gutters, with the cost being added to the already stretched budget of the Christchurch City Council (CCC).

Further, a high percentage of the streets in the Mairehau and Shirley suburbs were not repaired adequately following the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010/11 and surface flooding is commonplace in several streets following rainfall.

Adding to the issue is the significant amount of leaves that regularly fall from the large and well established trees that line many of the streets and parks across both suburbs, often filling the gutters and blocking the drains. This issue is magnified by the many residents who sweep leaves from in front of their houses resulting in large piles forming in the gutters.

Theses 2 factors combine to create significant surface flooding in many areas following rainfall, which creates a hazard for motorists, cyclists, scooter riders and pedestrians. On a regular basis this surface flooding lasts for days and in some areas, due to the already unrepaired and/or uneven road surface, plus the damaged curb and channels, results in the water remaining in large puddles and across multiple areas for weeks on end - why the CCC want to add more trees that will exacerbate this issue is of high concern.

Of further concern is that this street planting proposed by the CCC is in addition to the significant proposed tree planting throughout MacFarlane Park (the park), with this proposal set to nearly double the existing number of trees already well established in the park.

Unfortunately, the combined CCC tree planting proposals, do not have the interests of the wider community at heart and the proposals appear to be driven by an influential minority.

The proposed tree planting, across the four streets and across MacFarlane Park also does not consider the visual and shade pollution the proposed trees will cause to residents – the proposals will create a significant change in the environment surrounding our home of nearly 21 years.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text

Unfortunately, because of the tree planting proposals, the home we have lived in for 21 years will be forced to contend with significant shade and visual pollution issues that we have not encountered before.

I object strongly to both proposals going ahead without direct consultation with the affected homeowners – to clarify, I am requesting that the CCC meet with me at my home to discuss the proposals further, and this is also requested to take place, well before either of the proposed tree planting operations are proposed to start.

- The four streets proposal means that we will have 2 new trees planted directly in front of our home and a further 10 planted, in relatively close proximity, significantly altering the visual landscape around our home of nearly 21 years
- A further 3-5 trees are proposed to be planted in MacFarlane Park, directly in front of our kitchen window, where we have enjoyed an uninterrupted view across our driveway into the park, with this view one of the key factors in us deciding to make 15 Jebson Street our home 21 years ago
- There are many more trees proposed to be planted in the park in relatively close proximity to our home, and these

trees will cause significant and new visual pollution issues for us to contend with

Overall, based on the points above, and as stated earlier, I object strongly to both proposals going ahead without direct consultation with the affected homeowners and I am requesting that the CCC meet with me at my home to discuss the proposals further.

In summary, I look forward to hearing from the CCC in the very near future and well in advance of either of the proposed tree planting projects beginning. Further and to clarify, I am trusting that the CCC will engage with me as proposed and as they are required to do as part of a fair and democratic process.

Please see attachment on the following pages.

There are a number of reasons the I object to the proposed tree planting, also on behalf of my family, where we have lived and made our home at 15 Jebson Street for nearly 21 years.

The Mairehau and Shirley suburbs already have a significant number of trees, with the majority of those trees being large and well established trees that line many of the Streets and Parks across both suburbs.

It is a well established fact that these large trees require significant maintenance to ensure they do not obstruct or damage the power supply to a large proportion of houses across both suburbs.

Additionally, a number of these large trees have caused, and will continue to cause, damage to the asphalt footpaths and in some areas damage to curbs and gutters, with the cost being added to the already stretched budget of the Christchurch City Council (CCC).

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The proposed tree planting, across the four streets and across MacFarlane Park also does not consider the visual and shade pollution the proposed trees will cause to residents – **the proposals will create a significant change in the environment surrounding our home of nearly 21 years.**

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In summary, I look forward to hearing from the CCC in the very near future and well in advance of either of the proposed tree planting projects beginning. Further and to clarify, I am trusting that the CCC will engage with me as proposed and as they are required to do as part of a fair and democratic process.

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice On behalf of a recognised organisation or business

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text Shirley Village Project

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text Community Led Development Activator

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Yes

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text All residents I spoke with are positive about the new trees. Of the species offered, kowhai was the most popular, because it is a native (although not locally native); has attractive flowers; has limited leaf fall; and has a relatively loose canopy which will not excessively block light.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text

- \* Two residents I spoke with live on Riselaw and Jebson near the Acheson Ave end of these streets and expressed preference for kowhai over the currently specified Acer spp.
- \* Residents voiced concerns about the impact of existing trees on Emmett and Riselaw footpaths and would like this addressed due to the trip hazard particularly for older residents
- \* Shirley Village Project would like the opportunity to salvage more timber when mature trees come down. We would also like to be kept up to date with scheduled works so we can continue to assist with passing on information to locals.
- \* There are some missed opportunities to have stretches of the single species "avenue" feel. For example on Emmett between Acheson and Orcades the proposed species are maple on one side, ash on the other, and a lone cherry blossom. Consideration could be given to matching species on both sides of the road even if it means smaller species on both sides.
- \* Some residents would like to see more native options
- \* Di Lucas is part of our contact group on Shirley trees and provided the following specific information on native options:
  - Sophora tetraptera is not native to the South Island, Sophora microphylla is
  - There were Ginkgo & Liriodendron forests in Gondwana times in what is now Canterbury. These form great street trees (not the fruiting Ginkgo due to smell, only the male) although it is noted the Ginkgo leaves are slow to break down similar to current oak leaves
  - The wet plains lands of the park and those streets, being in the Kahikatea & Totara ecosystems, naturally have some wonderful native hardwood trees that belong right there, including:
    - Titoki
    - Hīnau
    - Pōkākā
    - Kōwhai (semi-deciduous)
    - Putaputawētā
    - Houhere (semi-deciduous)
    - Porokaiwhiri or Pigeonwood
    - Kaikomako
    - Tūrepo

Response No:  
5

Contribution ID: 46005

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Burwood

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Somewhat

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text

- I'm not a fan of the purple leaved Acer / maples proposed (personal preference) - a green leaved acer cultivar would be better.  
- Is it possible to use some large grade Sophora microphylla - the species local to Christchurch instead of the Sophora tetraptera? I appreciate that tetraptera forms a better trunk, however microphylla grown well in the nursery can be shaped into a suitable street tree form.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Mairehau

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice No

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text See attached details with regards to the planting of trees at the Acheson Avenue END OF JEBSON STREET.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text SEE ATTACHED

Please see attachment on the following page.

We strongly disagree with the proposal to plant more deciduous trees at the Acheson Avenue end of Jebson Street, on environment, aesthetic, practical and financial grounds.

Environmentally, the proposed trees are not native species and the deciduous nature will unnecessarily exacerbate the existing issues with leaves over the autumn months.

Aesthetically, the proposed Acer Buergerianum (Trident Maple), will not fit in with the existing massive oak trees.

Financially and practically, if the council has spare money, it should be used to fix the pavements in this end of Jebson Street which are dangerously uneven and raised in places, due to the tree roots from the existing oak trees. We find it safer to walk on the road, rather than risk tripping and falling on the damaged pavements.

Every Autumn for 31 years, we have to battle with clearing fallen oak leaves from the garden, drive and paths, where they become treacherous when wet. There are too many leaves to dispose off in the green bin, and if left, the leaves block the drains in our property and in the street causing flooding. Sweeping the leaves is an arduous task for us as we are both over 70 and have serious health issues.

The existing oak trees which overhang the power lines, drop branches when we have strong winds, and last year we had to call out Orion, to remove a forked branch from the council oak trees, that was hooked over the power line to our house.

Planting more trees on the grass berm will create extreme difficulty for us, in cutting the grass and we really do not need more leaves.

Whilst understanding your policy to plant two trees for every one felled, no trees have been removed from this end of Jebson Street, so we see no reason to plant more here. It would be better to plant these extra trees in Macfarlane Park where they would enhance the environment, especially if native or fruit trees were planted.

Response No:  
7

Contribution ID: 45882

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Yes

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text Good 4 the environment

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text Parking & Rubbish collection - street sweeping & weed control

Response No:  
8

Contribution ID: 45813

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Don't know / Not sure

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text Being a pensioner I am finding it difficult to clean my spoutings and general maintenance. Since the trees have gone we have more sunlight and a warmer house. We had 2 trees removed and there is no way we want 4 to replace them. If trees had to e planted we would appreciate cherry trees.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text

Response No:  
9

Contribution ID: 45763

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Yes

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text I think it is wonderful. Just wondering why there are not more natives?  
Is there a specific biological reason or is it aesthetics.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text

Response No:  
10

Contribution ID: 45733

**Q1 Are you responding:**

Multi Choice As an individual

**Q2 Name of organisation/business**

Short Text

**Q3 Your role**

Short Text

**Q7 Suburb**

Select Box Shirley

**Q8 Overall, do you support the tree planting plan for the four streets?**

Multi Choice Yes

**Q9 Why/why not?**

Long Text Great that you are planting trees in our area.

**Q10 Is there anything else we need to consider?**

Long Text I guess you are planting trees that wont interfere with the power lines when they mature.