



Arboriculture Memo

To: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] – The Tree Consultancy Company

Cc [REDACTED]

Date: 01 May 2025

Re: Forestry Road, Riverhead – Development of Riverhead Forest for Rangitōopuni Development Limited Partnership

Dear [REDACTED],

This report is submitted in support of the resource consent application to the Expert Panel ('Panel') via the Environmental Protection Authority ('EPA') by Te Kawerau ā Maki in partnership with Avant Property Development Limited ('Avant') under Rangitōopuni Developments Limited Partnership ('RDLP') to develop two properties (Lot 1 DP 590677 and Lot 2 DP 590677) at Old North Road and Forestry Road, Riverhead ('the site'). The proposal is for a listed project under Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 ('FTAA') for a proposed countryside living subdivision and retirement village referred to collectively as 'Rangitōopuni'

Although this is not a hearing before the Environment Court, I record that I have read and agree to comply with the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses as specified in the Environment Court's Practice Note 2023. I confirm that this report is within my area of expertise, except where I state that I rely upon the evidence or reports of other expert witnesses lodged forming part of the project's application material. I have not omitted to consider any material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

The Tree Consultancy Company have been engaged by Mr Shane Kelly, development manager at Avant Ltd, to provide a memorandum regarding the protected trees along Forestry Road. In this regard a 'protected' tree refers to a tree for which a Resource Consent is usually required to undertake activities to and around it that may affect its wellbeing.

The subject site that was surveyed is Forestry Road, Riverhead, and is an approximate 500 m section of road. According to the Auckland Unitary Plan this area is a designated road corridor. According to Auckland Transport, this road is defined as an Urban Road (Figure 1).



Figure 1: (Main) Geomaps – Auckland Council. (Inset) Subject site

On the 2nd April 2025 I conducted a ground based survey and made quantitative notes about the tree species and its condition. I also made qualitative notes about the form, vitality and branch structure of the trees. I used a Nikon Forestry laser to record the height of the trees and a tape measure to record the diameter of the tree at breast height (DBH).

Due to the challenging terrain, and at times an inability to physically access the trees, estimates of the tree dimensions were made where needed. I have relied upon a topographical survey provided by Maven Associates (*Maven Associates 147016-RV-C300 FORESTRY ROAD (EX TREES)*) to provide an accurate positioning of certain trees. I have presumed this information to be correct. The physical road reserve boundary was not demarcated prior to my survey, often this boundary can extend several meters beyond the edge of the sealed / unsealed road. As such I recorded trees that were set back several meters beyond the unsealed road edge.

More or less the entire 500 m section of road is bordered with vegetation. As such it was not practicable to survey every individual tree. At times I have grouped together sections of the road as contiguous vegetation and made brief comments regarding all of it. A detailed tree inventory is included in appendix A.

The site can be characterised into two types of vegetation: A lower storey canopy cover that forms a contiguous amount of vegetation, and larger trees growing above this understory canopy. Within the understory vegetation the predominant species is Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). I also observed jasmine (*Jasminum polyanthum*) and cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster glaucophyllus*). Auckland council classifies these species pest plant species. Within this same understory of vegetation, I also observed

native species such mahoe (*Melicytus ramiflorus*), karamu (*Coprosma robusta*) and ponga (*Cyathea dealbata*). This vegetation is between 3 – 4 m in height.

The second type of vegetation are taller, mature trees. The predominant species are Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*), black wattle (*Acacia dealbata*), brush wattle (*Paraserianthes lophantha*) and black poplar (*Populus nigra*). These trees vary in height and age class between early mature to mature and between 5 m – 30 m in height. These trees also vary in current condition, some trees are showing signs of good vitality (i.e., a full crown), others are in various stages of decline with diminished crowns and broken branches. I also observed several dead standing trees.



Figure 2: An example of the vegetation that lines the road, note a smaller understory canopy and taller trees growing above. The area is represented by tree 6 in the appended tree plan and CH440 in Maven Forestry Road Extension plan, Project No: 147016 03/2025

Resource Consent and TOA

Regarding resource consent, for this assessment I have relied upon *E26 Infrastructure* of the Auckland Unitary Plan. Specifically, Activity table E26.4.3.1 which outlines permitted activities for the *Operation, maintenance, renewal, repair, construction and removal of network utilities and electricity generation facilities and, minor infrastructure upgrading*.

Activity (A82) allows for the removal of pest plant species, of which the majority of the understory vegetation is.

Activity (A90) states it is a permitted activity to remove or alter trees on roads adjoining the rural zone and on roads adjoining the Future Urban Zone. Forestry Road adjoins the rural zone.

Activity (A92) states that tree alteration or removal of any tree greater than 4m in height and / or 400 mm in girth is a Restricted Discretionary activity and will require resource consent.

The proposed road improvement works would likely require the removal of trees 1, 3 – 19 and 22 – 24, all of these trees exceed the dimensions in A92.

According to the topographic survey, tree 2, which represents a stand of approximately 25 mature *Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus spp.)* are within the road corridor and will be impacted by the works, specifically a proposed retaining wall. This construction activity will likely exceed the permitted standard of a 20 per cent incursion into the protected root zone and may sever roots larger than 80 mm (i.e., (A84) Tree Trimming or alteration that does not comply with Standard E26.4.5.1), and these works will require a Resource Consent as a Restricted Discretionary activity.

Trees 20 – 21 are outside the extent of the road and have no protection under the Auckland Unitary Pla.

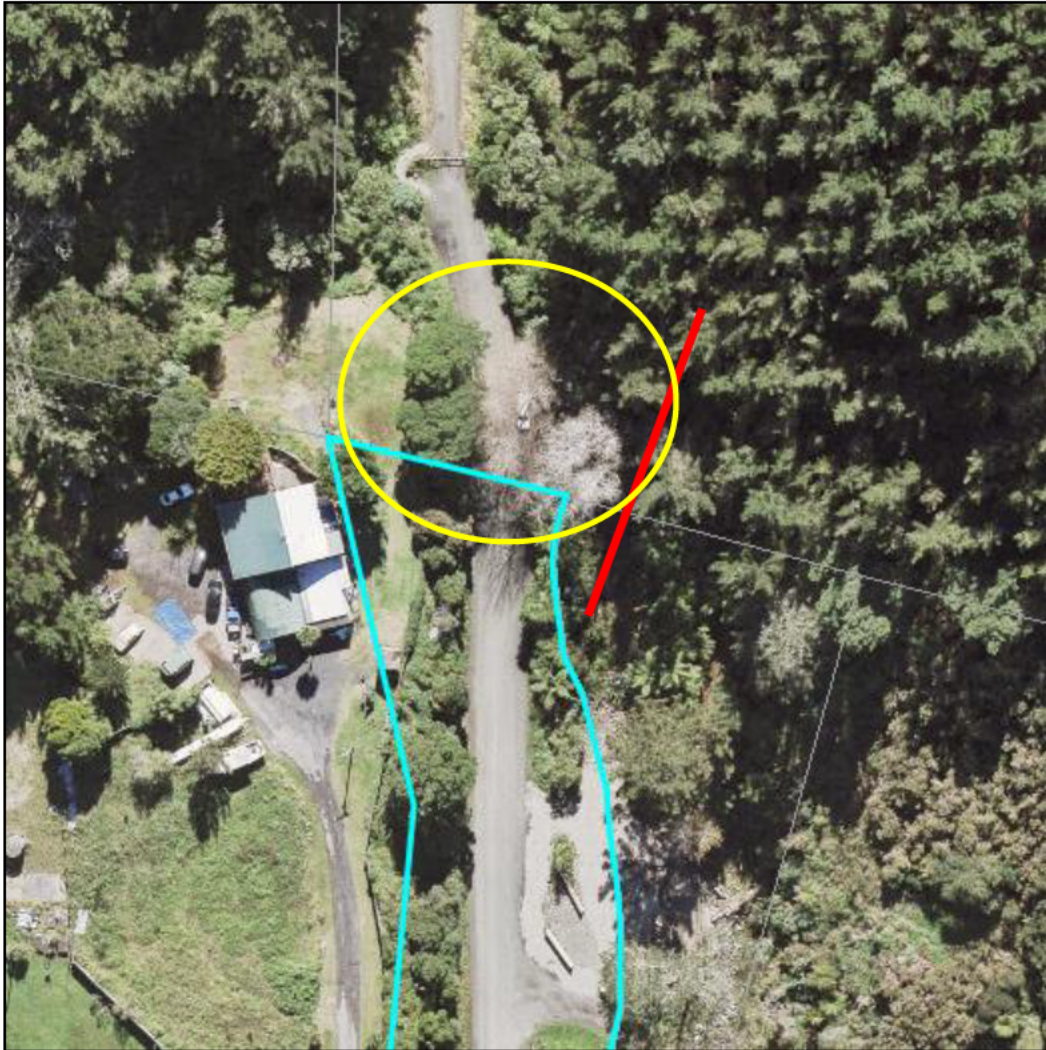


Figure 4: Trees 20 – 22 (yellow circle).

Regarding Tree Owner Approval, the urban forest specialist team at Auckland council oversee works around street trees. Auckland Transport classify Forestry Road, Riverhead as an Urban Road, therefore Tree Owner Approval will be required if any tree over 4 m and 400 mm in girth is to be removed.

On 30th April 2025 I met with the council's urban forest specialist who oversees this area of Auckland. They have verbally given permission to remove the vegetation provided adequate replanting and remuneration for the trees are provided. Discussions are currently underway to quantify the exact amount of replanting and compensation.

Please do not hesitate to call if you require any further details.

With regards,



Consulting Arborist

The Tree Consulting Company

Appendix A – Tree Inventory

Tree number	Species / Common name	Height (m)	DBH (cm)	SRZ radius (m)	TPZ radius (m)	Vitality	Live crown volume	Form	Branch structure	Age class	Category	Comments	Impacts
1	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	16	66.8	2.7	8.0	Poor	15% - 20%	Poor	Hazardous	Mature	0	Tree has little remaining foliage. Extensive dead wood throughout. Fungal brackets visible toward the base of the trunk.	Remove
2	Eucalyptus sp. / Gum tree	30	76.4	2.9	9.2	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Tree represents a stand of approx 20 mature gum trees. All are planted along a fence line as a possible shelter belt. Road boundary requires surveying	Works within the protected root zone
3	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	15	31.8	1.8	3.8	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Tree is likely within the road corridor. Approx 1.5m from the road edge. Removal is a potential consent trigger	Remove
4	Eucalyptus sp. / Gum tree	14	31.8	1.8	3.8	Fair	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Tree is at the end of the gum shelter belt. Appears to have self seeded however is closer to the road edge. Approx 5m set back	Remove
5	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	20	73.2	2.9	8.8	Fair	65% - 70%	Good	Fair	Mature	0	Tree is approx. 3m set back from the road. Sparseness in the crown with deadwood throughout	Remove
6	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	15	31.8	1.8	3.8	Good	85% - 90%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Represents a cluster of 7 wattle trees. 2 are dead standing. Set back approx 5-6m from the road	Remove
7	Populus nigra / Black poplar	21	38.2	2.0	4.6	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Within a cluster of 6 Poplar approx 4m from the roadside edge	Remove
8	Populus nigra / Black poplar	19	17.8	1.3	2.1	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0		Remove
9	Populus nigra / Black poplar	20	23.2	1.5	2.8	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0		Remove
10	Populus nigra / Black poplar	21	44.6	2.2	5.3	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0		Retain (?) trees closer to to the property boundary, further from the road could be retained potentially
11	Populus nigra / Black poplar	22	47.7	2.3	5.7	Good	85% - 90%	Good	Good	Mature	0		Retain
12	Populus nigra / Black poplar	14	23.2	1.5	2.8	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Part of a cluster of 6 Poplars outside an existing private fence so all are perhaps in the road reserve	Retain
13	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	15	35.0	1.9	4.2	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Cluster of wattles and privet. Varying age classes and sizes	Remove
14	Populus nigra / Black poplar	15	38.2	2.0	4.6	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	2 Poplar trees and 1 wattle. Small and big leaf privet. Gorse. Setback between 3-8 m from the road	Remove
15	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	7	30.2	1.8	3.6	Fair	80% - 85%	Good	Good	Early mature	0	Tree is within a cluster of smaller understorey vegetation, mostly weed species. Privet, Jasmine cotoneaster. 1x dead standing wattle	Remove
16	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	17	63.7	2.7	7.6	Poor	25% - 30%	Poor	Poor	Mature	0	Cluster of 5 wattles all showing signs of decline. Setback approx 5-6m from the road but outside a fence so perhaps street trees	Remove
17	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	5	15.9	1.2	1.9	Good	85% - 90%	Good	Good	Early mature	0	Approx 25m section of shrubs, trees and weeds. Cotoneaster, wattle privet, mahoe, blackberry bramble, karamu	Remove
18	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	16	70.0	2.8	8.4	Fair	75% - 80%	Good	Good	Mature	0	2 mature wattle approx 3-4 m setback from the road	Remove
19	Ligustrum lucidum / Tree privet	8.5	31.8	1.8	3.8	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Represents a 25m stretch of contiguous vegetation predominantly privet and wattle, ponga, mahoe also within the cluster	Remove
20	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	18	79.6	3.0	9.5	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Tree is within 1-2m of roadside edge	Private - remove
21	Acacia mearnsii / Black wattle	16	82.8	3.1	9.9	Poor	10% - 15%	Poor	Compromised	Mature	0	Majority of the canopy has died back. Tree is within 1-2m of the roadside edge	Private - remove
22	Populus nigra / Black poplar	23	70.0	2.8	8.4	Good	85% - 90%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Cluster of 6 mature Poplar. Small understorey yucca and mahoe amongst	Remove
23	Melicytus ramiflorus / Mahoe	5.8	27.1	1.7	3.2	Fair	80% - 85%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Tree is setback 1.5m from roadside edge.	Remove
24	Ligustrum lucidum / Tree privet	5	15.9	1.2	1.9	Good	90% - 95%	Good	Good	Mature	0	Represents a cluster of approx 300m of contiguous vegetation. Predominantly pest species such as privet. Some kanuka/manuka, mahoe, ponga 2 early mature redwoods too. A fence line runs 3m from the existing roadside with vegetation either side	Extent of road to be delineated to determine what will be impacted