



NORTHLAND TREEWORX

0800 TREE CHOP

Whangarei & Kerikeri

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Arboricultural Assessment- 1 Taheke Road Reserve, Kaikohe



Fig 1. Trees numbered 1 to 9 with one being the Easternmost tree in the stand.

Overview:

Northland Treeworks Group Ltd have been requested by Estee Rapatini, FNDC Senior Facilities Technical Officer, to provide an Arboricultural Assessment of a stand of Poplar trees situated on the roadside reserve at 1 Taheke Rd, Kaikohe.

A site assessment was carried out by Ben Howell on the 16 February 2026. Ben met with Nick Hodren of Civil Construction, who explained the course and dimensions of the proposed stormwater drain.

The focus of this report is to understand the impacts of a planned stormwater drain that is surveyed to be installed through the site.

FNDC would also like to understand the health and prognosis of the trees, and their subsequent potential future impact on infrastructure.

Subject Trees:

Black Poplar – *Populus nigra*

The 9 subject Poplar trees are situated parallel to SH 12. The close density of the planting has led to these trees growing together in a mutual continuous canopy.

Tree Health:

Poor to Fair.

Tree 1. contains extensive deadwood and is in poor condition.

Tree 9 appears to be the healthiest tree in the stand, likely due to having a greater spacing from the stand than the rest of the trees, subsequently enjoying less competition for space and nutrient.

Most of the trees in the stand have obvious root damage from mowers which has led to the introduction of rot and pathogens to the root structure. Poplars are a shallow rooted tree and prone to failure in high winds.

Tree Structure:

Poor to Fair.

Tree 9. Is the only tree in the stand that possess a decent structure, due to the space to grow a more balanced and less defective canopy.

The remaining trees in the stand all have structural defects including stem inclusions, poor taper, root girdling and co-dominant leaders.



Fig 2. Illustrates the path of the stormwater drain to be installed.

The Stormwater Drain:

The proposed stormwater drain excavation will be up to 2.5 meters wide and up to 1.5 meters deep. This would require the complete removal of trees 2,3, and 4, along with their root systems.

Remaining trees in the stand:

Tree 1 has already been identified as a hazard and is scheduled to be removed.

Tree's 5 and 7 have poor structure with multiple leaders and suppressed canopies with taper towards the Highway. These trees are the closest to the highway of any in the stand, and their canopies have significant encroachment over SH12. Removal is recommended.



Fig 3. Tree 1. Is largely dead



Fig 4. Tree's 5 & 7 have poor structure



Fig 5. Tree 6.



Fig 6. Tree 8



Fig 7. Root Girdling



Fig 8. Root Damage and Rot



Fig 9. Canopy Encroachment over SH12

Tree 6 is a reasonably healthy tree but has grown with a taper to the north as it has reached out from the stand for light availability. It has a large lower branch which would need to be removed to allow the stormwater drain to be excavated. Given the likely conflict of the root system with the stormwater drain, the trees taper, and vulnerability to unaccustomed winds forces once the surrounding trees are removed, it is also recommended that this tree be removed.

Tree 8 is a narrow-suppressed tree that exhibits signs of multiple historic limb failures. The failed and pruned limbs have left this as a tree of poor health and structure that has no viable future as a park tree.

Tree 9 possesses the best health and structure in the stand. It is on the Western end of the stand and enjoys the most physical separation from the stand. This is a candidate for being retained as a stand-alone tree to provide presence and shade in the park. We recommend some tidying and resilience pruning in the canopy to promote its health, structure and longevity. Its proximity to the overhead power lines means there will always be maintenance required to manage that conflict. This tree is set back furthest from SH12 of any tree in the stand.



Fig 10. Tree 9.

Summary:

The proposed stormwater drain installation will require the removal of trees 2,3 and 4.

Tree 1. Is largely dead and is scheduled to be removed.

Due to poor health, structure, conflict with infrastructure, and increased exposure to wind, removal of Trees 5,6,7 and 8 is recommended.

Tree 9 could be retained, and resilience and maintenance pruning is recommended.

The root systems of trees 2, 3, and 4 will need to be removed to allow excavation.

We recommend grinding the other stumps to avoid Copus growth and to restore the parks surface.

We recommend replanting with suitable native species set back from both the Highway and overhead power lines.

Ben Howell

Managing Director

Northland Treeworks Group Ltd

National Certificate in Arboriculture- Level 4 Advanced