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Date: 2 February 2021

To: **Luke Balchin**

CC: **Rowan Williams**

SUBJECT: **TECHNICAL ARBORIST REPORT AGONIS FLEXUOSA DP ITEM 97**

My name is Joshua John Francis Paice. I am the Arboriculture Coordinator at the New Plymouth District Council.

### **Qualifications**

I am a qualified Arborist (advanced certificate in Arboriculture), I hold the International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Qualification, and am also a qualified/approved assessor for the Primary Industry Training Organisation and Thoughtplanters, who both provide Arboricultural training throughout New Zealand.

### **Experience**

I have worked in the arboriculture/horticulture industry for over 20 years. I have held my current position at the New Plymouth District Council since June 2017.

As part of my current role I have responsibility for monitoring the status of Notable trees in the New Plymouth District, and enforcing protections afforded to Notable trees under the Resource Management Act 1991. I am familiar with the Notable tree rules in the New Plymouth District Plan.

Previously I was a contract manager for Treescape Nz, responsible for the contract that looked after Auckland City Council trees in public places, of which a large percentage were Notable/Protected.

I have worked as the head Arborist for several companies around the North Island, all of these companies have been approved to local councils, where we have maintained the Council trees. I have written numerous reports and worked on Notable trees for these companies. I have also run my own business in the Arboricultural Industry.



**Agonis Flexuosa, DP Item 97**

Based on observations made at the time of inspection.

As stated in the tree report the tree is in good condition and is a high value amenity tree and shows minor signs of decline.

Unlike the Agonis outside The Mill and surrounding areas, this one is growing in a much more upright form which has greatly helped in its structural integrity. The existing buildings have protected it from the predominant damaging winds.

The prominent CBD location of this tree means it gets visually monitored more than many other Notables in the District. It has shown no major changes in canopy or structural form/vigour/condition. It continues to put on good new growth in all areas.

This Notable Agonis is one of the best examples of its kind in the district if not the country. This tree was planted sometime after the railway was closed in 1907. Estimated planting was 1907-1930's. (Unsure of who planted it)

If the proposed works for this site were to go ahead it would be extremely detrimental to the trees' health. The root pruning (removal of structural roots) alone would lead to the potential de-stabilization and decline of the tree and make it more likely to fail/fall into the Huatoki stream and surrounding buildings. This would also cause damage to the bank and potentially the old rail wall.

The proposed earth works would also remove/destroy the trees' main area of feeder roots that grow all through the gravel area (as found in their exploratory digs). We wouldn't see signs of decline straight away but it would definitely happen over the following months/years.

The height of the building would also impact the tree as it will remove most of the direct sunlight that trees need to survive. If the build went ahead it will cause the tree to go into decline, this would take time the following months/years to show the impacts/decline on the Notable Agonis.

I agree with points made in the supplied report as the trees' overall condition but note the 20 year life span is an estimate only.

Joshua Paice  
ARBORICULTURE COORDINATOR