

DISTRICT PLAN AMENDMENTS

Key:

For the purposes of this plan change, any unchanged text is shown as normal text or in **bold**, any text proposed to be added by the plan change is shown as **bold underlined** and text to be deleted as ~~**bold strikethrough**~~.

Text in **bold red underlined** is that from Schedule 3A of the Resource Management Act and must be included.

Text in green font identifies existing terms in Chapter 2 – Definitions. Where the proposed change contains a term defined in Chapter 2 – Definitions, the term is shown as **bold underlined text in green** and that to be deleted as ~~**bold strikethrough in green**~~. New definition in a proposed rule is **bold green text underlined in black**.

Text in black/green shaded in grey is a Council Decision subject to appeal.

Text in blue font indicates links to other provisions in the district Plan and/or external documents. These will have pop-ups and links, respectively, in the on-line Christchurch District Plan.

Chapter 6 – General Rules and Procedures

Following section 6.10 of the District Plan add the following new section for tree canopy cover / financial contributions as shown below:

6.10A Tree Canopy Cover and Financial Contributions

6.10A.1 Introduction

- a. **This Introduction is to assist the lay reader to understand what this chapter applies to and how the provisions work. It is not an aid to interpretation in a legal sense.**
- b. **Under section 77E of the Resource Management Act, the Council can require **financial contributions** to be charged for any class of activity other than a prohibited activity.**
- c. **The provisions of this section seek **tree** retention or planting of **trees**, or the payment of **financial contributions** in lieu of planting, for residential subdivision and/or development to enhance **tree canopy cover** and help to address adverse effects of development on the city's environment and improve its resilience to climate change.**
- d. **These provisions, including those requiring **financial contributions**, align with other Council strategies and will help to achieve the target **tree canopy cover** recommended in the Council [Urban Forest Plan](#).**

6.10A.2 Objectives and Policies

6.10A.2.1 Objective – Urban tree canopy cover

- a. **Tree canopy cover** in areas of **residential activities** is enhanced through maintaining existing **trees** and/or planting new **trees** as part of new residential development to sequester carbon from emissions, reduce stormwater runoff, mitigate **heat island** effects, and improve the city's biodiversity and amenity.

6.10A.2.1.1 Policy – Contribution to tree canopy cover

- a. **Ensure that subdivision and/or development achieves the following tree canopy cover levels at maturity:**
 - i. **For residential subdivision and/or development in residential zones – 20% of the development site area;**
 - ii. **For subdivision and/or development in residential greenfield areas and brownfield sites subject to comprehensive residential development – as for (i), and an additional 15% of the future road area to be vested in Council.**

6.10A.2.1.2 Policy – The cost of providing tree canopy cover and financial contributions

- a. **Ensure the cost of providing new trees to achieve the tree canopy cover required for the development site or the road corridor, preparing appropriate tree pits, providing the necessary land for planting, and the initial tree maintenance is met by those carrying out the subdivision and/or development;**
- b. **Require payment of financial contributions that are fair and proportional in lieu of providing the required on-site and/or on-road tree canopy cover to enable off-site tree planting by the Council, as close to the development site as practicable;**
- c. **No financial contribution shall be required where sufficient existing trees, able to achieve the required tree canopy cover at maturity, are retained on the development site or new trees are planted on the development site by the developer or the site owner to achieve the required tree canopy cover.**

6.10A.2.1.3 Policy – Tree health and infrastructure

- a. **Ensure that trees on a development site are planted in a position appropriate to the tree type and in sufficient soil volume, width and depth to maximise the tree's healthy growth while minimising future nuisance effects.**
- b. **Where subdivision consents associated with the development of sites for new residential units are granted, use consent notices registered against the relevant titles to ensure that the tree canopy cover levels required are achieved and maintained.**

- c. Ensure the planting of trees in the future roads of residential greenfield subdivisions or brownfield sites subject to comprehensive residential development is carried out in accordance with:
- i. good arboricultural practice to provide sufficient soil volume and avoid damage to the surrounding infrastructure; and
 - ii. the needs and requirements of the future road controlling authority, including approval of tree species and their placement by the Council arborist.

Advice note:

1. Refer to the Council's Infrastructure Development Standards and to the Construction Standard Specifications for guidance on good arboricultural practice, tree pit requirements, and landscape construction standards.

6.10A.3 How to interpret and apply the rules

- a. The tree canopy cover and financial contribution rules that apply to subdivision and development activities resulting in one or more new residential units or allotments in the residential zones and brownfield sites subject to comprehensive residential development in the Christchurch City area of the Christchurch District are contained in:
 - i. Rule 6.10A.4.1 - Activity Status Tables; and
 - ii. Rule 6.10A.4.2 - Rules – Tree canopy cover and financial contributions standards; and
 - iii. Rule 6.10A.5 - Matters of discretion; and
 - iv. Rules 8.3, 8.5.1 and 8.7.12 - Subdivision; and
 - v. Rules 14.4.2 – 14.11.2 – Residential Built Form Standards.
- b. The activity status tables and standards in the applicable zone chapters and the following chapters also apply to activities subject to tree canopy cover and financial contributions rules:
 - 4 Hazardous Substances and Contaminated Land;
 - 5 Natural Hazards;
 - 6 General Rules and Procedures;
 - 7 Transport;
 - 8 Subdivision, Development and Earthworks;
 - 9 Natural and Cultural Heritage;
 - 11 Utilities and Energy.
- c. For guidance on tree species, their canopy size at maturity, and planting and maintenance requirements refer to the Council's:
 - i. Infrastructure Design Standard (Parts 2 and 10) <https://ccc.govt.nz/consents-and-licences/construction-requirements/infrastructure-design-standards/download-the-ids/> ; and
 - ii. Construction Standard Specifications (Part 7) <https://ccc.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Consents-and-Licences/construction-requirements/CSS/Download-the-CSS-2020/CSS-PART-7-LANDSCAPES-2019.pdf> .

6.10A.4 Rules – Tree canopy cover and financial contributions

- a. The following rules apply in the Christchurch City area of the **Christchurch District** to:
- i. development resulting in one or more new ground floor **residential units** in residential zones; and
 - ii. subdivision in residential zones where one or more **allotments** are proposed to or able to contain a ground floor **residential unit**; and
 - iii. development and subdivision containing or able to contain one or more ground floor **residential units** in a **brownfield** site subject to **comprehensive residential development** where new **roads** have been/will be created.

6.10A.4.1 Activity status tables

6.10A.4.1.1 Permitted activities

- a. The activities listed below are permitted activities if they meet the activity specific standards for **tree canopy cover** and/or **financial contributions** set out in this rule, and the **tree canopy cover** and **financial contributions** standards, including calculations, specified in **Rule 6.10A.4.2**.
- b. Activities may also be controlled, restricted discretionary, discretionary, non-complying or prohibited as specified in **Rules 6.10A.4.1.2, 6.10A.4.1.3, 6.10A.4.1.4, 6.10A.4.1.5, and 6.10A.4.1.6**.

Activity		Activity specific standards – Tree canopy cover
P1	<u>Any residential development, except for extensions or accessory buildings to existing residential units, in the Christchurch City area of the Christchurch District resulting in one or more ground floor residential units on a development site in a residential zone, a residential greenfield site or a brownfield site subject to comprehensive residential development where no new roads to vest in Council are created.</u>	<p>a. <u>A minimum tree canopy cover of 20% of the development site area shall be provided on the development site through:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Retaining existing trees on the development site that will provide a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity; or</u> ii. <u>Planting new trees on the development site to provide a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity; or</u> iii. <u>Providing a combination of existing and new trees to achieve a minimum 20% of on-site tree canopy cover at maturity; and</u> iv. <u>Providing sufficient soil volume and tree root area dimensions for all trees in accordance with the tree size class requirements specified in the Rule 6.10A.4.2.1, Table 1.</u> <p>b. <u>Financial contributions shall be paid, in accordance with Rule 6.10A.4.2.2, if the on-site tree canopy cover requirement or part of the requirement specified in (a) above is not met.</u></p>
P2	<u>Any residential development, except for extensions or accessory buildings to existing residential units in the Christchurch City area of the Christchurch District resulting in one or more ground floor</u>	<p>a. <u>A minimum tree canopy cover of 20% of the development site area shall be provided on the development site through:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Retaining existing trees on the development site that will provide a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity; or</u>

Activity	Activity specific standards – Tree canopy cover
<p><u>residential units on a development site located in:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>a residential zone; or</u> b. <u>a new residential greenfield subdivision and development; or</u> c. <u>a brownfield site subject to comprehensive residential development</u> <p><u>where new roads to vest in Council have been or will be created.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. <u>Planting new trees on the development site to provide a minimum 20% tree canopy cover at maturity; or</u> iii. <u>Providing a combination of existing and new trees to achieve a minimum 20% of on-site tree canopy cover at maturity; and</u> iv. <u>Providing sufficient soil volume and tree root area dimensions for all trees in accordance with the tree size class requirements specified in the Rule 6.10A.4.2.1, Table 1.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. <u>The tree canopy cover area may be located on any part of the development site and does not need to be associated with each residential unit.</u> c. <u>Additional tree canopy cover of 15% of the road corridor area shall be provided in the road corridor in the subdivision through:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Planting new trees in the future road to be vested with the Council to provide a minimum 15% tree canopy cover at maturity, and</u> ii. <u>Providing sufficient soil volume and tree root area dimensions for all trees in accordance with the tree size class requirements specified in the Rule 6.10A.4.2.1, Table 1; and</u> iii. <u>Meeting the needs and requirements of the Council as the future road owner/manager, including approval of tree species, their location and tree pit construction by the Council arborist.</u> d. <u>Financial contributions shall be paid where the 20% on-site and/or 15% road corridor tree canopy cover requirements specified in (a - c) above are not met.</u> e. <u>The financial contributions will be calculated to include the cost of the tree(s) needed to achieve the required on-site and on-road tree canopy cover, and the cost of land required for tree planting as specified in Rule 6.10A.4.2.2 below.</u>

6.10A.4.1.2 Controlled activities

- a. There are no controlled activities.

6.10A.4.1.3 Restricted discretionary activities

- a. The activities listed below are restricted discretionary activities.

- b. Discretion to grant or decline consent and impose conditions is restricted to the matters of discretion set out in [Rule 6.10A.5](#), or as specified, as set out in the following table.

Activity	The Council's discretion shall be limited to the following matters:
<p>RD1</p> <p>a. <u>Activities that do not meet one or more of the activity specific standards in Rule 6.10A.4.1 P1 and P2, and/or tree canopy cover and financial contributions standards in Rule 6.10A.4.2.</u></p> <p>b. <u>Any application arising from this rule shall not be limited or publicly notified.</u></p>	<p>a. <u>Tree canopy cover and financial contributions - Rule 6.10A.5.1</u></p>
<p>RD2</p> <p>a. <u>Providing the minimum 15% street tree canopy cover required in Rule 6.10A.4.1.1 P2 by retaining existing and/or planting new trees within an alternative area of the subdivision that is not set aside for reserves contribution.</u></p> <p>b. <u>Any application arising from this rule shall not be limited or publicly notified.</u></p>	<p>a. <u>Tree canopy cover and financial contributions - Rule 6.10A.5.1</u></p>

6.10A.4.1.4 Discretionary activities

- a. There are no discretionary activities.

6.10A.4.1.5 Non-complying activities

- a. There are no non-complying activities.

6.10A.4.1.6 Prohibited activities

- a. There are no prohibited activities.

6.10A.4.2 Tree canopy cover and financial contributions standards

6.10A.4.2.1 Tree canopy cover standards and calculations

- a. Where planting [trees](#) on the [development site](#), and/or the future [road](#) corridor in a residential [greenfield](#) subdivision or [brownfield](#) site subject to [comprehensive residential development](#), calculate the number of [trees](#) required as shown below or follow this link to the [online calculating tool](#):
- i. Calculate the area in square metres of the [tree canopy cover](#) required by [Rule 6.10A.4.1.1 P1](#) or [P2](#); and
 - ii. Select [trees](#) for planting from the list in the [Infrastructure Design Standards](#) and note their size class; then

Advice Note: Where a plant is not listed, an application may be made to the **Council** for it to be added at the discretion of the **Council** arborist.

- iii. Using Table 1 below, determine the **tree's** projected canopy size corresponding to its size class; then
- iv. Calculate the remaining required area to meet the **tree canopy cover** required, by subtracting the **tree canopy size/s** of the **tree/s** chosen for planting or of the existing **trees** to be retained from the square meters area calculated in (i) above. The area remaining should be less than 10m². Where the result is between 5m² to 9.9m² of canopy required, the number shall be rounded up to 10m² and one small **tree** added to the number of **trees** required to be planted or retained. Where the calculation results in less than 5m², the number shall be rounded down to zero.
- v. Where the **tree canopy cover** area calculated in (i) above is not achieved in full or in part through retaining existing **trees** and/or planting new **trees**, the remaining **tree canopy cover** requirement will be achieved through the payment of **financial contributions** in lieu of **tree** planting in accordance with [Rule 6.10A.4.2.2](#).

Table 1 - Tree size classes with their corresponding height and projected canopy size:

<u>Tree size classes</u>	<u>Tree height (m)</u>	<u>Projected tree canopy cover at maturity (m²)</u>	<u>Land area (m²) and soil volume (m³) required*</u>
<u>Small</u>	<u>0-5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>3.8 *</u>
<u>Medium</u>	<u>6-12</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>25.5 *</u>
<u>Large</u>	<u>13-20</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>70.8 *</u>
<u>Very Large</u>	<u>20+</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>95.4 *</u>
<u>Average tree size</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>130</u>	<u>50.0 *</u>

** Soil volume required for a tree/tree roots (m³) equals the land area (m²) x 1m depth.*

- vi. All **trees** shall be not less than 1 metre high at the time of planting.
 - vii. All **trees** required by [Rule 6.10A.4.1.1](#) shall be maintained and if dead, diseased or damaged, shall be replaced with a **tree** of the same species or another species able to achieve the same **tree canopy cover** at maturity.
 - viii. No more than 20% of the land area required for **tree** roots, as per Table 1 above, may be covered with any **impervious surfaces**.
- b. The **tree canopy cover area** may be located on any part of the **development site** and does not need to be associated with each **residential unit**.

6.10A.4.2.2 Financial contribution standards and calculations

- a. If the **tree canopy cover** requirements specified in [Rule 6.10A.4.1.1](#) are not met, the payment of **financial contributions** for trees and land is required, calculated according to the following (or follow this link to the [online calculating tool](#) for the following calculations):
 - i. The **financial contribution** shall be \$2037.00 per **tree**;

- ii. To calculate the number of trees for which a financial contribution is required, subtract from the square metres area/s of the development site and/or the road corridor area calculated in Rule 6.10A.4.2.1(a)(i) above, any tree canopy cover area that will be provided by existing trees to be retained or by new trees, as per Rule 6.10A.4.2.1(a)(ii) - (iii) above, and divide the result by 130m² (the average tree canopy size). The result may include a fraction, e.g. 2.45 trees.
- iii. Multiply the number of trees required calculated in (a)(ii) above by \$2037.00 (financial contribution per tree).
- iv. To calculate the land value for which a financial contribution is required follow the steps below (or use the [online calculating tool](#)):
 - A. Multiply the number of trees required (as per (a)(ii)above) by 50m² (land area required to support an average size tree) to establish the amount of land needed for the tree/s; and
Advice note: 50m² has been determined through this formula ((Canopy area ÷ 0.092) x 0.975) ÷ 27.55.
 - B. Request the Council to instruct an independent registered valuer to assess the current market value of the area of the subject development site calculated in (a)(iv)(A) above, in accordance with the applicable professional standards and guidelines. The person requesting the valuation will pay the cost of the valuation before it is started.
 - C. The total amount of the financial contribution payable shall be the cost of trees (refer to (a)(iii) above) plus the value of land required for tree planting (as per (a)(iv)(B) above).
- b. Financial contributions, as set out in Rule 6.10A.4.1.1, will be required to be paid prior to the issue of any certificate pursuant to section 224 of the Resource Management Act 1991 or code compliance certificate pursuant to sections 91 and 95 of the Building Act 2004.

6.10A.4.2.3 Consent notice

- a. Where tree canopy cover is provided in full or in partial fulfilment of Rule 6.10A.4.1.1 and 6.10A.4.2.1, a consent notice shall be registered on the title of the relevant allotment in accordance with Rule 8.3.4.

6.10A.5 Matters of discretion

6.10A.5.1 Tree canopy cover and financial contributions

- a. Whether the non-compliance or the amount of the contribution is appropriate to its context taking into account:
 - i. Whether the benefits of tree canopy cover in building resilience to climate change effects, including carbon sequestration, stormwater infiltration, and reducing heat island effects, as well as improving residential amenity, can be achieved by the developer by retaining or planting the required tree canopy cover on another part of the subdivision/ private site in the vicinity (other than publicly owned land);

- ii. Whether a reduction in financial contribution, due to provision by the developer of partial tree canopy cover elsewhere in the vicinity of the development site, is justified;
 - iii. Whether the site or development has unique or unusual characteristics which mean that planting of the required tree canopy cover is not possible and a financial contribution in lieu of the tree planting is unnecessary or inappropriate;
 - iv. The extent to which the built development is designed to minimise or mitigate adverse effects on resilience to climate change effects or on the amenity values of the surrounding area.
- b. Whether scheduling or staging of financial contributions payments is appropriate.
- c. Whether taking of land instead of monetary financial contribution is appropriate and whether the Council will, at its discretion, accept land for the purpose of tree canopy cover planting instead of cash for financial contributions for land. If the Council or developer identify opportunities for land to be taken in lieu of cash financial contributions for the land for tree planting, this will be progressed if agreeable to both parties. Such land cannot be the same as the land taken for reserves through development contributions.