

**BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING COMMISSIONERS
IN CHRISTCHURCH**

TE MAHERE Ā-ROHE I TŪTOHUA MŌ TE TĀONE O ŌTAUTAHI

IN THE MATTER OF Resource Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of the hearing of submissions on Plan Change 14
(Housing and Business Choice) to the Christchurch
District Plan

JOINT STATEMENT OF ARBORICULTURAL EXPERTS

2nd of October 2023

INTRODUCTION

1. This joint witness statement relates to expert conferencing on the topic of construction setbacks from Riccarton Bush.
2. The expert conferencing was held online (MS Teams) on **October 2nd, 2023**. There was no facilitator.
3. Attendees at the conference were:
 - (a) **Andrew Benson** for Christchurch City Council. **Andrew** is the author of a **Technical Report¹** and of a statement of evidence dated 11 August 2023.
 - (b) **David Norton** for **The Riccarton Bush Trust**. **David** is the author of a statement of evidence dated 20 September 2023.

CODE OF CONDUCT

4. This joint statement is prepared in accordance with sections 9.4 to 9.6 of the Environment Court Practice Note 2023.
5. We confirm that we have read the Environment Court Practice Note 2023 and agree to abide by it.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF CONFERENCING

6. The purpose of conferencing was to identify, discuss, and highlight points of agreement and disagreement on an appropriate setback for construction activity from Riccarton Bush with reference to proposed rule 9.4.4.1.3 (RD6, a) in Plan Change 14.
7. Conferencing proceeded in line with the agenda agreed to by both parties and experts and provided to both parties via email on 29/10/23.
8. All attendees reviewed each other's evidence prior to conferencing.
9. **Prof. Norton** shared an image with **Dr. Benson** showing the predator-proof fence and the proximity of the trees within Riccarton Bush to the fence. The image showed several trees – including a kahikatea tree with a trunk diameter of approximately 40 cm – within a metre of the fence in Riccarton Bush.

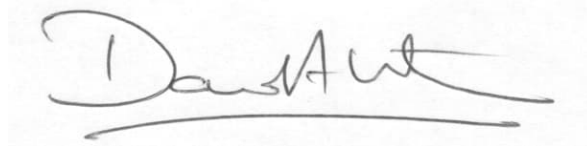
¹ Andrew Benson, The Tree Consultancy Company. Technical report on Tree Protection Zones. File ref: 2400. 20/06/2022.

10. **Prof. Norton** described that it was common to see trees of this size, and larger, within 1-2 m of the predator-proof fence.
11. **Annexure A** records the agreed issues, areas of disagreement and the reasons, along with any reservations.

Date: 2nd of October 2023



Andrew R Benson



[Name]

ANNEXURE A – EXPERT CONFERENCING ON [TOPIC]

Participants: Andrew Benson [AB]; David Norton [DN]

Issue	Agreed Position	Disagreements or reservations, with reasons
What is the appropriate setback from Riccarton Bush for construction activity that could harm / damage trees within Riccarton Bush?	The simplest approach to ascribing a setback from Riccarton Bush is to establish a setback from the predator-proof fence; and that setback should be 15 metres. AB and DN	