

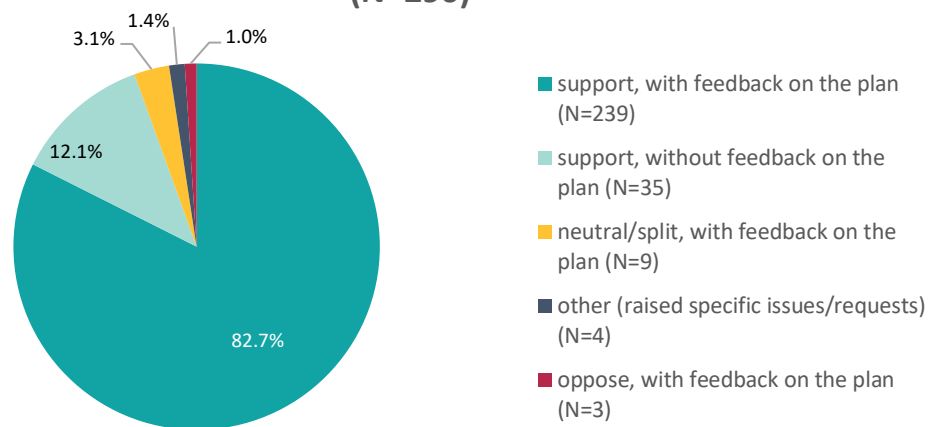
Overview

Between 2 February and 6 March 290 groups and individuals made submissions on the draft Ōtautahi Urban Forest Plan.

Of the 290 submissions received:

- 274 supported the draft urban forest plan, 9 were neutral/split, 3 opposed, and 4 raised specific requests outside of the scope of the plan.
- 251 provided specific feedback on the plan and 39 did not provide feedback other than their general view.

**Sentiment of Draft Ōtautahi Urban Forest Plan submissions
(N=290)**



Submitter profile

Submissions were made by 46 recognised organisations including those with an environmental focus (16), a heritage focus (3), those from or working on behalf of local rūnanga (3), residents associations (13), central government and national advocacy organisations (5), and businesses (7). Submissions were also made by 4 Community Boards.

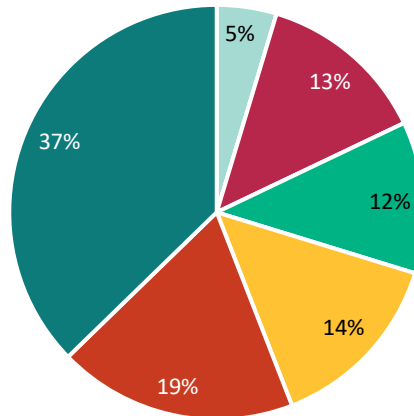
Of the 240 individual submissions, all but 5 were from Christchurch residents. Of those;

- 2 live in Auckland
- 1 lives in Selwyn District
- 2 did not provide an address.

Of the Christchurch residents, 10 live in Banks Peninsula.

Submissions received from Christchurch-based individuals and organisations were spread geographically. The chart and table below breakdown submissions by Community Board and by ward. (Note that these numbers are derived from suburb-level data and subject to small discrepancies).

Submissions by Community Board



■ Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula (N=13) ■ Waitai Coastal-Burwood-Linwood (N=37)
 ■ Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood (N=33) ■ Waipuna Halswell-Hornby-Riccarton (N=40)
 ■ Waipapa Papanui-Innes-Central (N=52) ■ Waihoru Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote (N=104)

Community Board	Ward	N
Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū	Banks Peninsula	13
Waihoru	Spreydon	26
	Cashmere	37
	Heathcote	41
Waipuna	Halswell	15
	Hornby	13
	Riccarton	12
Waipapa	Papanui	11
	Innes	15
	Central	26
Waitai	Coastal	15
	Burwood	7
	Linwood	15
Waimāero	Fendalton	16
	Waimairi	11
	Harewood	6

Feedback on the Draft Ōtautahi Urban Forest Plan

Feedback is categorised into five primary themes, which are broken down further into 14 subthemes. The primary themes are:

- Ideas to increase tree canopy (124 submitters)
- Biodiversity considerations (105 submitters)
- Greater protection of existing trees (104 submitters)
- Climate urgency and requests for more ambitious tree canopy targets (68 submitters)
- Leveraging community, education, and incentives (67 submitters)

Note - Both primary themes and subthemes are not mutually exclusive, meaning more than one theme was identified within a single submission.

Theme 1: Ideas to increase tree canopy (124 submitters)

The majority of feedback touched on this theme, with 124 submitters mentioning ideas and initiatives to increase tree canopy cover targets, which can be further broken down into the following subthemes:

- **Locations to increase tree canopy cover (69 submitters)**
 - Utilise red zone space, public street space, lower socioeconomic areas, commercial/high density areas, schools, waterways, subdivisions, motorways, railways, transport corridors, underutilised parks and reserves, prisons, integrating walkways and cycle lanes as part of urban tree corridors, greening the tops and sides of buildings, and utilising sports fields.
 - Prioritise suburbs and specific areas including Halswell, Hornby, Sockburn, near the airport, along the Ōtakaro Avon River, along the Ōtakaro Heathcote River, Papanui, Port Hills, and Banks Peninsula.
 - Distribute trees equally across suburbs, set separate canopy cover targets for each area to have realistic targets and encourage friendly competition between areas.
- **Initiatives to increase canopy targets (45 submitters)**
 - Provide clarity on berm planting, planting not just focusing on saplings, decreasing road space in favour of trees and public transport, resident incentives, and community and commercial partnerships.
- **Specific tree placement (24 submitters)**
 - Plant more trees and consider factors like root maintenance, the need for increased weed eradication, increased resources for clearing the stormwater network and issues with damaging infrastructure such as underground pipes and overhead powerlines.

Theme 2: Biodiversity considerations (105 submitters)

This theme covered the need to strike the right balance of biodiversity and species selection, specifically a careful balance of native/indigenous trees, deciduous fruit/nut trees, and other exotic trees. Submitters considered root systems and species appropriate for each project, as well as issues such as the level of maintenance of plants, balancing between quick growth and longevity, balancing tree size, allergy friendly trees, limited toxicity to pets, community foraging via deciduous fruit and nut trees, best practice eco-sourcing, and trees that do not promote weeds. They mentioned species guidelines needing to be mapped with area placement and infrastructure, needing to consider the ecology and interaction of species, and

considering opportunities to work with iwi and rūnanga on species identification and selection in certain locations.

This theme cannot clearly be broken into subthemes as the majority of submitters mentioned the need to strike a balance of native, deciduous and exotic trees, however:

- **Prioritisation of native trees (29 submitters)**
 - Only plant natives or prioritise native plantings. Consider native species to outweigh other species of trees, and natural regeneration of native forests, to support native birds and biological diversity, and to sequester a greater amount of carbon thereby supporting resilience building to extreme weather events and fires.

Theme 3: Greater protection of existing trees (104 submitters)

This theme covered a need to protect existing trees, with 104 submitters mentioning this idea, which can be further broken down into the following subthemes:

- **Tree protection and maintenance (66 submitters)**
 - Need for heritage/special tree status, protecting trees from vandalism, incentivise the protection of non-heritage trees on private land, treat trees as a vulnerable asset, and the idea that infrastructure impacts trees, rather than trees impacting infrastructure.
- **Enforcement of rules for developers (62 submitters)**
 - Explore developers' agency in planting targets and role in maintenance, enforce fines or other consequences if trees are removed and provide incentives if mature trees are retained. Perception that developers are able to 'opt out' and plant elsewhere if they remove trees on a property, or are not following existing rules, and that there is a lack of clarity about residential planning documents.
- **Prioritisation of mature plants (32 submitters)**
 - Prioritise retaining mature plants, planting larger or fast maturing trees to maximise canopy cover, focus on longer lived species. Road layout changes need to plan around existing mature trees.

Theme 4: Climate change urgency and requests for more ambitious tree canopy targets (68 submitters)

This theme is summarised by the necessity to aim higher and be more ambitious, specifically due to the concerns around climate change urgency and extreme weather events increasing over time, which can be further broken down into the following subthemes:

- **Consider climate emergency (45 submitters)**
 - Trees offering a direct solution to the climate emergency, such as forming trees into firebreaks, forests acting as armour, controlling runoff, buffering high winds, controlling erosion, absorbing heavy rainfall, lowering air temperatures in heatwaves. Drought resistant trees, increasing edible trees for climate resilience and food security.
- **Set loftier/earlier targets (34 submitters)**

- Increase target of no ward having less than 15% tree coverage and aim for between 20-30%, set higher canopy targets for higher density areas, and bring targets forward to be more in line with other cities in New Zealand.

Theme 5: Leveraging community, education, and incentives (67 submitters)

This theme touches on community partnership initiatives, education and resource initiatives, and resident incentives, which can be further broken down into the following subthemes:

- **Provide education/resources (35 submitters)**
 - Empower communities with guidelines to make sure the right trees are planted in the right place, berm guidelines, biodiversity and species education, involving local schools in planting, intergenerational learning, plant nursery advice, educating community restoration groups and residents associations, involve Ministry of Education in an approach, and creative approaches such as interactive apps.
- **Provide incentives (19 submitters)**
 - Incentives to inspire change, such as subsidised pruning and green waste disposal costs, larger green bins for those who maintain trees, incentives specifically for planting native trees, and carbon credit incentives.
- **Give residents agency over berm (12 submitters)**
 - Allow residents to plant on their berm, include education, resources and incentives to support this.
- **Encourage children's play and tree climbing (10 submitters)**
 - Overlap education initiatives for tamariki with encouraging planting that enables climbing through nature and trees for children, nature play is necessary for the future generations to understand the importance of trees.

Other comments (33 submitters)

33 submitters had other feedback and ideas that did not clearly fit under our identified primary themes, for example, a plan for tree stumps, consideration of monitoring and evaluation, removing paved land to better absorb rainfall, implementing sustainable driveway surfaces, and consulting with utility and infrastructure providers.