

TAKAKA GOLF CLUB

TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PLAN

Introduction

The committee has approved on an “ad-hoc” basis the removal of trees that are;

- Dead or dying
- Blown down
- Affecting greens either by shading and/or roots encroaching into greens

This plan sets out the steps in identifying additional removals as well as replacement tree planting.

Landscape Parameters

- The Takaka Golf Course is primarily a links course
- Links courses generally have no trees. They are normally surrounded by gorse, rough, bunkers and hazards, which define the course. In Takaka’s case trees provide protection for players as well as defining some holes
- Views of the bay and mountains should be encouraged wherever possible
- Any tree removal / replacement is to be sustainable i.e. reduces rough mowing time, reduces the amount of clean up time following stormy weather, as well as being affordable

Background

The course currently has a mixture of exotics and native trees, which is dominated by pine trees.

The pine trees were mainly planted in the 1980’s to provide additional protection for the players as well as the possibility in the future to provide additional income for the club.

Additional trees, both natives and exotics, have been planted over the years with mixed results, some species such as the pohutukawa and bottle brushes have done well, whilst others have not grown beyond their initial planting height.

Some of the older pines have been damaged and are past their best, whilst others are planted very close together affecting both the tree growth and turf conditions. Shading and reduced air circulation is also a factor in disease activity, drainage problems and soil compaction. Tree roots also rob the turf of moisture and nutrients.

In some instances trees are encroaching on fairways forcing players to use only one side of the tee block, as well as causing surface root problems.

Due to the age of some of the pines it is only a matter of time before a storm will force additional tree removal and replacement.

The “Jewel of the Bay” report recommended replacement of older pines with either native or exotic trees and that any replacement trees for the pines can survive the climatic conditions.

General Statement for Tree Removal And Replacement

- Some trees act as protection for players and whilst replacement of the pines is recommended, care must be taken to ensure that players are in fact protected. In some instances it may be prudent to replace pines with pines
- Where possible pines should be replaced with either native or other exotic trees
- No tree shall be removed that defines / makes the hole i.e. large pine on number 5
- Views of the “Bay” and or “Mountains” should not be blocked by trees
- It is important to ensure that any replacement trees for the pines can survive the conditions
- Shading of greens by trees, particularly morning shade must be avoided
- Damaged trees, i.e. split, loss of top should be removed and/or replaced
- As well as tree removable and replacement, tree pruning must also be part of an overall plan
- Replacement trees should be spaced, allowing for future growth and sustainability
- Stumps should be removed
- Healthy replacement trees should be purchased and looked after especially the early years
- Any tree removals / replacements must be affordable

Recommendations

1. Subject to review this “Tree Removal and Replacement Plan” should be adopted
2. Detailed plans and priorities are to be prepared for the next phase of tree removal and replacement including a course “walk through”
3. Approve each phase including budget