



Dear Christeen, Anne, Dean, David, Tim, Janine, Dennis, Richard, Richard, Phil, Beryl & Rob,

RE: Aranui Park Western fenceline and subdivision development at 166 Mapua Drive.

On Wednesday 6th January 2021 David Mitchell (Friends of Māpua Wetland & convener of the Māpua School Tāne's Ark restoration project at Aranui park), Wayne Chisnall (Vice chair Māpua & District Community Association (MDCA), and myself meet with Richard Hilton (TDC Parks & Reserves) to inspect and discuss the damage to the trees within Aranui Park along its western boundary that it was felt had been impacted by the earthworks that have occurred at 166 Mapua Drive prior to any application for a Resource Consent.

During our investigation, we noted that several cabbage trees had toppled over. The possible cause of this could be due to the exposure to the prevailing wind they had previously been protected from prior to 166 being cleared of vegetation.

We also had a good look at the six 40-year-old old kahikatea trees that had their roots exposed by the excavators on the 166 Mapua Drive property. The initial thought was that these trees would not survive the disturbance to their roots. However, it was pleasing to see signs of new leaf-growth at the tips of leaves that had previously died off. However, there remains a concern that these trees may not survive if the district suffers a dry spell.



This photo shows six approximately 100-year-old native trees at 166 Mapua Drive near the boundary of Aranui Park.

With regard to the six trees above that were currently standing, one has since been felled. The manager of the development company has indicated these trees are in the way of the proposed subdivision and has said that they will be removed.

This loss would be a huge shame, especially considering the value they have for carbon storage now and into the future, and once they have been felled the carbon they currently store will be lost into the atmosphere.

Richard Hilton stated that, as part of the subdivision plan, there will be a requirement on the sub-divider to provide a retention pond above Aranui Park to store storm water runoff so water/groundwater would continue to run into Aranui Park, ensuring the survival of trees near the western boundary of Aranui Park. Richard also stated that there is a wish for the walkway from the south western corner of Aranui Park to be extended at a minimum of seven metres through the subdivision exiting out on to a new road that will be formed as part of the subdivision.

With this in mind, MDCA would like to request the following items be included within the Resource Consent requirements for the proposed subdivision at 166 Mapua Drive.

1. To combat the loss of the six 100yrs old native trees, MDCA ask that the developer is required to plant the area around the retention pond and along both sides of the walkway for its entire length with New Zealand native trees, in keeping with the current walkway within Aranui Park. Plantings must be NZ natives and reflect the species already planted within Aranui Park and Mapua Wetland in co-ordination with Richard Hilton (TDC) and David Mitchell (Friends of Mapua Wetland).
2. That the retaining wall that we understand the developers intend to build along the entire length of Aranui Parks western boundary be located at least 3mtrs from the boundary so as to avoid any risk of the surface roots of the trees in Aranui Park being buried, which would cause long term-harm to the health of the trees (especially the kahikatea trees).
3. That to avoid damaging surface roots of trees growing in the park near the western boundary, during construction of the proposed retaining wall referred to in item 2, no heavy machinery would be permitted to operate within 3-metres of the western boundary line of Aranui Park.
4. For the community to be giving assurances that any contaminates within the soil as a result of old horticultural practices from yester year will not impact the health of the trees on neighbouring properties or the health of residents living or playing nearby.

MDCA requests that representatives of MDCA be given the opportunity to have input into how this subdivision fits into the vision our association has for the future of the Māpua-Ruby Bay community.

Finally, we ask to be advised when an application for resource consent for the subdivision is lodged for the property at 166 Māpua Drive and we would appreciate being kept informed of the progress of the Resource Consent application.

Kind Regards

Marion Satherley
MDCA Chair
On behalf of MDCA Membership