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Civic Trust Auckland supports the submission of the Tree Council to decline the Land Use Consent (tree) application to remove a pohutukawa located at 321 Rosebank Road, Avondale, Auckland (ACC ref R/TRT/2101/2836) for the following reasons.

1. Public support for the retention of this tree is evidenced by the petition of more than 1,100 signatures supporting the addition of the pohutukawa and the neighbouring oak to the Schedule of Notable Trees within Auckland City Council's District Plan.
2. For two such different trees to be growing next to each other, representing different aspects of our heritage, is a very unusual pairing, and one that should be protected and preserved.
3. The decision of the independent commissioner Mr C Stewart on 23 December 2009 stated that the removal of the two trees, "will adversely affect the amenity of the site and the surrounding area to a degree that is more than minor" and that "No adequate mitigation measures in respect of these trees have been proposed".
4. The Auckland City Council's City Development Committee on 8 July 2010 accepted the proposal that the oak and pohutukawa be added to the Schedule of Notable Trees and to immediately begin the process of scheduling.

5. A report by the applicant's arborist states that the two trees were worthy of "mandatory retention". The retention of the two trees was advanced as mitigation for the removal of all the other vegetation on this 10-hectare site and two trees were specifically protected as a condition of consent through many resource consent applications relating to this site.

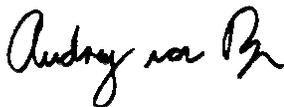
6. The oak and the pohutukawa comprise part of the visual amenity not only for people who work in the immediate vicinity but also the nearby residential neighbourhood and passers-by, such as the many who use Rosebank Road to access the North Western motorway.

7. The pohutukawa is a healthy mature tree which is expected to live for another 150 years. It provides food for nectar-eating birds during its flowering season and shelter for all birds at all times, thus enhancing the area with the presence of birds and birdsong.

8. It is good urban design to retain mature vegetation in a built-up industrial environment such as this stretch of Rosebank Road. The development itself will be enhanced by the presence of these trees. A vista towards trees would in particular be calming and attractive from offices constructed nearby. Furthermore, the land taken up by the two trees could form part of any reserves contribution, which may be required by the local authority.

9. The heritage value of the land includes its contribution to the early development of Auckland as a market garden. The development site is the last remnant of this area and the last remaining market garden site in the Auckland City area. The oak and pohutukawa were planted by the Connells, a well-known market garden family.

10. The trees are very visible landmarks and their presence serves to retain the long-standing green open space of the land on which they are situated.



Audrey van Ryn  
On behalf of the Board of Civic Trust Auckland