Owner Responsibility

Before pruning or carrying out development within the root zone of a protected tree you need to contact the Council staff. They will give relevant advice and grant approval if appropriate.

For tree removal or major pruning works you will have to apply to the Council for resource consent. In some circumstances Council may waive the consent fees.

While most owners value their listed trees Council does receive complaints about poor management of trees from time to time. If you breach Council rules you could receive an infringement fine, or for serious breaches, be taken to the Environment Court.

Practical Tree Care

A simple but effective way of caring for your tree is to look after its roots. A tree with healthy roots is more resistant to pests and diseases.

You can improve conditions for roots by applying a layer of good quality organic mulch on the ground within the ‘drip line’ of the tree. This will also reduce the effects of climatic stress on the tree.

Avoiding Damage

Damage to trees is relatively simple to prevent but once done is extremely difficult and sometimes impossible to rectify.

Significant damage to trees can occur during property development works, especially to their fragile root systems. We strongly recommend discussing your site development plans with Council before any work begins.

The list of Council protected trees is in the Tasman Resource Management Plan, available at Council service centres.
The Tasman District has a valuable heritage and amenity tree collection. Increased development in our region is placing many of these special trees at risk. The tree protection policy of the Tasman Resource Management Plan is aimed at safeguarding our significant trees from damage or unnecessary removal.

**Why Protect Trees in Tasman?**
- Amenity Benefits
- Historical Association
- Botanical/Scientific Interest
- Preserve Regional Landmarks
- Preserve Character of Landscape

**What are the Categories for Protected Trees?**

**A category**
- Exceptional specimen trees
- Including some that are regarded as nationally or even internationally significant

**B category**
- Important landscape trees
- Significant in the region

**C category**
- Landscape trees
- Locally significant

**Benefits to tree owners**
- Financial assistance with Tasman District Council approved pruning on A and B Category trees
- Trees are inspected by an arborist on a regular basis
- Arboricultural advice is available for tree owners