

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Kia ora,

**A tree, shrub or other vegetation on your property is:**

- Overhanging the footpath and/or berm and is less than 2.5 meters above the ground
- Overhanging the road and is less than 5 metres above the ground
- Overgrown and is blocking the footpath

**Please trim the tree, shrub or other vegetation to keep our roads and footpaths clear and safe for everyone to use.**

### Find out more

-  Email us at [asset.protection@ccc.govt.nz](mailto:asset.protection@ccc.govt.nz)
-  Call us on (03) 941 8999 and ask to speak to an Asset Protection Officer

# Overgrown trees, shrubs, and other vegetation



## Over-hanging trees and vegetation

Ōtautahi-Christchurch is a pedestrian-friendly city. We want people to be able to walk without needing to avoid obstructions, including tree roots and overgrown shrubs and trees encroaching onto or over footpaths.

People leaving their driveways, especially in vehicles, need a clear view of the footpath and the street in both directions. It's also important that parked vehicles, buses and service trucks, such as rubbish trucks or street sweepers, are not obstructed or damaged by vegetation.

## Overgrown vegetation

Hedges or shrubs growing through your fence should be trimmed back to the property boundary line.

This will ensure that pedestrians can use the footpath without needing to step aside onto the berm or road. It also ensures there is enough room for prams, pushchairs and wheelchairs, and access to your letterbox.



## Overgrown trees

If trees on your property are encroaching beyond the boundary and over the footpath, you have a responsibility to trim them back.

Overhanging trees and shrubs should be trimmed back to the boundary to a height at least 2.5 metres above the footpath and grass berm, and 5.0 metres above the road. Tree roots are a safety risk and should be maintained and trimmed back to be within your property.

This allows pedestrians to walk on the footpath without having to navigate trip hazards and 'duck' under branches (especially at night or when it is raining). It will also prevent tree damage to vehicles and damage to your tree from vehicles.



## Problems with a neighbour's tree?

We're unable to intervene in disputes about trees on private land as they are a civil matter, unless the tree is a designated protected tree.

This is something for neighbours to sort out between themselves. We are not able to act or give advice on behalf of one resident against another, or to mediate in disputes.

For further information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau or a lawyer.

## Keep yourself and others safe

While working outside your property, in a public space, it's important to do so safely.

- Please remove all tree branches and clippings from the footpath and grass berm
- Remember to pick up and remove all your tools
- Take care that nothing can fall from the tree and injure yourself or someone else
- Never trim trees near powerlines yourself (contact Orion on **03 363 9898**)

If you're unable to do the work yourself, have health and safety concerns or it's a big job, contact an arborist or a landscaping firm to do the work.

## Need to block the road or footpath?

If you need to block the footpath, road or dig within the 'road corridor' to trim branches or roots it's important to check with us first, as you may need approval.

See our website for more information about this: [ccc.govt.nz/transport/legal-road/corridor-access-requests](https://ccc.govt.nz/transport/legal-road/corridor-access-requests)