

**Philip Blakely for QLDC – Summary of Evidence, 24 June 2016**

**Chapter 32 Protected Trees, Hearing Stream 3**

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1. I was engaged by Council in 2014 to assess and identify trees, groups of trees and hedges in the Arrowtown Residential Historic Management Zone (**ARHMZ**) that are significant in terms of character, amenity, or history, or a combination of some or all of these criteria.
2. Assessment criteria were developed and used to determine whether the vegetation had special character values. The vegetation that met the criteria were included in 32.7 Schedule of Character Trees in the ARHMZ of the Proposed District Plan (**PDP**). The assessment criteria were:
  - (a) the contribution the individual trees, groups of trees or hedges made to the character and amenity of the streetscape and wider environment;
  - (b) whether the vegetation contributed to heritage values; and
  - (c) the age of the vegetation and if it was typical and/or representative of early plantings in Arrowtown.
3. I consider that the character trees that have been assessed, identified and included in the PDP have been robustly assessed and evaluated.
4. In response to specific submission points, it is my opinion that items 4 Hawthorn hedge, 6 Hawthorn hedge, and 34 Copper Beech and Walnut have been correctly identified and given protected status on account of their contribution to the character, amenity and heritage values of the ARHMZ. I have considered the subject trees and hedges against the assessment criteria in my evidence in chief and supplementary evidence.
5. No sound basis has been provided upon which the Council should reconsider the classification of these trees/hedges as character trees, and I note that no technical evidence has been filed by submitters, that challenges my written evidence.