**Submission on Draft City-Wide Vegetation Framework Jan. 2016**

**Preferred title (please delete inapplicable titles): Mrs and Mr**

**Full Name of Submitter: Marilyn and Bruce Bulloch**

**Postal Address: 128 Cook Street, West End, Palmerston North 4410**

**Phone (daytime): 06 357 7338**

**Email: marilynbulloch@gmail.com**

 *(NOTE: A signature is not required if you are making a submission by electronic means.)*

|  |
| --- |
| **Our submission is that….****We commend the Council for developing a Vegetation Framework and engaging in consultation with organisations such as Environment Network Manawatu Inc. The draft document is comprehensive and well thought out. We support the content of the Vegetation Framework with a few minor additions.****Planting, Soil Preparation and Watering****We are concerned that more soil preparation prior to planting trees, shrubs and ground cover should be undertaken. Also, there is no provision for the watering of new plantings, particularly over the dry summer months in the 1-3 years following planting. In the recent past we have had a few particularly dry summers.****Many plantings die or struggle due to poor soil preparation and the poor quality of the soil used as fill for roadworks. In reserves soil can also be compacted or of poor quality.****The Council itself, community groups or individuals could be tasked with watering new plantings. The Council could keep a database of groups or individuals prepared to oversee ongoing watering. Trees can be very expensive and the Council has a limited budget, and so it is unproductive to allow new plantings to make it without ongoing attention. This includes staking where plants need support to withstand prevailing winds.****We note that throughout the document references have been made to mulching which is good, but mulching by itself can be inadequate under very dry conditions.****We notice some reference to tree pits and watering systems on pages 47 (Commercial streets – collector/local) and 51 (Residential streets – collector/local).****Tree Selection List - Use of Kowhai species****We have our doubts about Kowhai species (particularly the taller North Island variety) being on the list of suitable street trees where they will be fully exposed to prevailing winds. Also, the seeds are poisonous. Struggling kowhais can be seen in some urban streets.****Selection of trees for plantings can be subject to changing fashions. The current emphasis being on NZ natives. We notice that in the document there is no reference to exotic conifers although native conifers are on the list.****More recently Australian natives have been popular for street plantings, such as Banksia integrifolia. The recommended species list needs to be flexible and subject to change if a species proves unsuitable for a particular use.****Species we quite like are lower-growing varieties of Californian lilac because they are hardy and blue flowers are more unusual, and red hot pokers for colour in winter and nectar source for native birds.****Retention of Waterways, Creeks and Streams as part of Green Corridors****In the past waterways across the city have been used as drains, or filled-in, diverted or channelled into concrete pipes. There is now a greater appreciation of waterways and we should now aim for restoration of natural free-flowing waterways. Waterways throughout the city should come under the Green Corridors Strategy.****Currently most of the Green Corridors are located west of the city and the Manawatu River as shown on the map on page 68. We believe the original intention was for Green Corridors to extend across the city, linking into the rural areas.** |

|  |
| --- |
| **The specific sections of the Framework my submission relates to are as follows:***[Specify the specific page number, section or map number in the framework that your submission relates to:]* **In parts of the document where mulching is mentioned, add reference to Soil Preparation and Watering. Eg. Chapter 2 Technical Procedures, pp. 82, 83, 85 etc.****List of trees throughout the document****Green Corridors, p. 69, map p. 68.; Manawatu River and Tributaries pp 73-77.** |

|  |
| --- |
| **I seek the following decision from the Palmerston North City Council:** [Give precise details.]**That Palmerston North City Council vote in support of the document as presented with the following amendments:****Where mulching is referred to we request a requirement for proper soil preparation and ongoing watering as described in our introduction.****Restrict the use of Kowhai species to sunny sheltered locations and streets. Consider the addition of exotic conifers, Californian lilac and red hot pokers to the plant lists.****Waterways across the city and Manawatu river tributaries be included under Green Corridors (for reasons as outlined in our introduction).** |

**PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBMISSION BY:**

**Mailing to**: Palmerston North City Council

Private Bag 11-034, Palmerston North

**ATTENTION:** Team Leader – Governance and Support

**Delivering to:** Council’s Contact Services Centre, Te Manaakitanga o Hineaute, Civic Administration Building, The Square, Palmerston North

**Visiting our website:** www.pncc.govt.nz to make a submission

**Emailing to:** submission@pncc.govt.nz

Submissions Close 4pm, 18 March 2016