1. The aim of the Review of Neighbourly Relations is to find more efficient ways of assisting neighbours to resolve their disputes. This might be through improving processes for the resolution of common neighbourhood disputes, better access to information and ensuring a more efficient alignment of the roles of relevant agencies. The Review examines the common causes of disputes between neighbours such as dividing fences and dangerous and intrusive trees. The laws on noise and other ‘low impact’ environmental nuisances do not form part of the neighbourly relations review.
2. It is proposed to release discussion papers on the public and private nuisance of trees (the Trees Discussion Paper) and remedies for neighbourhood disputes (the Remedies Discussion Paper).
3. The Trees Discussion Paper will examine the current laws which apply to the nuisance of trees and explores those areas creating uncertainty for neighbours.
4. Community engagement will occur on the discussion papers with the deadline for submissions being early September 2008 (this was subsequently extended to 31 October 2008). The submissions will be analysed and a reform package from the neighbourly relations review developed.
5. Cabinet approved the release of discussion papers and summary guides on remedies and trees.
6. *Attachments*
* [Trees Discussion Paper](attachments/JAG_review_of_neighbourly_relations_-_Trees_discussion_paper.pdf)
* [Remedies Discussion Paper](attachments/JAG_review_of_neighbourly_relations_-_Resolving_neighbourhood_disputes_discussion_paper.pdf)