

<b>POS</b>	<b>REMOVAL &amp; PRUNING OF TREES</b>	<b>PSEW15</b>
------------	---------------------------------------	---------------

<b>POSITION STATEMENT CODE:</b>	PSEW15
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	Engineering & Works
<b>BUSINESS UNIT:</b>	Parks Department
<b>SERVICE UNIT:</b>	Parks Maintenance Services
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Manager, Parks & Environment
<b>FILE NO.:</b>	182/002
<b>DATE FIRST ADOPTED:</b>	20 May 2003
<b>DATE LAST REVIEWED:</b>	9 March 2017
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	N/A
<b>VERSION NO.</b>	4

<b>Dates of Amendments / Reviews:</b>	
DAPPS Meeting:	27 August 2015 26 November 2015 23 February 2017
OCM:	11 December 2014 10 September 2015 10 December 2015

**BACKGROUND:**

Trees are regarded as highly desirable and integral to the urban landscape, providing a range of social, environmental and economic advantages. As such they are considered to be an integral part of the total public landscape amenity affecting and benefiting all residents within the locality, individually and collectively.

From time to time requests are received from residents for the removal or pruning of trees.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide clear direction to the City’s officers when requests are received for the removal or pruning of trees growing on land under the direct care, control and management of the City.

**POSITION:**

*Removal of Trees on Land under the direct care, control and management of the City*

(1) Trees shall **not** be removed unless they are:

1. Dead;
2. In a state of decline to the point that survival is unlikely;
3. Structurally unsound, to the point of constituting imminent danger to persons or property;

<b>POS</b>	<b>REMOVAL &amp; PRUNING OF TREES</b>	<b>PSEW15</b>
------------	---------------------------------------	---------------

4. Damaging or likely to damage property, where alternatives to prevent damage are not possible;
5. Part of a tree replacement program; or
6. Obstructing a Council approved works program, such as road and drainage works.
7. Adversely impacting on home owners by way of tree root invasion that is damaging their homes, driveways, letter boxes, fences or other assets on their property.

(2) Any cost of removing the tree to be borne by the City.

(3) wherever practicable, a new tree be planted that does not have invasive root systems.

#### *Loss of Amenity*

Trees growing on land under the direct care, control and management of the City, that are considered to be unduly interfering with the amenity available to adjacent residents in the use of their land, may be removed or pruned at the discretion of the Council.

In such circumstances, trees shall not be removed unless:

1. A request in writing for removal of the tree has been received from the adjacent property owner by the City's Officers, clearly stating the reasons for requesting removal;
2. An Officer's report detailing the request and associated issues has been presented to the Council for its consideration, including any consultation undertaken; and
3. The Council has formally resolved to authorise removal of the tree.

Where the Council has resolved to authorise removal of a tree at the request of an adjacent property owner:

1. Removal shall be at full cost to the property owner who made the request for removal;
2. The tree shall be dismantled to the ground, removed from the site and the stump shall be ground out;
3. The tree shall be removed by a suitable contractor engaged by the City for the purpose;
4. The tree shall not be removed until the City has received payment for the full cost of removal; and
5. The City at the Council's cost shall plant a replacement tree suitable for the location, within six months of removing the original tree.

#### *Planning, Building, and Other Approvals*

<b>POS</b>	<b>REMOVAL &amp; PRUNING OF TREES</b>	<b>PSEW15</b>
------------	---------------------------------------	---------------

Where a planning, building or other approval has been granted by the City, that necessitates removal of a tree growing on land under the direct care, control and management of the City:

1. Removal shall be at full cost to the property owner who made the request for removal;
2. The tree shall be dismantled to the ground, removed from the site and the stump shall be ground out;
3. The tree shall be removed by a suitable contractor engaged by the City for the purpose; and
4. The City at the Council's cost shall plant a replacement tree suitable for the location and as near as practical to the original location, within six months of removing the original tree.

#### *Pruning of Trees*

Generally, trees shall be allowed to develop their natural canopy and shall not be pruned.

Where pruning is essential, pruning shall only be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373 – 2007, *Pruning of Amenity Trees*, and for the express purposes of:

1. Providing clearance for pedestrian movement;
2. Improving the safety, structure and health of the tree;
3. Maintaining clearances for utility services, eg powerlines;
4. Improving vehicle driver's line of sight along vehicle carriageways; and
5. Preventing branches encroaching into neighbouring property from public property.
6. Minor trimming of a branch on the undercroft of a verge tree is permissible for pedestrian safety or as a result of damage but any other pruning must be carried out by City Officers or contractors employed by the City as excessive pruning may result in permanent damage to the health of a tree which may result in future replacement cost to the City.