

Policy Type

Council

Policy Purpose

The purpose of this document is to inform residents and property owners on how the City will manage its tree assets, increase canopy cover and provide guidance on pruning and removal. The ongoing management of trees provides a strong framework to enable the City to deliver on the key objectives as outlined in the Urban Forest Plan.

Policy Statement

Trees are regarded as highly desirable and integral to the urban landscape, providing a range of social, environmental and economic values to the community including:

1. Shade
2. Habitat
3. Improved air quality, CO2 reduction
4. Wind and noise attenuation
5. Improve property values
6. Improve visual amenity of streetscapes
7. Habitat for native fauna

(1) Tree Planting

The City is responsible for planting of all trees in reserves, within the streetscape and verges directly adjacent to a property. Tree planting will generally be carried out in the winter period to aid in tree establishment with watering and maintenance undertaken by the City. Street tree requests will be assessed in accordance with Urban Forest Plan and the tree species determined by the City.

(2) Tree Pruning

The City is responsible for the pruning of all trees and will consider undertaking these works to provide the following;

1. Improve the safety, structure and health of the tree
2. Provide clearance for pedestrian movement
3. Prevent branches from overhanging a property boundary and park infrastructure
4. Maintain safe clearance zones from powerlines
5. Maintain clear line of sight for vehicles and cyclists

Tree pruning requests will be assessed and inspected by a City officer, if pruning is required, works will be undertaken in accordance with Australian Standards AS4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees. Where the City receives a request for the pruning or removal of a tree(s) located on private property, section 3.27(2) (Schedule 3.2(7)), section 5.42 and 5.44 of the Local Government Act 1995 will be

applied.

(3) Tree Removal

1. The City is responsible for the removal of all trees. Trees will only be removed under the following conditions;

- (a) Dead
- (b) Diseased
- (c) Structurally unsound
- (d) Obstructing an approved works program, by either the City or utilities
- (e) Tree root damage to public and/or private assets, when root barrier installation is not viable
- (f) Damaged by a declared storm event
- (g) Identified as an invasive species

2. Where a planning, building or other approval has been granted by the City that necessitates removal of a tree the applicant will be required to compensate the City. The costs associated with the removal and replacement of the tree will include:

- (a) Removal costs incurred by the City
- (b) Amenity value based on the Helliwell method or other approved valuation method
- (c) Reinstatement and establishment of a new tree.

3. Tree removal requests by residents will be investigated by the City. The following conditions are not considered to be valid reasons for the removal of a street tree;

- (a) Species, size, shape or location is not the personal preference of a property owner
- (b) Obscures views
- (c) Shades a property, solar panels, solar hot water systems
- (d) Drops leaves, seed capsules, flowers, fruit and bark
- (e) Allergies or health problems

(4) Tree Damaged or Removed Without Authorisation

Where a street tree is damaged or removed without authorisation, the city may take action against the person responsible for the damage or removal. This may include:

- 1. Issuing an infringement notice to, or prosecuting, the responsible party;
- 2. Commencing civil litigation against the responsible party to recover the City's losses and the damage caused; .
- Imposing a charge on the responsible party as prescribed under the City's
- 3. Annual Fees and Charges Schedule; or
- 4. Reaching agreement with the responsible party to compensate for the City's losses and the damage caused.

Strategic Link:	Public Open Space Strategy – Urban Forest Plan
Category	Street Trees and Verges
Lead Business Unit:	Operations and Maintenance
Public Consultation: (Yes or No)	No
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