



## WS14 Street Trees

### Policy Objective

To ensure conformity in new verge/street tree installation and maintenance and parameters for removal of existing verge/street trees.

### Policy

#### **Planting**

Street trees are to be installed as per this policy or at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or Authorised Officer.

Planting of approved street trees by the Executive Manager Infrastructure Services or Authorised Officer shall be decided on, in each case, its merit and location.

Upon approval of an application, an adjoining property owner can be allowed to plant a maximum of 2 approved street trees per 20 metres frontage at their own cost. The number and type of street trees approved will be dependent on available verge area and characteristics of the tree/s. Trees are to be supplied by the land owner and maintained by the land owner for a minimum period of three years.

Street trees will be varieties that have the following characteristics:

- require minimal pruning;
- are non-hyper allergenic;
- have a non-invasive root system;
- are non-toxic;
- do not produce thorns, a prickle or spur seed, or fruit that will cause a hazard;
- will typically grow no taller than six metres or three metres if under power lines;
- generally will not cause a nuisance by dropping excessive nuts, leaves or fruit.

Street trees approved to be planted on a verge with a footpath or within 1 metres of the back of kerb, seal edge or shoulder, shall have a suitable root barrier installed 300mm deep (min) and 1 metre in diameter to minimise potential damage to Shire infrastructure.

Trees shall be planted at an approved location so as to avoid electrical power lines and all other services. No trees are to be planted within 20 metres from a street corner or within 7 metres from a crossover of where they may impede sight distance or pedestrian traffic. Trees are not to be planted on verges less than four metres wide.

#### **Maintenance**

Street tree maintenance will be undertaken as required and within the allocated street tree maintenance budget.

Maintenance on trees impeding sight distances, vehicle and pedestrian movements shall be given a higher priority. Only those trees which are under Western Power / Horizon Power's power lines or which constitute a traffic hazard to be pruned each year (contractor to be permitted to use discretion).

Street trees that show a high risk of imminent danger shall be removed/pruned as required at the discretion of the Executive Manager Technical Service or Authorised Officer.

#### **Removal of Street Trees**

The Chief Executive Officer or Authorised Officer may determine to approve the removal of trees on Shire property by Shire staff should tree(s) be required to be removed for the following reasons:

- roadworks (including footpaths, etc.) associated with the annual works program;
- trees that are dead, dying, deformed, damaged or in poor health;



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- trees considered unsuitable for the streetscape;
- trees considered to be located in a hazardous or dangerous position, or in a location contributing to a hazardous or dangerous situation;
- or other rational reason associated with the operations of the Technical Services Department.

The above notwithstanding, where a tree is considered:

- contentious or large costs are to be incurred;
- a heritage or significant specimen; or
- a Council response is necessary,

a report regarding the tree removal will be submitted to Council prior to any action being undertaken.

**Upon Application for Removal/Replacement of Street Trees by Adjacent Landowners:**

Should a street tree require removal as a consequence of the approved development or redevelopment of a property, including the removal to facilitate a driveway/crossover installation, the CEO will only consider the request following receipt of an application in writing. The CEO shall have the delegated authority to approve the removal of trees on Shire property by adjacent landowners as a consequence of development should the application meet with Officer approval.

The applicant is to be advised of any condition(s) which shall include (but not limited to):

- replacing any removed street tree with the same or similar tree;
- all vegetation removed from the road reserve shall be disposed of appropriately.
- the applicant is responsible for all association costs, including verge/footpath reinstatement if required.

The above notwithstanding, where a tree is considered:

- contentious or large costs are to be incurred;
- a heritage or significant specimen; or
- a Council response is necessary,

a report regarding the tree removal will be submitted to Council prior to any action being undertaken.

It is recognised that the Shire also receives requests from property owners to remove trees for reasons other than as a consequence of development or redevelopment. Generally Council will not support the removal of trees for reasons other than those trees that are hazardous/dangerous.

However, any application to remove a tree or trees will be evaluated with the following foreseeable outcomes:

- application rejected, no further action taken;
- tree or trees found to be the Shires responsibility; action taken by Shire staff subject to costs being met by property owner;
- report to Council prior to any action being taken.

**Native Vegetation on Council Verges**

Any removal or maintenance of native vegetation on Shire verges is at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer or Authorised Officer.

Should a land owner adjacent to a Shire verge wish to remove native vegetation on that verge, it is the adjacent landowner/s responsibility to obtain any/all approvals to remove vegetation (e.g. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions).

Clearing must be kept to a minimum and may be conditional on replacing any removed vegetation with the same or similar vegetation at the request of the Executive Manager Infrastructure Services or Authorised Officer.



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All vegetation removed from the road reserve shall be disposed of appropriately. The adjacent landowner is responsible for all associated costs unless otherwise agreed to by the Executive Manager Infrastructure Services or Authorised Officer.

<b>DOCUMENT CONTROL BOX</b>		
<b>Custodian:</b> Chief Executive Officer		<b>Decision Maker:</b> Council
<b>Compliance Requirements:</b>		
<b>Legislation:</b>		
<b>Industry:</b>		
<b>Organisational:</b>		
<b>Document Management:</b>		
<b>Risk Rating:</b> Medium	<b>Review Frequency:</b> 2 Years	<b>Next Due:</b>
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a	OCM 21/07/20 – Item 13.2	Comprehensive policy register review.
b	OCM 19/07/2022 Item 12.1.2	Comprehensive Policy Register Review
c	OCM 15/12/2025 Item 12.1.1	Policy Reconfirmed – No Amendments