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STREET TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY GUIDELINES

REFERENCES & RELATED DOCUMENTS

Street Tree Management Policy CP011

Australian Standard AS 4970-2009: Protection of Trees on Development Sites Australian Standard

AS 4373-2007: Protection of Trees on Development Sites

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

Tree Protection

It is rarely possible to repair stressed and injured trees, so damage needs to be avoided during all stages of development and construction. The most important consideration for the successful retention of trees is to allow appropriate above and below ground space for the trees to continue to grow.

To ensure that street trees in the municipality are fully protected at all times, the following requirements must be complied with:

- a) Removals of trees will not occur unless approved by Council.
- b) An authorised agent of Council will undertake any tree removals that are required.
- c) Trees will not be pruned in any form and branches and roots will be removed only by an authorised agent of Council unless Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified officer) advises otherwise.
- d) Pruning of roots and branches will be in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 4373-2007, and when nearby disturbance is occurring, protection measures will be in accordance with AS 4970-2009: *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*, or any more recent relevant Standard.
- e) A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall be established in accordance with AS 4970-2009 by the developer for the duration of any works, such as the repairs and construction of footpaths and roads, occurring near a tree. A TPZ preserves roots and soil and keeps branches clear of contact with construction equipment and materials. Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist) must approve any modification to a TPZ.

Tree Removal and Replacement

Council will manage its street trees by monitoring the condition of all street trees and removing and replacing them where appropriate.

Instances when street tree removal (or changes to a proposed street planting scheme) will not be considered include:

- a) If there is a safe and practical means for tree retention
- b) To minimise obstruction of views, or advertising signage
- c) To reduce leaf and fruit litter debris (unless beyond maintenance capability or with potential to cause a slip hazard)
- d) For solar access affecting an individual property
- e) For unjustified property damage claims
- f) For causing minor allergic or irritant responses.

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APPROVAL DATE: 19 May 2022

RESPONSIBILITY: Director Infrastructure & Development Services

APPROVED BY: Council

REVIEW DATE: May 2025



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Provided consideration is given to suitable replacement planting and the relevant provisions of the current Planning Scheme are adhered to, street trees will be considered for removal:

- a) If posing a hazard where there is significant risk to property, other infrastructure or life. In these instances, they will be removed immediately.
- b) Trees identified as posing a risk to traffic safety by obscuring safe traffic sight distances, obscuring road signs, or posing an unacceptable crash risk.
- c) Trees that are dead, dying, or in severe decline from natural causes unless it is determined by the Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist), that they must remain in the landscape for habitat provision or other purposes.
- d) Trees identified by the Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist), in consultation with the community, as being an inappropriate species for a location, or a poor specimen which contributes little to amenity or habitat.
- e) If a new development project can demonstrate an overall improvement of public green space/infrastructure that would not be possible without the removal of a public tree. In this case the developer would be required to cover all of the removal and rehabilitation costs.

Provided the necessary Council resources are available, street trees will be considered for pruning and trimming as part of an annual Public Tree health and safety assessment by Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist), or at any other time if deemed by the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services to be posing an unacceptable risk to road safety.

Planting Guidelines

Tree species selected may occupy their planting site for 50 or more years, so tree selection is very important. Tree species will be selected for planting depending on their capacity to thrive in a site's specific micro-climate, aesthetics, functional and biological attributes, proximity to infrastructure and services, maintenance of traffic sight distances, and potential to contribute to the streetscape and community.

Tree planting techniques are to be in accordance with industry best practice in relation to water capture and retention, root barriers, and tree guards.

Any new planting is to be approved by Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist), and only located where it has been specified in an adopted Streetscape Plan, Street Tree Strategy, Masterplan or Planning Permit relevant to that area, or where a replacement tree is required following an approved removal.

Where there is no adopted plan or strategy, residents of the municipality may request the planting of a new tree and their request will be considered in accordance with these guidelines, any anticipated plans, the unique qualities of the site, and the resource capacity of the Council at the time.



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Council will not support the planting of trees or shrubs on public land by those not employed by or contracting to the Council unless prior consent is provided by the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services.

The final siting of trees must involve a joint decision between Council's arborist (or other suitably qualified horticulturist), and either the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, or the Director of Council Works.

All tree species proposed for planting, including those not on the list below, will be assessed for each location in accordance with the following criteria:

Consistency with a Streetscape Plan, Street Tree Strategy, Masterplan or Planning Permit

- **Environmental tolerance and impact** - *suitability with microclimate, geology and soils, topography, tolerance to urban environment and pests and diseases, potential for wildlife habitat, and native versus exotic species.*
- **Functional and biological attributes** – *species performance record, stock availability at the selected nursery, leaf and fruit litter, chance of becoming an environmental weed, safety aspects, life expectancy, sun/shade, and maintenance requirements.*
- **Design criteria** – *the need for traffic sight distances, appearance, form, and scale (including canopy size and impact on solar access of adjoining properties), relationship with distinctive landscape characters, any historical and cultural associations and deciduous versus evergreen*
- **Proximity to infrastructure** – *a criterion to assess distance of the planting location to above and below ground infrastructure*

Species suitable for planting must be on the following list unless otherwise approved by Council's suitably qualified horticulturist.

(See list on following pages.)



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Tree Name – Exotic	Size	Type	Colour
Acer palmatum (Maple)	Medium	Deciduous	Orange to deep red
Betula spp. (Silver/Copper birch)	Medium-tall	Deciduous	Yellow to light brown
Fagus sylvatica (European Beech)	Medium-tall	Deciduous	Brown
Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea' (Purple Beech)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Purple
Fraxinus excelsior (Claret Ash)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Red to burgundy
Fraxinus excelsior 'Aurea' (Golden Ash)	Medium	Deciduous	Bright Yellow
Gleditsia sunburst (Honey Locust)	Medium	Deciduous	Light Green
Liriodendron tulipifera (Tulip Tree)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Light Green
Liquidamber styraciflua (Liquidamber)	Tall	Deciduous	Yellow, orange to deep red
Magnolia grandiflora (Bull Bay Magnolia)	Medium-Tall	Evergreen	Rich glaucous green
Magnolia X Soulangeana (Chinese Magnolia)	Medium	Deciduous	Green
Parrotia persica (Persian Ironwood)	Small	Deciduous	Yellow/orange bright red
Platanus orientalis (Oriental Plane)	Large	Deciduous	Green – various shades
Prunus blireana (Purple Flowering Plum)	Small	Deciduous	Purple
Prunus serrulata (Japanese Flowering Cherry)	Small-Medium	Deciduous	Yellow, red to brown
Pyrus spp. (Ornamental Pear)	Medium	Deciduous	Yellow, orange to deep red
Quercus robur - Cultivars (English Oak)	Tall – Wide	Deciduous	Green to brown (Autumn)
Quercus palustris - Cultivars (Pin Oak)	Tall	Deciduous	Green to red (Autumn)
Tilia cordata (Linden)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Light green
Ulmus 'Louis van Houtte' (Golden Elm)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Golden light green



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Tree Name – Conifer	Size	Type	Colour
Albies alba (Silver Fir)	Medium-Tall	Evergreen	Teal/Grey
Cryptomeria Japonica (varieties)	Medium	Evergreen	Copper/bronze, green
Cedrus deodara/Atlantica (Cedar)	Medium-Tall	Evergreen	Green/Teal (needles)
Ginkgo biloba - Cultivars (Maiden Hair Tree)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Bright Yellow
Larix decidua (European Larch)	Medium-Tall	Deciduous	Light Green needles
Taxus bacatta – Fastigiata (English Yew)	Short-Medium	Evergreen	Green (flattened needles)
Thuja occidentalis (Smaragd)	Short-Medium	Evergreen	Rich green
Picea pungens ‘Glaucens’ (Blue Spruce)	Medium-Tall	Evergreen	Teal/Grey

Tree Name – Native	Size	Type	Colour
Acacia melanoxylon (Blackwood)	Medium	Evergreen	Grey green
Alocasurina littoralis (Sheoak)	Medium	Evergreen	Dark green/brown
Atherosperma moschatum (Sassafras)	Medium	Evergreen	Green
Banksia serrata (Old Man Banksia)	Small-Medium	Evergreen	Green/silver
Eucalyptus ovata (Swamp Gum)	Tall	Evergreen	Green
Eucalyptus viminalis (White Gum)	Tall	Evergreen	Green
Nothofagus cunninghamii (Myrtle)	Medium-Tall	Evergreen	Green
Phyllocladus asplenifolius (Celery Top Pine)	Small-Medium	Evergreen	Green
Pomaderris apetala (Common Dog Wood)	Small-Medium	Evergreen	Green