

CM-AS-03 Street Tree Preservation – Management Procedure

Relevant Council Policy	Relevant Delegation
CM-AS-02 - Street Tree and Streetscape Policy	

Purpose

To provide a framework for the maintenance and removal of street trees recognising the importance of maintaining an urban forest for the health and wellbeing of the community and protection of the unique local biodiversity supported by roadside vegetation.

Application

This Procedure does not apply to trees or landscaping on private property or on City reserves or land under the care or management of Federal or State Government instrumentalities.

Glossary and Definitions

Cultivated Street Tree – a street tree that has been selectively planted.

Debris – accumulation of vegetative materials such as leaves, nuts and bark.

Development application – relates to sub-division, crossovers and / or building development.

Naturally-Occurring Street Tree – a street tree that meets the following criteria:

- an endemic species in that locality.
- appears to have grown randomly and not part of a planting program.
- no record of significant human intervention.

Pruning – living and dead material above and below ground.

Significant tree – Any tree that has heritage, cultural, social or environmental value as recorded within the City's street tree register.

Streetscape – the combination of hard and soft landscaping of the verge.

Street tree – Any tree that has more than 50% of the base located within a verge/road reserve.

Tree – Any plant over 1.5m in height, normally of a single stem.

Verge – the section of road reserve between private property and the road kerb or edge of the road pavement.

Detail

Tree Maintenance

All street tree maintenance work shall be authorised by the City and undertaken by suitably qualified City staff or approved Contractor in accordance with AS 4373 – 2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees.

This includes, but is not limited to, pruning, canopy reduction, under pruning, power line clearances, tree removal, pest and disease treatment

Where legislation permits, other authorities or instrumentalities are authorised to undertake work in accordance with the requirements of those acts and regulations.

Where branches overhang private property, authority may be given to property owners or tenants to prune branches at the boundary and leave any pruned material on the verge for collection, subject to the following:

- **Work must be in accordance with AS 4373 – 2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees.**
- **Pruned materials must be stacked neatly in an area no greater than 1.5m wide x 1.5m deep x 1.0m high.**
- **Pruned materials must not obstruct footpaths, roads, drains or impact on other infrastructure.**
- **Notification to the City prior to the material being placed on the verge.**

Power Line Clearances

Street trees located under power lines will be pruned to comply with Western Power clearance zones by a contractor suitable qualified and certified to undertake work adjacent to power lines.

Street Tree Removal

The following reasons for street tree removal are **not considered acceptable**:

- Damage to private infrastructure from a naturally-occurring street tree in good health.
- The species is considered unpopular.
- The street tree is alleged to cause allergic reactions or health issues*.
- The street tree attracts undesirable fauna.
- To reduce leaf or flower litter or other debris that trees may seasonally shed.
- Record of previous limb drop from a tree identified as a healthy specimen.
- To enhance views or for aesthetic reasons.
- The tree overshadows private gardens/lawns, solar energy panels, solar hot water systems, satellite dishes.

* The City may consider removal on a case-by-case basis subject to the implementation of other reasonable solutions to resolve issues. Where removal is approved, the applicant will need to contribute the reasonable cost of removal and replacement of the street tree.

Unauthorised street tree removal or pruning may result in prosecution under regulation 5 of the of the *Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996*.

Street trees may be pruned or removed if:

- The street tree or part of is dead, suffering termite or other damage or is determined by the City or its arborist to be declining in health. Dead street trees may provide habitat for the local fauna and will be assessed accordingly for retention.
- A cultivated street tree is considered a hazard to residents, motorists or property.
- Approval from the City was not sought before the street tree was planted and is determined to be inappropriate in the area.
- In the Development Approval stage the City considers remedial street tree works is necessary.
- Re-occurring damage to infrastructure.
- Sight lines and access need to be maintained.

○ The City may obtain an independent report from a qualified Arboriculturalist for specific assessment if deemed necessary.

Unauthorised Street Tree Removal

If a street tree has been removed without City authority, a minimum of one replacement street tree will be planted on the verge of the property during the following planting season.

Where sufficient space is available on the verge, an additional replacement tree may be planted if agreed to by the property owner. If there is insufficient space, then the property owner will be required to pay for the 100 litre replacement tree to be planted elsewhere within the City.

Costs associated with the planting and maintenance thereafter for a period of two years will be borne by the owner.



Protection and Planting of Street Trees in Developments

Any trees authorised for removal as part of a development application or pending application will require the applicant to fund the cost of the tree removal and two replacement trees on the verge of the property during the following planting season.

Where there is inadequate space to plant two replacement trees due to verge size restrictions, offset planting of the tree/s will be added to the winter planting program and planted elsewhere within the City.

Prior to and during development site works, trees to be retained are to be protected with barrier mesh. The mesh is to be positioned 2 metres from the base of the tree encompassing the circumference.

If a tree is damaged during development works then any pruning, removal and/or replacement costs are at the expense of the applicant.

The City may apply a tree protection bond to ensure care and protection of any tree determined for retention.