



Council Policy

3.3 Tree Protection

Policy Objective

The Tree Protection Policy aims to preserve and enhance the Urban Forest character of the city, assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Strategic Community Plan, Urban Forest Plan and Environment Strategy; and to ensure the City is not exposed to an increase in legal risk for public liability claims by virtue of diminished standards.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to all trees in the public realm that are owned or managed by the City. It will be referred to:

- In the maintenance and management of the City's Urban Forest
- In the decision-making process for developments where planning, construction and/or maintenance may impact a tree owned or managed by the City.

Trees growing on private property are excluded from this policy.

Policy Statement

1. The City recognises public trees as important community assets; therefore, tree management will be undertaken in the long-term interest of the community as a whole.
2. Trees provide a range of benefits in an urban environment. They improve the liveability, landscape character, biodiversity, and climate resilience of the city. The presence of a healthy urban forest improves health outcomes in increasingly urbanised environments, mitigates the effects of climate change, and provides enjoyable and engaging public spaces.
3. It is recognised that the true significance of a tree is defined by its age and potential longevity, therefore, all public trees unless hazardous, will be protected from any activity that threatens their health and/or longevity. Where possible the City will prioritise the relocation of proposed infrastructure away from existing trees to reduce the potential for immediate conflict.
4. Trees will be given a priority status when considering applications for new developments.
5. The City will apply a monetary value to each tree derived from a combination of the amenity and ecological benefits it provides. Where a live tree is damaged and/or removed without authorisation the City will recoup the full tree value to compensate the community for the loss in accordance with the Tree Protection Policy Management Guidelines



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Document Control

Other relevant/related documents

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| Legislation: | |
| City Policies: | Urban Forest Plan Strategic Community Plan Street Tree Framework Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Study CP8.0 Environment Policy |
| City Procedures and Processes: | Tree Protection Policy - Management Guidelines |

Document responsibilities

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|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Custodian: | Coordinator Parks Projects | Custodian Unit: | Operations | Decision Maker: | Manager Operations |
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Review management

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Document management

| Version | Decision reference | Synopsis of changes |
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| 1.0 | OCM30/03/2021 | Initial policy submitted for approval. |