



POLICY: ENG-PR-002

STREET TREES

Purpose

To maintain and develop the aesthetic and environmental value of the City's Streetscapes through effective management principals. To ensure there is consistency in the advice given to ratepayers regarding removal of trees, maintenance, and planting of street trees.

This policy details:-

- Planting of trees on road verges;
- The process for the removal of street trees;
- Pruning of Council street trees;
- Offences and penalties.

Definitions

Statement

1. Planting of Trees on Verges

- 1.1. The City will provide trees to residents from the City's nursery for planting on street verges at a rate of one tree per 10 lineal metres of verge, as plant stocks may be limited from the City's nursery, supply cannot be guaranteed.
- 1.2. The City will assist with the selection of a suitable tree species that is appropriate to the particular streetscape with due respect to factors such as safety, interference to services, litter potential and aesthetics.
- 1.3. Upon request from a property owner, the City will make arrangements for the planting of a street tree deemed suitable for the street environment. Planting will be undertaken by the City between the months of May to August.

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- 1.4. Planting and watering of the tree will be the responsibility of the ratepayer once supplied.
- 1.5. Ratepayers may request a tree of their own choice for consideration by Council in writing. Approval cannot be considered until such time as Council has assessed the site requirements and issued a permit to proceed. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to supply their own plants in such circumstances.
- 1.6. Street trees are to be planted in accordance with the following guidelines:-
 - 1.6.1 in alignment with existing street trees, usually at a distance between 2.4 and 3 metres from the private property front boundary line.
 - 1.6.2 at 10 metre intervals between trees in general planted central to the average size house block.
 - 1.6.3 a minimum of 2 metres from the road.
 - 1.6.4 a minimum of 3 metres from a driveway crossover.
 - 1.6.5 a minimum of 5 metres from a Western Power pole.
 - 1.6.6 a minimum of 3 metres from a Western Power support pole.
 - 1.6.7 a minimum of 2 metres from a water, sewerage or gas property service.
 - 1.6.8 a minimum of 3 metres from water hydrants and valves, sewerage access chambers, communications access pits.
 - 1.6.9 a minimum of 6 metres from the corner property boundary at traffic intersections.

*Council will assist with alignments should inconsistencies arise.

2. Removal of Street Trees

- 2.1 Council will only process those requests for street tree removal that have been received in writing.
- 2.2 Approval to remove the tree will only be granted after establishment of sufficient justification, and where appropriate, inspection by an authorised Council officer.
- 2.3 Permission will not be granted for a tree removal if the tree is registered as a tree of significance by the National Trust of Australia (W.A.).
- 2.4 Development proposals which require the removal of street trees will be considered through internal consultation and agreement between the City's

Planning, Building and Engineering Services, and Council if appropriate. Property developers are to prepare proposals which, as far as practicable, avoid the need for street tree removal.

2.5 Council reserves the right to remove any street tree without notification in circumstances of potential hazard to the public, property or interference with public services.

2.6 Council will grant permits to ratepayers, developers, and public service providers to remove street trees from road verges, in accordance with the following criteria:-

2.6.1 considered by Council to be a substantiated hazard to the public.

2.6.2 causing justified nuisance to the public or service providers.

2.6.3 identified as causing interference to public services.

2.6.4 necessary for the installation of new public service infrastructure.

2.6.5 absolutely necessary for residential and industrial development.

2.7 Approvals granted are conditional to the following conditions as follows:-

2.7.1 the responsibility to remove and dispose of the tree rests with the applicant.

2.7.2 all activities related to the removal of street trees are to be carried out in accordance with WorkSafe Australia requirements.

2.7.3 the responsibility for any damage to property and/or services attributable to the removal of the tree will be borne solely by the applicant.

2.7.4 there being no cost or liability to Council in any respect.

3. Pruning of Street Trees

3.1 Pruning of street trees may not be undertaken by anyone other than City operational staff, or the City's nominated contractor.

3.2 Tree works requests may be made to the City by the public, developers and service providers, for pruning of street trees. A suitably qualified Council officer will inspect the tree and determine the urgency of the request and action as necessary. Should the tree pose an immediate hazard to the public, the

request will be dealt with as soon as practicable, otherwise the response will be in accordance with the tree pruning contractors approved works program.

- 3.3 All tree pruning operations will be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Climbing, Pruning, Maintaining and Removal of Trees (THE TREE GUILD OF WA INC), Australian Standard AS4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees and the Office of Energy Safety, Guidelines for the Management of Vegetation near Power lines.

4. Offences and Penalties

- 4.1 Failure to comply with the guidelines of this policy will be regarded as an offence, and penalties shall be applied in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* and the “Activities on Thoroughfares and Trading in Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law”, City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- 4.2 Wilful or indiscriminate damage to street trees without a permit, will be regarded as a serious breach and penalties may be applied to the extent of the law.

Relevant Documents