

	<b>Function:</b> NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	<b>Adopted:</b> 18 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2004 <b>Resolution No.:</b> C9:0118
	<b>Policy Number:</b> ENV001	<b>Last Review:</b> 3 <sup>RD</sup> March 2010 <b>Resolution No.:</b> C137:10
	<b>Version Number:</b> 3	<b>Next Review:</b> TBA
	<b>Frequency of Review:</b> As Required	
<b>Draft TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY</b>		

## **Policy Statement**

The intent of this policy is to contribute to Copper Coasts liveability by protecting and enhancing Copper Coasts vegetation. This will be achieved by establishing service levels regarding the selection, maintenance, protection and removal of Council owned and managed trees.

### **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to formalise Council's position in regard to the management of tree and shrub vegetation and the canopy they create that is under Council's care and control throughout our region. This policy applies to various areas including parks, reserves, operational land and roads (including road verges).

Increases in average temperature and increased frequency in days of extreme heat and less reliable rainfall are having a major impact on the regional environment we live in. Green infrastructure, in particular tree canopy cover, is a technological priority in regional areas.

A healthy and sustainable tree canopy provides major benefits to human health and wellbeing and is a high priority for our community.

This policy aims to establish the direction to be provided to employees to manage its trees and shrubs within the region recognising that the vegetation of our region is one of the key amenities of the area and recognised in Council's Strategic Plan. This policy also recognises that trees are essential green infrastructure in natural landscapes and in open spaces required to assist Council in meeting the objectives of the Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan in adapting to a changing climate, reducing risk, improving resilience and maximising emerging opportunities. This Policy recognises the need to maintain and enhance this amenity and the critical environmental benefits it offers while assessing customer requests and various needs for maintenance requirements in a consistent and transparent manner.

Given the potential and likelihood of future liability claims being made against Council, it is desirable for Council to formally establish its position regarding the management of its trees and vegetation amenity and their critical environmental benefits. This policy is based on principles and guidelines as set out in the Trees: Legislation and Risk Management

*lifestyle location of choice*

Guidelines for Local Government as published by the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme and the Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan and Coastal Gardens – A Planting Guide by Natural Resources Northern and Yorke.

## **2. Applicable Legislation**

### **Local Government Act 1999**

Section 221 of this Act stipulates that a person (other than Council or a person acting under some other statutory authority) must not make an alteration to a public road unless authorised to do so by Council. This includes the planting, interference or removal of a tree or vegetation on the road.

Section 232 of this Act outlines the factors that Council must consider prior to the establishment of a street tree, such as:

- Whether the vegetation is appropriate to the proposed site, taking into account:
  - Environmental and aesthetic issues
  - The use and construction of the road
  - Potential for interference with structures such as pipes, wires, cables, fixtures, fittings and other objects
  - Road safety matters
  - Other matters (if any) considered relevant by Council
- If the vegetation may have a significant impact on residents, the proprietors of nearby businesses or advertisers in the area, Council must follow the relevant steps set out in its Public Consultation Policy.

Section 244 and 245 of this Act provides some protection for Council against liability providing that Council has acted reasonably. Having a policy in this area is seen as being reasonable, appropriate and provides Council with a mechanism for some protection from liability.

### **Development Act 1993**

Significant and Regulated Tree legislation falls within this Act, which protects large trunked trees. The existence of this legislation may impact on the manner and degree that this policy can be implemented when trees that are captured by this legislation are involved. Any work relating to a significant or Regulated Tree on Council land (including roads, community land and operational land) will require two approvals from Council. These approvals may be granted directly by Council, a Committee of Council or officers acting under delegation. The two approvals required are:

- Planning approval by the relevant planning authority, which may be the Development Assessment Commission, Council's Development Assessment Panel or a Council Officer under delegation
- Local Government Act 1999 - approval as the authority responsible for the land and legal owner of the tree. This approval may be made by Council or a Committee of Council or a Council Officer under delegation.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

### Electricity Act 1996

Section 55 of this Act states:

- Council must take reasonable steps to keep vegetation of all kinds clear of public powerlines in accordance with the principles of vegetation clearance as outlined in the Act
- If vegetation is planted or nurtured near a public powerline contrary to the principles of vegetation clearance, the vegetation may be removed and the cost will be borne by whom the vegetation was planted or nurtured.

### Other references

Council's document including:

- Public Consultation Policy
- Open Space Policy
- Order Making Policy
- Copper Coast Development Plan
- Roadside Vegetation Management Plan
- Undertake Works on Council Land Application Form
- Verge/Footpath Development by Residents Policy
- Risk Management and Framework Policy

External documents including:

- Australian Standard - Protection of trees on development sites (AS4970:2009)
- Australian Standard - Pruning of amenity trees (AS4373:2007)
- Independent inquiry into management of trees on public land - report endorsed by the Local Government Association State Executive Committee
- Trees: Legislation and Risk Management Guidelines for Local Government as published by the Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme.
- Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Vegetation as published by the Native Vegetation Council.
- Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan
- Natural Resources Northern and Yorke Coastal Gardens – A planting guide
- SA Power Networks – Power Friendly Trees
- The Burnley Method of amenity tree evaluation

### **3. Integration with Corporate Objectives**

Objective: Environment Objective – Sustainability

Goal: To responsibly manage the natural and built environment to ensure its sustainability and diversity to the community

Legislation: To preserve and enhance the natural environment.

The Tree Management Policy addresses the Environmental Objective 'Sustainability' of the Strategic Plan with the goal.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

#### 4. Definitions

*CEO* – Chief Executive Officer

*Council* – Copper Coast Council and includes any member of Council staff acting under delegation.

*Street*- means any highway, street, road, grove, place, avenue, drive, terrace, parade, crescent, court, lane or walkway.

*Roadside* means the strip of land between the road formation and the boundary of the road reserve.

*Other property* - includes all land that is under the care control or management of the Council except streets and parks.

*Community Land* - Means Local Government land classified as community land pursuant to the Local Government Act. Does not include roads or land excluded from Community Land classification.

*A tree in poor health* - means a tree deleteriously affected by insects, parasites, stress or disease.

*Tree* – is defined as any bush or tree with a potential to reach 2.5 metres or more in height.

*Newly Planted Trees* - A tree that has been planted within the last three years, but not yet established.

*Streetscape*- the vegetation, including trees, along a street or road, which provides local tree benefits and amenity.

*Landscape* - Used to describe a particular piece of geography located in the Council.

*Community Land* - Means Local Government land classified as community land pursuant to the Local Government Act. Does not include roads or land excluded from Community Land classification.

*Reserve* - Includes parks, gardens, reserves, playgrounds, ovals, and other areas such as water retention locations.

*Nature Strip* – The area between the kerbing or the proposed kerb line and the proposed or constructed footpath.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

### *Tree Health*

A tree may be deleteriously affected by insects, parasites, disease, environmental damage, or other problems. Its ability to resist these problems characterises its degree of health. A tree in poor health infers the tree as a whole is malfunctioning and survival may be threatened. A tree in excellent health has good vigour and few if any pest problems

*Natural Resources* (as defined in the Natural Resources Management Act 2004).

Includes;

- soil
- water resources
- geological features and landscapes
- native vegetation, native animals and other native organisms
- ecosystems

*Risk* - is the probability of something adverse happening

*Risk Management* - Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk.

*Tree* - A woody perennial plant, including palms that can have one or more trunks and a distinct elevated crown or lateral branches.

*Regulated Tree:*

According to the Development Act 1993 this means:

- a tree, or a tree within a class of trees, declared to be regulated by the regulations (whether or not the tree also constitutes a significant tree under the regulations);*  
*or*
- (b) a tree declared to be a significant tree, or a tree within a stand of trees declared to be significant trees, by a Development Plan (whether or not the tree is also declared to be a regulated tree, or also falls within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees, by the regulations).*

*Significant Tree:*

According to the Development Act 1993 this means.

- a tree declared to be a significant tree, or a tree within a stand of trees declared to be significant trees, by a Development Plan (whether or not the tree is also declared to be a regulated tree, or also falls within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees, by the regulations); or*
- a tree declared to be a regulated tree by the regulations, or a tree within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees by the regulations that, by virtue of the application of prescribed criteria, is to be taken to be a significant tree for the purposes of this Act.*

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

## **POLICY**

It is Council's objective to maintain the tree and shrub vegetation under Council's care and control, in a manner that enhances the amenity and environmental benefits of the vegetation throughout the region while at the same time considering the public safety and development interests of the community and the current and future impacts on people and communities.

Council recognises that the task of providing and maintaining trees, canopy and other vegetation is a considerable service to the community and the optimum desirable outcomes stated in this policy may be restricted due to a number of factors, such as:

- Conflicting needs between amenity, eco-system service values and public safety
- Scarce resources
- Resource needs of other services provided by Council
- Whole of tree lifecycle considerations. That is to say - issues relating to encroaching limbs of a Newly Planted Tree will be considered in conjunction with the value to be provided over many years of a mature tree. Issues relating to leaf fall will be assessed against the amenity and other qualities provided by a tree over its entire remaining life
- Long term sustainability of trees and vegetation generally.

Under the guidance of the CEO relevant documents will be maintained as reference documents for Council employees and contractors planting, maintaining and assessing Council vegetation that will assist employees in implementing this policy. These documents will be consistent with the Australian Standards and Council's policy position in regard to each of the different situations as set out below.

### **Trees Generally**

A regular inspection/maintenance programme will be followed to ensure that all trees within Council land are inspected and maintained on a regular cycle with more frequency in highly utilised areas. The frequency of this programme will not be less than one inspection per every five years. Systems will be maintained to facilitate inspections with necessary intervening action to occur whenever a tree on Council land concern is brought to Council's attention.

### **Risk Management & Resource Availability**

Appropriate resources will be allocated to tree planting and management so that Council can meet its strategic and legislative obligations. Risk management principles and practices and Council's commitment to urban greening will inform our approach to tree management to ensure that available resources are used effectively and efficiently to reasonably manage trees across the Council landscape in a manner that minimises risk to Council and the community.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

## Council Trees Encroaching Onto Private Land

As a principle Council will not automatically ensure that Council trees do not encroach onto private land. The following minimum vegetation clearances will be maintained, subject to the limitations set out previously in this Policy, unless the adjoining resident has specifically requested a lesser clearance:

- 500mm clearance above any boundary fence with adjoining Council maintained land
- 1m clearance from any roof on private property.

Council employees as authorised by the Director of Infrastructure will consider other applications on merit but intervention will only occur when it is identified that there is a significant risk to the safety of persons or property. When a property owner is restricted from maintaining their property in accordance with this section of this Policy due to the presence of a Significant or Regulated Tree located on Council maintained land and they wish to carry out work on the tree, Council will lodge any development application relating to the tree and bear the costs associated with the application. In all other instances the applicant should pay all relevant costs. If the tree is considered to be a Significant or Regulated Tree as defined in the Development Act 1993, and Council's arborist is supportive of maintenance work on the tree in line with this Policy, then Council will lodge any relevant development application, bear any development costs and if approved, undertake any work as per the approval.

## Private Trees Encroaching Onto Council Maintained Land

Where private trees encroach into the required clearance zones for established footpaths, cycleways, horse trails and roads as stated in this Policy or other public safety issues have been identified, the matter will be brought to the adjoining property owners' attention for remedial action.

If the resident fails to comply with a reasonable request under this section Council may issue an order for the required work to be undertaken.

## Trees Growing on Council Reserves or Operational Land

Systems will be maintained to facilitate inspections with necessary intervening action to occur whenever a concern relating to a tree growing on a reserve or operational land is brought to Council's attention and the action required is above Council's minimum intervention levels.

Council's objective is for all pedestrian paths to be maintained with a 2.5m vegetation height clearance.

The objective of Council's vegetation maintenance programme is to ensure that identified hazardous vegetation including dead limbs are not left in place immediately over recreational facilities including paths, seats, tables and playground equipment etc.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

At the time any recreational facility is constructed, installed or upgraded any hazardous vegetation will either be removed or the facility relocated to a more appropriate location as part of the construction/upgrade project.

### Tree Roots Growing from Trees on Council Maintained Land

Tree roots will often be the first point of blame for cracking or other damage of nearby infrastructure such as driveways (including crossing places), other similar paved areas on private property and private pipes such as water, sewerage, gas etc.

Council will not automatically accept responsibility for third party losses purely on the evidence that a tree is nearby and is a possible cause of any loss. In these instances the property owner may need to provide Council with some form of evidence of the cause before Council will take some form of intervening action. Evidence may include the property owner exposing the roots believed to be related to the primary cause of the damaged infrastructure on private property and requesting Council to inspect.

The extent of Council's intervention will depend on the findings of any inspection.

### Trees and Moisture Extraction from the Ground

Council recognises that trees may contribute to excessive moisture extraction from the ground, particularly in drier periods and the effect of this occurrence may cause soil movement and subsequent cracking of nearby infrastructure, including residential dwellings, swimming pools and other structures.

Council recognises that legislative imposed water restrictions, increasing costs of water and rapid changes to natural rainfall quantities and patterns impact on the tree root activity and can increase the potential for infrastructure loss. Either council or private properties reducing their water consumption practices may cause this reduction in soil moisture, which may in turn result in subsequent damage.

Council will not automatically accept responsibility for damages purely on the evidence that a tree is nearby and is a possible cause of damage. In these instances the claimant will need to provide Council with some form of evidence of the cause before Council will take some form of intervening action.

### Debris from Council Trees

Council recognises that in providing the tree and vegetation amenity and eco-system services values enjoyed by its community throughout the region, trees may create some inconvenience or nuisance aspects, which will impact on the community in different ways and to different degrees. Some of these issues will include:

- Autumn leaf fall of deciduous trees
- Regular leaf fall of evergreen Australian native trees
- Berries, nuts and bark falling onto pedestrian paths or private gardens during specific times of the year
- Pollen.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

Council is mindful that different people in the community will have varying degrees of tolerance to these inconveniences but this Policy is based on the best fit solution to the community weighing up the level of inconvenience, the amenity and environmental value provided through the existence of the vegetation and the cost of implementing solutions to the issues. Any remedial action will be based on a fair and consistent basis throughout the region; however, debris in itself is not a reason for tree removal.

Street sweeping programmes will be developed in such a manner that streets with heavy leaf fall will be given a higher priority than those with light leaf fall with due consideration to seasonal variations.

Council employees will carefully consider species and related matters prior to approving any tree planting, which will address specific risk management issues with each site.

Residents that are not satisfied with Council's level of service in this area will be advised that they may put leaves and similar debris in their personal Council approved green waste bin, or otherwise dispose of it through various disposal options including personal compost bins. Leaves should not be swept onto the streets because this may increase the potential for blockage or pollution to stormwater systems.

### **Works Adjacent to Trees on Council Property**

Where public works (undertaken by contractors, service providers and/or Council Officers) are planned or proposed to be undertaken within the roots zone of a tree, an assessment in relation to the potential impact of the proposed works will be completed.

Where the proposed works are considered to have potentially negative impact on the tree(s), alternative design or work methods are to be considered, and where appropriate employed to minimise or eliminate the potential damage to the tree. Tree replacement or relocation are options that can be considered, particular for Newly Planted Trees.

### **Storm Events - Tree Damage**

For the purpose of this policy a significant storm event will be when the CEO or Director of Infrastructure declares that a storm event has generated numerous tree damaging requests across the region. Council will accept removal responsibility for any tree that has fallen from any Council controlled land onto private land subject to the owner/occupier providing the required access authorisation.

### **Trees and Powerlines**

Council will maintain an agreement with SA Power Networks, which sets out overhead electricity line clearance responsibilities and commitments. Any unauthorised plantings on Council land that have breached SA Power Networks planting guidelines becomes the responsibility of Council to manage and Council may elect to either remove any unauthorised planting or alternatively Council may agree to maintain the planting(s) to the

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

clearance standards applying to SA Power Networks where the tree(s) are deemed to be of considerable community amenity.

Permission for tree planting may be refused when any overhead wire or similar construction is likely to interfere with the upward growth of the tree.

## Tree Removal

While this Policy addresses Council's position on maintaining trees etc. on Council land which is likely to generally result in pruning as the preferred treatment (under the Australian Standard - Pruning of amenity trees). Council views the removal of healthy, established trees as undesirable but recognises it may be required on rare occasions as there will be occasions when removal of the tree is the preferred option.

Authorisations to remove Council trees may be granted in instances when the views of Council's arborist or the Director of Infrastructure supports the removal of the tree as the preferred treatment providing one or more of the following criteria are met:

- The tree is dead, dying, diseased or structurally compromised and is in a location that has the potential to cause significant harm or damage to persons or property
- Dead trees should not be removed as a matter of course. Consideration should be given to the size, location, historical significance and habitat value. Any dead tree over 6 metres should be assessed by an appropriately qualified Council officer prior to removal being undertaken.
- The tree is a species that has been identified as a weed or Declared as recognised by the Natural Resource Management Board
- The trees have been identified for removal in a project approved by Council or a relevant Council Committee. It is noted that approval to remove trees on land under Council's care and control from Council's Assessment Panel is not sufficient enough for approval to proceed without appropriate consideration against this Policy by the delegated person or Committee. All removals approved under this criteria should be complimented by a replanting plan.
- Where the tree is considered to be of limited or low amenity and/or eco-system service value, as determined by a person appropriately qualified and nominated by the Director of Infrastructure for this purpose
- Where in the opinion of Council's arborist or a suitably qualified person approved by the Director of Infrastructure is of the opinion the tree is the primary cause of serious damage to significant infrastructure, and there is no reasonable alternative solution.
- Any other reasonable consideration that Council's Director of Infrastructure sees as relevant for the specific matter.
- Where a tree is removed under these principles, a replacement tree will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Tree Planting Guidelines within this Policy.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

Tree removal is not undertaken for the following reasons:

- Leaf, fruit or bark drop
- Tree size
- Dislike of the species
- The presence of fauna or insects (insect pests are treated through various techniques)
- If the tree is an inconvenience during construction projects
- Views
- Solar panels, television and pay-tv reception etc.

The removal of any tree on Council land without prior approval from Council is strictly prohibited and should be expected to result in penalties including prosecution. Individuals or organisations seeking removal of a tree from Council land must submit a written application as prescribed in the Application to Undertake Works on Council Land.

### Developments

Where the removal criteria listed above do not apply and the tree impinges on the development of an abutting property and (subject to the exclusions listed below) there are no reasonable design alternatives existing, a tree may be approved for removal and replanted (or replaced with a new tree) in a new location. A reasonable design alternative should involve but not be limited to:

- Deletion of second / additional crossovers to development sites and the requirement for shared access
- The altering of development design to relocate crossovers out of the way of street trees The reduction in the number of allotments / properties
- Relocation of proposed services to minimise impact on existing trees
- In considering the question of reasonable design alternatives, regard shall be given to the objectives of Council's Development Plan and the Yorke and Mid North Regional Climate Change Action Plan.

It would be unreasonable to request a house be redesigned to accommodate the retention of Newly Planted Trees or trees that are suitable for transplanting to a new location. Newly Planted Trees or trees that are suitable for transplanting and have minimal amenity value may not require full replacement fees to be paid when associated with the development of an abutting property.

Where street tree removal is approved as part of a development approval or a Section 221 (Alteration of road) of the *Local Government Act 1999* Application (Application to construct, remove or repair a crossing place, stormwater pipe and connection to the kerb), this will be noted as advice on the provisional approval. The approval will be contingent on the applicant meeting the costs of removal, replacement planting and establishment by the Council.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

In accordance with the revised Burnley amenity tree valuation:

- Removal costs determined by diameter of the tree, when measured at 1m above natural ground level which defines the tree as small medium or large and will include the grinding of the stump to 300 mm below ground level
- Replacement plantings based on the purchase of a 35 litre pot size tree of a species acceptable to the Council, and include a three (3) year maintenance cost to ensure successful establishment.

In all other instances a resolution to remove Council trees will be required by Council or any relevant Council Committee.

### Unauthorised Works / Poisoned trees

Where unauthorised works / poisoned trees have been identified, Council will ensure community safety is maintained through site specific responses (e.g. placement of a fence and/or sign). The Council will investigate unauthorised works (tree pruning, poisoning / removal) and pursue enforcement action where appropriate in accordance with provisions under section 233 of the *Local Government Act 1999*.

It is envisaged that the revised Burnley amenity tree valuation method is applied in scenarios where Council may either be considering prosecution under provisions of the *Local Government Act 1993* or as a potential civil claim for damages.

### Tree Planting

The Copper Coast Council Local Government Area covers approximately 773km<sup>2</sup> with a population of 15,000 and over 400,000 visitors annually making it one of the progressive and successful regions in South Australia.

Tree-lined streets help to soften the edges of the regional environment, contributing to a community's charm, liveability and future resilience. In addition to the aesthetic benefits provided by healthy vegetation, trees also help to clean the air, stabilise the soil, decrease storm water runoff, provides shade to reduce regional heat island/continent effects, reduce summer cooling costs in buildings, and creates a welcoming environment for pedestrians. Greener and cooler streets, parks and suburbs have a direct effect on community health and wellbeing and trees with a mature height greater than 10m are highly desirable and shall be planted wherever space permits.

More trees, landscaped reserves and streets, not only improve the appearance and the environmental quality of an area, they can sometimes have an impact on critical social issues such as health care, education, crime and safety, and economic development. Our community highly values the tree character of the region and the amenity and environmental benefits that this supports. There is a desire to not only retain this character but also to enhance it. This approach is supported by Council's Strategic Master Plan and regular community feedback.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

The enduring nature of large trees in a rapidly changing regional environment contributes to their high symbolic values and provides a sense of permanence in our fast-changing society.

Tree planting and selection specification is challenging within the Copper Coast region due to long hot dry summers, drought, water restrictions and a changing climate. Tree selections also have to tackle salt spray, sand blasting, sandy or saline soils, and alkalinity.

The Natural Resources Northern and Yorke Coastal Gardens – A Planting Guide and SA Power Networks – Power Friendly Trees provide many suitable varieties for our region.

The goal of Council is to plant trees on both Council and community land in line with the following principles and consideration will be given where any of the following apply:

- Trees will contribute to community health and wellbeing
- Trees will enhance the visual amenity of the entranceways and other major arterial routes within the region
- Trees will replace trees that have been removed from existing tree lined streets
- Trees will fill the voids in streetscapes
- Trees will significantly contribute to raising areas of low visual amenity value particularly within areas of low tree cover and around areas of industrial development
- Trees replace ageing street tree populations that are in a state of decline and a phased replanting program is required to maintain the original street character
- When community consultation strongly supports the introduction of new street planting; or trees are specifically requested by residents.

The above criteria are only a guide and ideally when planting street trees, residents may request additional trees to be planted in front of the properties; however, this may be subject to space availability and will be assessed on a case by case basis. Under extraordinary circumstances, Council will consider not planting trees upon written request to the Director of Infrastructure, where the trees may cause restrictive access, allergies etc. Each case will be assessed on its own merit. Council will provide support and encouragement for community based greening groups involved in the planting of trees and other vegetation on public land within the Copper Coast Council area.

When selecting species of trees for street planting Council will take consideration of the following elements:

- The likely size at maturity with larger areas of open space warranting larger tree species Its potential to effect neighbouring landowners
- Its suitability and spacing within the given environment e.g. size of verge in relation to spacing, type of existing planting, level of amenity and environmental value
- Its tolerance to pests, diseases, drought and extreme weather conditions
- The preferences of the local community where discretion is available
- Any historic tree planting patterns with the use of original species wherever possible

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

- Its contribution to regional biodiversity on surrounding open space and its potential to extend natural corridors linking reserves.
- Any overhead wire or similar construction that may interfere with the upward growth of the tree

Council will plant trees where the roadside environment does not limit the tree from reaching its maximum potential. Intense pressure for roadside space from parking and utility providers will result in some locations not being suitable for establishing trees. In streets and roads where kerbing has been constructed but a footpath does not exist, the reserved width for the footpath shall be 2 metres. Total footpath width and nature strip must not be less than 3 metres.

It is not permissible to plant a tree or shrub in such a position on the nature strip that it stands on the continuation of the boundary line of two properties. Minimum distance each side shall be 1 metre.

Trees or shrubs shall not be planted nor permission given to plant:

- Less than 2.5 metres from any constructed or unconstructed driveway.
- Less than 2 metres from any stobie pole or similar object.
- Less than 10 metres from a corner

When purchasing stock for planting within the roadside environment preference is given to 35 litre pot sizes however, there may be situations where small pot sizes and smaller plants may result in better plant establishment and better long term outcome.

When selecting locations for street tree planting, Council will consider the following:

- Any underground and overhead services and structures
- Existing crossovers
- Traffic and pedestrian lines of sight
- Areas that have been identified for increased off-street parking or footpath renewal
- Councils Verge/Footpath Development by Residents Policy and ensuing forward capital works footpath program
- Private property structures and access requirements.

## Tree Pruning

Council is responsible for the pruning of all trees. Trees should be allowed to develop their natural canopy and will generally not be pruned. Where pruning is essential, it will be approved and undertaken by Council or a nominated contractor and will be carried out in accordance with Australian Standard for Amenity Pruning, AS 4373 - 2007

Street trees are pruned to provide the following:

- Improve the safety, structure and health of the tree
- Provide clearance for pedestrian movement
- Prevent branches from overhanging a property boundary and park infrastructure

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

- Maintain safe clearances zones from powerlines
- Maintain clear line of sight for vehicles and cyclists

Council will not prune a tree to its detriment and as such pruning is not undertaken for the following reasons:

- Leaf, fruit, flower or bark drop
- Appearance (for shaping or because the tree is "ugly")
- Minor overhanging of fence lines
- Views
- To reduce its size
- To discourage the presence of fauna
- For advertising signage.

If trees overhang a property, pruning is only carried out if there is significant influence over a dwelling or where an adverse structural condition exists.

### **Roadside Vegetation**

Native Vegetation on roadsides is managed in accordance with Councils Roadside Vegetation Management Plan (RVMP). The RVMP will be regularly reviewed in accordance with legislative requirements under the Native Vegetation Act 1991

The removal of plant material from roadsides includes collection of dead timber for firewood; cutting of live timber; brush-cutting; seed collection; and harvesting of flowers or fruits is not permitted.

Collection of dead timber is not permitted unless necessary for fuel reduction, to assist rabbit control, or to remove timber which is hazardous to traffic or fencing. If dead timber collection is permitted, care should be taken to prevent damaging surrounding native vegetation in the process of removal, and where possible should not be permitted in areas of vegetation of high conservation significance.

Dead timber, both standing and fallen, provides cover and foraging places for native fauna, it shelters young seedlings and small plants from severe sunshine and drying winds, and is also important in the recycling of nutrients. The development of hollow timber takes many years and is a limited resource for wildlife, and therefore timber with hollows should not be collected for firewood. Retention of dead timber (and fallen leaves, bark and twigs) should also be encouraged so that soil disturbance and the creation of open areas suitable for weed invasion is minimised.

## **5. Delegation**

For further information regarding this policy please contact the Director of Infrastructure Services.

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*

**6. Adoption and Review**

This Policy will be reviewed as required, with the review being undertaken by the Infrastructure Department and/or the Corporate Services Department and a report provided to Council for consideration and adoption.

**7. Availability of Policy**

This Policy will be available for inspection without charge at the Council's Principal Office during normal business hours, and on Council's website.

A copy of this Policy may be obtained on payment of a nominated fee from Councils' principal office or may be down loaded from Councils' website.

**Signed** .....

*Mayor*

Date

**Signed** .....

*Chief Executive Officer*

DRAFT

---

*Lifestyle location of choice*