



MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES TREE POLICY

*Adopted By Council 11 September 2019
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Created By: Infrastructure and Engineering Services Department
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INTRODUCTION

This policy establishes Council's position with regard to planting, managing, maintenance and removal of trees on public land.

Council is responsible for the management and maintenance of trees on the Shire's street roadsides and those on Council owned land.

OBJECTIVES

- To enhance the landscape of the Shire.
- To maintain a safe and sustainable urban forest.
- To conserve the natural environment.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all trees on public land within the Narromine Shire Local Government Area.

LEGISLATION

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Roads Act 1993
Civil Liability Act 2002

STANDARDS

Australian Standard 4373-2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees
Australian Standard 2303-2015 – Tree Stock for Landscape Use
Australian Standard ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Statewide Mutual - Best Practice Manual – Trees & Trees Roots - Version 7 - April 2013

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Tree Planting and Species Selection

Council will proactively identify opportunities to increase its canopy over the local government area.

Improving the quality of this canopy cover will be achieved through stock quality, installation, selection criteria and species diversity.

Council's urban forest is a mix of native, exotic, evergreen and deciduous trees.

Council will plant the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, aesthetic, functional and biological attributes, performance and the potential to contribute to the landscape character.

Council will only use quality nursery stock according to the latest best practice and standards.

Council recognises that low species diversity has the potential to create an unstable ecosystem that is vulnerable to pest and disease attack. Council will increase species diversity by ensuring the street and park tree population does not comprise of more than 50% for any particular family and 30% for any particular genus.

2. Tree Removal (whole or limb) and Replacement

Selective tree removal and replacement programs are vital in managing canopy cover to ensure that the numerous benefits trees provide are sustained for future generations.

Council will assess all trees proposed for removal in public property and implement removal and replacement programs as required.

The risk to public safety (including road users) and property will take priority in tree removal in decisions in emergency situations.

Council will remove and replace poor performing trees to reinvigorate the urban forest.

Council will undertake the staged removal and replacement of trees classified as noxious. The impacts to canopy cover will be a key consideration in removing trees as part of this process.

Council will develop strategies for the installation of new plantings, where feasible, prior to tree removal required for capital work projects.

Council will maintain a spread of tree age classes to minimise the impact of tree removals in close timeframes and/or within specific areas.

3. Tree Maintenance

Council recognises that trees are a major asset and play an important role in ensuring our Shire is liveable, attractive and healthy.

Our trees grow in a harsh environment and require specialised care and management. They are living dynamic organisms that have the potential to cause damage or injury.

Council will conduct regulation inspections of street and park trees to determine the potential for a tree or one of its parts to fail and in doing so injure people or damage property. These inspections will consider road user safety.

Risk Management strategies include but are not limited to, replacement, repair or redirecting of footpaths, root pruning, installing root barriers, tree pruning, diverting services or minor infrastructure, enlarging root zones or tree removal.

4. Requests for Street Tree Planting By Residents

Council will consider requests from residents to plant street trees. Requests will be assessed according to policy and standard requirements.

5 Offences

- a) It is an offence to do any of the following:
- i. Trim, remove, lop, destroy any tree, shrub or vegetation located on public land or land that Council own without written consent from Council.
 - ii. Remove or damage any tree or trunk protection measure such as a tree guard, bollard, guide post and the like.
 - iii. Attach any sign, marking, fixture, light, etc. to any tree without written consent from Council.