

COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Management



Policy Number	CA08
Responsible Section	City Assets
Responsible Department	Parks and Gardens
Date Last Adopted	January 2025
Date of Next Review	January 2028
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 Development Regulations 2008 Australian Standards Native Vegetation Act 1991 Landscape South Australia Act 2019 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Road Traffic Act 1961
Related Governance Documents	Biodiversity Management Plan 2020 Living Environment Strategy 2022 Coastal Dunes Action Plan 2022 AdaptWest Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016 Open Space Strategy 2020 Greater Metropolitan Adelaide 30 Year Plan Council Policy TS13 - Private Planting of Verges City of Port Adelaide Enfield Fees and Charges City of Port Adelaide Enfield Tree Management Guidelines
City Vision	Environment and Heritage

1. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

This policy guides Council's decision making to ensure that *'green streets are a dominant feature of our urban landscapes, and our tree canopy on private and public land is healthy, connected and expanding. Our green and conservation areas create habitats for wildlife and our biodiversity is improving'* (City Plan 2030)

2. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to the planting and management of trees on land under Council's care and control.

3. POLICY

Council recognises the value trees have in creating liveable neighbourhoods and considers trees as natural assets and a key component of the City's green infrastructure.

Council recognises that trees provide the following environmental, economic, social and cultural values:

- Contribute to the amenity and aesthetics of an area and to the well-being of its residents and visitors.
- Contribute to an identity of place and the character of an area.
- Contribute to the heritage, history of an area and can be culturally significant.
- Create green streets and corridors that can connect the City's open space network.
- Create streetscapes that are conducive and support active transport (walking and cycling).
- Provide an important biodiversity function (for plants and wildlife).
- Improve local climates by providing a cooling function that mitigates the impacts of urban heat (e.g. shade and reduced heat loading).
- Contribute to carbon sequestration and help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Assist in improving air quality.
- Improve soil characteristics that support the growth of other vegetation.
- Improve stormwater quality and reduce runoff during rainfall events.
- Contribute to noise attenuation in association with the planting of other vegetation.

Council recognises the constraints associated with providing adequate growing space for trees and values usable open space for the existing tree population and for future tree planting.

Council recognises it has an important role to play in advocating for and supporting tree planting by other landholders and supporting community efforts in tree planting and urban greening.

3.1 Key Principles:

- To ensure a planned, coordinated, proactive and risk management approach to tree management.
- To value the social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits of trees.
- To prioritise tree planting in areas that are subject to increased urban density; have relatively high urban heat exposure and levels of social vulnerability; are key pedestrian/active transport routes; and have relatively low canopy coverage.
- Where physically practicable, Council seeks to establish at least one street tree in the verge adjacent to each property within the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.
- To take an evidence-based approach in the delivery of this policy including the appropriate use of heat mapping, canopy mapping and tree selection criteria that ensure the tree canopy is resilient to climate change and provides multiple benefits.

- To improve the aesthetics and amenity of the urban environment consistent with environmental and infrastructure constraints in public streets, reserves and on private property.
- To mitigate the impacts of climate change, particularly through the provision of shade and lowering of ambient temperatures in playgrounds and recreational areas.
- To incorporate tree planting and water sensitive urban design into new streetscapes and streetscape upgrades and renewal, where practicable.
- To improve urban biodiversity through the planting of tree species indigenous to the area, or native or exotic tree species, which are suited to local conditions.
- To ensure the protection, preservation and maintenance of established trees, including Regulated and Significant trees, street trees, and those of cultural or historic significance.
- To advocate to other government agencies for the adoption of policies, procedures and legislation to maintain and increase the urban tree canopy.
- To lead community education initiatives that promote the importance and benefits of trees and to encourage and support community participation in the planting and healthy growth of trees on public and private land.
- To guide and influence urban infill developments to ensure tree sensitive design is incorporated into new developments.

3.2 Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Council will set tree canopy and/or greening targets based on sound evidence to improve urban greening and the quality of the public realm, improve biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Tree Management Guidelines are established to support the implementation of the Policy and ensure a clear and consistent approach is taken to:

- Tree planting and establishment.
- Tree amenity valuation.
- Tree pruning.
- Tree removal.
- Road vegetation clearance.
- Tree assessment and risk.
- Property damage claims.

Funding is allocated for the Street Tree and Reserve Planting Program on an annual basis to allow for the maintenance and growth of the tree canopy on Council land.

Council will advocate for the protection and planting of new trees within urban infill developments, including the adequate provision of space to allow mature growth. It will also encourage the retention, protection, planting and maintenance of trees on private property through education and advice.

Council will partner with others to improve community awareness of the value of trees on public and private property.

3.3 Tree Pruning

Council provides a cyclic biennial tree maintenance program inclusive of, but not limited to formative pruning and road clearance pruning.

3.4 Tree Removal

Approval for the removal of tree(s) may only be made by a delegated officer of Council and subject to at least one of the following criteria:

- The tree is dead, dying and/or diseased with no remedial options available.
- A risk assessment process has determined that the tree presents an unacceptable level of risk to a person or property.
- The tree is a species that has been identified as a declared plant (weed species), is growing in an unacceptable location, and not subject to any other protection.
- To replace poorly performing trees or trees of low amenity value.

3.4.1 Tree Removal for Development Benefit

Where tree(s) are approved for removal by Council to accommodate development, Council will place a monetary value on the subject tree(s) using the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula outlined in Council's *Tree Management Guidelines*, unless it meets the criteria under 3.4 – Tree Removal section of this Policy.

All costs associated with tree removal shall be at the applicant's expense and all payments must be made prior to the commencement of any development works.

The applicant shall be expected to pay the following:

- Amenity Value.
- Arborist report costs.
- Removal costs.
- Re-establishment costs of 2 replacement trees.
- Planning consent, if applicable.

Funds that are received through the application of a Tree Amenity Valuation will be deposited into Council's Tree Planting Program.

3.5 Customer Requests

Requests for pruning and removal or claims seeking financial compensation for property damage shall be assessed by a suitable qualified arborist in accordance with the criteria outlined within the *Tree Management Guidelines*.

Trees with potential risks to a person or property will be inspected as soon as reasonably practicable, on receipt of a request.

Council will not permit or undertake the removal or pruning of existing street and reserve trees due to:

- Nuisance reasons, including but not limited to leaf, bark, flower or fruit litter.
- Shading of roof top solar panels.
- Aesthetic reasons, including interruption of views.
- Development where reasonable alternatives to conserve tree(s) are available.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Manager Parks and Gardens is responsible for the oversight and review of this Policy.

5. DEFINITIONS

Nil