

13.2 Decision Reports

13.2.1 Policy - Tree Management

Report Type	Decision
City Vision Goal/s	Organisational Capability Clean And Green City
Report Author	Manager, Parks and Gardens, City Assets
Report Summary	This report is seeking endorsement of the review of Council's Tree Management Policy – CA08 in preparation for community consultation and endorsement of the associated Tree Management Guidelines.
Attachments	1. CA08 – Tree Management – Tracked Changes [13.2.1.1 – 8 pages] 2. CA08 – Tree Management – DRAFT [13.2.1.2 – 5 pages] 3. Tree Management Guidelines – DRAFT [13.2.1.3 – 13 pages]

RECOMMENDATION

Council resolves that:

1. The report of the Director City Assets titled "Policy – Tree Management" be received and noted.
 2. The Draft Council Policy CA08 "Tree Management" as outlined in Attachment 2 be endorsed for community consultation.
 3. A further report shall be brought back to Council detailing the results of the community consultation and the revised Draft Council Policy CA08 "Tree Management" for final endorsement.
 4. The Draft "Tree Management Guidelines" as outlined in Attachment 3 is endorsed.
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Report

The purpose of the Tree Management Policy (provided as Attachment 2 to this report) is to outline Council's responsibility in the provision and management of trees on land under its care and control.

Council has committed to ensuring its tree canopy is healthy, connected and expanding in response to the State Government's target in its 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide to increase or maintain tree canopy coverage over Council areas. To achieve this, Council has adopted the Greening Our City Framework as a strategic approach to its tree planting program with specific targets to increase canopy cover. Council has also invested in tree management software (Forestry) to enable greater capacity to manage existing tree assets and monitor its progress towards achieving its canopy targets.

The review of this Policy strengthens Council's commitment to the protection and growth of its tree canopy cover through the following amendments / inclusions as highlighted in the tracked changes version of the Policy (Attachment 1):

- rephrasing throughout to enable concise statements that align with City Plan 2030

- removal of ‘Exclusions’
- inclusion of the value that trees provide in *“improve stormwater quality and reduce runoff during rainfall events.”*
- inclusion of the following Key Principles:
 - *“Where physically practical, Council seeks to establish at least one street tree in the verge adjacent to each property within the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.”*
 - *To mitigate the impacts of climate change “... particularly through the provision of shade and lowering of ambient temperatures in playgrounds and recreational areas.”*
 - *“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 guide and influence urban infill developments to ensure tree sensitive design is incorporated into new developments.”*
- existing policy statements are presented under new headings of 3.3 Tree Pruning, 3.4 Tree Removal, and 4. Customer Requests.
- greater definition of the circumstances in which tree removal is approved by Council under the heading 3.4 Tree Removal
- inclusion of 3.4.1 Tree Removal for Development Benefit to prescribe the costs that shall be charged to applicants to remove trees to accommodate development as calculated through the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula
- removal of reference to Australian Standards

Assigning a monetary value to Council trees using the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula outlined in the Draft *Tree Management Guidelines* is a significant addition to this Policy. Where canopy cover is at risk of declining due to the increasing amount of infill development, a transparent and reliable method is required to attribute an economic value to a living asset. The adopted formula is a result of decades of research from the University of Melbourne (Burnley Campus) and application from Councils in South Australia and interstate. In application, this seeks to influence and incentivise site development to retain trees, particularly those with high value.

To support this Policy, the Draft Tree Management Guidelines have been created to further define and outline Council’s specifications and processes in accordance with industry best practice, and where applicable Australian Standards. It aims to be a succinct and transparent working document to guide daily tree maintenance operations. It includes:

- Tree planting
- Tree establishment
- Tree pruning, including road vegetation clearance
- Tree removal for development benefit
- Tree pruning or removal for nuisance issues
- Tree risk assessment
- Suspected damage to private property, including claims process
- Council trees and development, including the tree amenity valuation

The document is a technical document specifically developed to guide Council’s maintenance teams in completing their work and is an inward facing working tool. It shall

be available on Council's website to assist the community in their understanding of Council's operations.

City Vision Relationship

Organisational capacity is demonstrated through adopting a strategic and accountable approach to reviewing policies in compliance with legislative requirements and ensuring their relevance to Council's strategic goals to guide informed decisions. Effective tree management is essential to protecting and enhancing the City's natural environment to achieve a Clean and Green City.

Legislative Context and Related Policies

The Local Government Act 1999 requires Councils to keep Policies and other governance documents under review to ensure efficient and effective decision making.

Stakeholder Engagement

Community consultation is recommended to be undertaken on the Draft Policy – Tree Management. Council Administration and Elected Members were provided with an opportunity to review the policy. The results of the community consultation will be presented to Council in a further report for its consideration prior to Council formally adopting the policy.

The draft Tree Management Guidelines have been developed as a technical internal facing working tool for Council's tree maintenance and tree establishment teams. As such community consultation is not recommended.

Risk Management

Strengthening this policy reduces the risk of decline to Council's current canopy cover by increasing Council's commitment to street tree planting, incentivising the retention of Council trees adjacent to development, and further defining the circumstances where Council trees may be removed.

The implementation of the Tree Amenity Valuation Formular will in certain circumstances increase the cost born by developers to remove Council owned trees to enable development. In some instances, this cost will be significant, there is a risk that developers feel that it is excessive and wish to argue against the cost.

Financial Management

The introduction of the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula applicable to the removal of Council trees for a developmental benefit will generate revenue that shall be directed to Council's Greening Our City Planting Program.

Professional Fees and Contractor Costs

Nil

Environmental and Social Impacts

This policy directly supports Council's commitment to its City Plan 2030, Living Environment Strategy, Urban Greening and Biodiversity Management Plan and associated initiatives, including but not limited to, the Greening our City Framework.

Amendments to this policy may cause concern to those in the community that wish to undertake urban infill development or those desiring Council tree removal for various reasons.

COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Management



Policy Number	CA08
Responsible Section	Parks and Gardens
Responsible Department	City Assets
Date Last Adopted	~~December 2020~~ <u>October 2024</u>
Date of Next Review	~~December 2023~~ <u>October 2027</u>
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 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 Plan Theme	Environment and Heritage

1. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

~~The City of Port Adelaide Enfield has one of the lowest tree canopy covers in metropolitan Adelaide. The tree canopy mapping undertaken by Council in 2019 identified that tree canopy currently covers 14.8% of the total land area in the city. Identified declines in canopy since 2009 have occurred on private land due to urban development, with an associated increase in impervious areas and loss of private open space. This trend increases the importance of tree planting on public land that Council owns (streets, reserves and parks).~~

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)

~~This policy outlines activities associated with tree management, including street tree and reserve plantings and the retention and increase of tree canopy coverage. The policy aligns with relevant legislation, the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and the greening our city and urban forest aspirations contained in the City Plan 2030, Living Environment Strategy 2022, AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016 and Open Space Strategy 2020.~~

2. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to the planting and ~~management of trees removal of trees on on land under Council's care and control. Council land and formalises Council's role in advocating for, encouraging and supporting the planting and maintenance of trees by other landholders in the city.~~

EXCLUSIONS

~~This policy does not cover tree management activities undertaken by other service providers e.g. Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure, SA Power Networks or SA Water.~~

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. that trees are a natural asset and as green infrastructure are an important element in the streetscape, landscape and built environment.~~

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.

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 that trees should be accommodated within the infrastructure constraints in public streets, reserves and on private property.

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~~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 practical, 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~~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 trees planting and water sensitive urban design into new streetscapes and streetscapes upgrades and renewal, where practical.
- To improve urban biodiversity through the planting of trees indigenous to the areas or native trees which are suited to local conditions.
- To maintain and protect trees of cultural significance.
- To ensure the protection, preservation and maintenance of established, historic, regulated and significant trees.
- 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 spheres of government for the adoption of policies, procedures and legislation to maintain and increase the urban tree canopy.
- ~~To encourage and support community involvement 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.

2.23.2 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.

~~The planting and removal of street trees and reserve trees will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Street Trees and Reserve Planting Program and the appropriate risk management framework to ensure risk and liabilities to council are minimised.~~

~~Council will develop Tree Management Guidelines are established support the implementation of the Policy and to 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.

~~Through the provision and management of formal tree planting programs, Council will encourage and support community involvement in, and community led approaches to, planting of trees on public land in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.~~

~~Council will allocate Ffunding 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.~~

~~Council It will also encourage the retention, protection, planting and maintenance of trees on private property through education and advice.~~

~~Through the provision and management of formal tree planting programs, Council will encourage and support community involvement in and community led approaches to planting of trees on public land in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.~~

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

~~Council will permit the removal of street and reserve trees where they are diseased (after assessments by appropriately qualified arborists when necessary and when the disease cannot be remedied) or hazardous to the community and/or infrastructure or where they have reached the end of their useful life.~~

3.3 Tree Pruning

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

~~Council will not permit the removal 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.~~

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.

4. 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 practical 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.
- ~~Where a street tree is requested to be removed as a necessity to allow new development, the proponent of the request is required to bear the costs for the removal of the tree and the cost of two new replacement trees in line with Councils Schedule of Fees & Charges.~~

~~Where a stand of trees has significant aesthetic value in retaining the street or reserve architecture and there are proposals for its removal, the proposal shall be referred to Council for consideration with the results of the consultation of those affected.~~

~~Council will advocate for the adequate provision of space for street trees in urban infill development.~~

~~Council will encourage the retention, protection, planting and maintenance of trees on private property through education and advice.~~

~~Council will encourage and support community involvement in and community led approaches to planting of trees on public land in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.~~

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

Council's tree planting, removal and management activities and procedures are in accordance with the:

- Australian Standard 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees
- Australian Standards 4970-2009 / Amended 1-2010 Protection of Trees on Development Sites
- Section 68 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (establishes legislative requirements in relation to the management of significant and regulated trees).
- The Development Act 1993 Section 26(9) Regulated Trees Development Plan Amendment
- Sections 232 and 245 of the Local Government Act 1999
- and other relevant legislation.

3.5. Roles and Responsibilities

| The Manager Parks and Gardens is responsible for the oversight and review of this [Policy](#).

4.6. DEFINITIONS

Nil

COUNCIL POLICY

Tree Management



Policy Number	CA08
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Responsible Department	City Assets
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City Plan Theme	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.

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 practical, 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 streetscapes upgrades and renewal, where practical.
- To improve urban biodiversity through the planting of trees indigenous to the areas or native trees 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 spheres of government for the adoption of policies, procedures and legislation to maintain and increase the urban tree canopy.
- To encourage and support community involvement 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 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.

Through the provision and management of formal tree planting programs, Council will encourage and support community involvement in, and community led approaches to, planting of trees on public land in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

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 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.

4. 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 practical 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.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

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

6. DEFINITIONS

Nil

DRAFT

GUIDELINES

Tree Management



Guideline Number	TBA
Responsible Section	City Assets
Responsible Department	Parks and Gardens
Date Last Adopted	TBA
Date of Next Review	TBA
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	CA08 Tree Management Policy Biodiversity Management Plan 2020 Living Environment Strategy 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 Vision	Environment and Heritage

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield recognises the significant value trees have within our urban and natural landscapes and the importance of proactive tree management on land under its care and control in accordance with its Tree Management Policy (CA08). This Guideline applies best practice arboriculture standards to promote tree health and longevity, considering community safety and developmental impacts.

SCOPE

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

POLICY

1. Tree Planting and Establishment

Council has adopted the Greening Our City Framework as a strategic approach in its tree planting program with the following targets and indicators:

TARGETS AND INDICATORS

Target: By 2050 achieve a 35% increase in the city's canopy coverage.

Indicator: Council plant and maintain at least 3000 new street and reserve trees per year.

Indicator: Council encourage other landowners to plant at least 500 new trees per year across the city.

The report, *Greening the City – How Many Trees and Where?*, informs a program for annual new street and reserve tree plantings to achieve the above. Considering the integration of drivers (lowest number of existing trees, greatest number of plantable opportunities, highest heat, greatest social vulnerability), priority planting locations are identified. These are grouped into a suburb/region and suitably sized tree species are selected from a menu that considers:

- suitable form and growth for public open space
- historical successfulness within Council areas
- resilience to climatic fluctuations
- inclusion of Australian native species
- availability of stock

Tree planting stock shall be sourced according to the NATSPEC standard which may vary in planting size, with preference given to trees greater than 1.2 – 1.5 metres in height at the time of planting. Special tree planting projects may require stock reaching up to four metres in height.

In addition to the annual tree planting program, new trees may also be planted in the following circumstances:

- replacement of dead, diseased, or failed existing trees
- replacement of vandalised trees
- where requested by customers if no tree exists
- major residential developments (at the expense of the developer)

Tree planting shall occur at a time which is favourable for establishment and growth; usually during winter; May through to the end of August each year, depending on seasonal changes.

1.1 Tree Planting Specifications

The following table provides a general guide to tree planting:

Tree Species Selection	Tree species shall be selected considering the type of soil and drainage prior to planting. Available root space and above ground limitations should also be considered.
Service locations	All existing services (electricity, gas, water, stormwater and telecommunications) to be located onsite before the commencement of tree planting. Appropriate communication with relevant service authorities is mandatory where the location of services is considered hazardous, or services located in DIT roads.
Planting conditions	Planting to occur in favourable weather conditions, avoiding extreme heat, cold, wind or rain. Except in sandy soils, excavation shall be suspended when the soil is wet or during frost periods.
Watering	Trees to be thoroughly watered prior to planting, immediately after planting.

Root trimming	Carry out root pruning only as directed by the Group Leader. Where directed, prune turned roots using secateurs only. Root balls not to be exposed for extended periods. Excessive disturbance to roots shall be avoided. Discontinue if root ball soil begins to fall away.
Depth of planting	When the tree is in its final position, the top of the root ball shall be flush with the adjacent finished surface. Clean topsoil to be used to backfill to correct the depth. The tree hole should preferably be 2 to 3 times the width of the root ball with a cultivated area of at least 0.8m squared.
Placing	When the hold appears to be of correct size, and not before, remove the plant from the container with minimum disturbance to the root ball, and place it in its final position, in the centre of the hold and plumb.
Backfilling	Backfill soil should be the same as that which was removed and free of clumps, rubbish, and rocks. Amendments to poorly drained soils can exacerbate the problem and shall be avoided.
Ground Works	Once the tree is placed in the hold add loose soil and tamp down lightly to expel air pockets, without causing plant to settle further down in the hole. Water to eliminate air pockets.
Watering Basins	Construct a watering basin around the base of each individually planted tree, consisting of a raised ring of soil or a waterwell or similar capable of holding a minimum of 20 litres. For trees in lawn allow to form min. 75mm depth mulched watering dish approximately 1000mm diameter.
Staking	Durable hardwood, straight, free from knot or twists, and pointed at one end. <u>Advanced tree:</u> three 50mm x 50mm x 2500mm long, hardwood stakes driven a minimum 750mm deep into ground located 500mm from trunk to avoid damage to root ball. <u>Semi-advanced tree:</u> two 50mm x 50mm x 1800mm long, hardwood stakes driven 600mm deep into ground located minimum 300mm from trunk to avoid damage to root ball. Stakes shall be placed in line with axis of planting to provide support from prevailing winds.
Ties	50mm wide hessian or chain lock black tie.
Mulch Spreading	Minimum 75mm depth, lightly tap down and rake smooth to finish flush with levels. Grade the finished surface evenly between design surface levels. Place mulch after completion of all other work including preparation of planting, staking and irrigation. Avoid contact of the stem with the mulch.
Formative pruning	If required, pruning to be undertaken by experienced Biodiversity & Urban Greening staff. All pruning work should be in accordance with Australian Standard for the Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373.

1.2 Tree Establishment Specifications

The following shall ensure the newly planted trees become established and mature once planting is completed:

Mulched Surfaces	Maintain in a clean and tidy condition and reinstate the mulch to planting area as required. Keep mulch away from the trunk of the tree. Mulch will also help to reduce the weed growth and water loss.
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Formative Pruning	Pruning to be considered annually for the first 3 years (maintenance period) dependant on species type and undertaken by experienced Biodiversity & Urban Greening or Tree Maintenance staff. All pruning work should be in accordance with Australian Standard for the Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373. Generally, young trees should be pruned to develop into trees that have a sturdy, tapered trunk with well-spaced branches that are smaller in diameter than the trunk. Under no circumstances shall more than thirty percent of the foliage from an individual tree be removed at any one time.
Stakes and Ties	Adjust and/or replace as required. Remove once tree has established or as directed.
Watering	Weekly watering of 20L for the first 3 years generally during the months September to April depending on seasonal changes. Watering program may be altered dependant on rainfall as approved by the Biodiversity & Urban Greening Team Leader. Where irrigation system is present, ensure optimal water is available to the tree root ball and surrounding structural soil. Ensure tree root balls are adequately watered prior to liquid fertiliser applications. Where a tree has been planted at the request of a resident, the resident must commit to watering the tree prior to the planting request being actioned. During summer or severe drought, mature trees of significance may be requested to be provided with supplementary watering.
Weed and Pest Control	Eradicate all weeds and pest plants from within mulched areas manually and removed from the site.

2. Tree Pruning

Council provides a cyclic biennial tree maintenance program inclusive of, but not limited to formative pruning and safety clearance pruning. Any requests for additional tree pruning shall be assessed and undertaken by Council's Tree Maintenance team and/or approved contractors in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and best practice methods and may include:

- removal of deadwood and defects
- storm damage
- hazard mitigation

2.1 Road Vegetation Clearance

Street trees are pruned to the following clearances heights: (Figure 1).

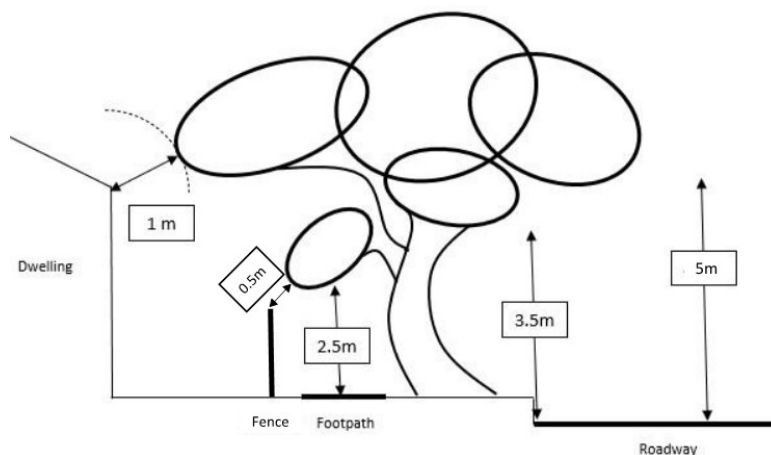


Fig.1 Minimum tree clearance distances on Council roads

The level of height clearance provided along Council roads will be carried out after due consideration to the traffic speed, traffic environment and nature of the road without guaranteeing a full 5m height clearance across the full width of every Council Road.

Young or establishing trees may be maintained outside of the above clearances to help promote future growth, to ensure health and encourage good structure.

Trees growing through overhead infrastructure are the responsibility of the network operator to maintain clearance zones.

Where private trees overhang Council property, footpaths or roadways, the maintenance of the tree is the owner's responsibility and the owner should undertake pruning as requested. If the owner does not comply with a request, an order for the pruning of overhanging branches can be issued by Council pursuant to Section 254 of the *Local Government Act 1999*. Council may also undertake the necessary tree works and recover the cost of the works from the property owner.

3. Tree Removal

Any request for removal of a Council tree will be assessed by the Tree Maintenance team and where necessary in consultation with the Manager, Parks and Gardens. Tree assessments and subsequent works shall be conducted by suitably qualified arborists and/or approved contractors in accordance with relevant Australian Standards and best practice methods.

All management options will be explored before tree removal is recommended. Removal may be considered where the tree is determined to be:

- Dead, dying or diseased
- Failed to establish and is of very poor structure or health
- An unauthorised planting
- An unacceptable risk to personal or property safety
- Unreasonably restricting road or intersection sight distance

Council will assess requests for tree removal on an individual basis. Such assessments may necessitate the submission of specialist reports or comparable evidence confirming the severity of impact, and explicitly demonstrating that the particular tree in question is the cause of, or primary contributor to the issue.

4. Tree Removal for Development Benefit

Where tree(s) are approved for removal by Council's Arborist to accommodate development, Council will place a monetary value on the subject tree(s) using the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula outlined in this guideline, unless it meets the criteria as set out above – Tree Removal.

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 for 2 replacement trees.

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

5. Tree Pruning or Removal for Nuisance Issues

Pruning or removal of any Council tree will not be authorised due to nuisance issues, including, but not limited to:

- Obstruction of views, including advertising signage
- Debris by way of fruit or seed, flower, leaf litter, bark, twigs, sap etc
- Unsubstantiated risk
- Overhang into private property (outside of maintained clearances)
- Aesthetic reasons
- Shading of lawns, gardens, houses, pools, solar panels etc
- Species type, unless deemed inappropriate by Council's Arborist
- Attracting wildlife, insects, birds etc (and associated animal defecation)
- Unsubstantiated damage to private property
- Development where reasonable alternatives to conserve tree(s) are available

6. Tree Risk Assessment

As living entities exposed to adverse weather events, trees can pose a risk to persons and property. Potential tree risks may be identified through routine activities of Council's Parks and Gardens staff or by a member of the public. These are referred to Council's Tree Maintenance staff for further assessment.

6.1 Passive Tree Risk Assessment

Passive tree risk assessments are those that identify obvious tree risk features and are commonly identified by Council's Parks and Gardens staff or by a member of the public during their daily activities. These are distributed to Tree Maintenance team through a workflow process for further assessment and action.

6.2 Active Tree Risk Assessment

Active tree assessments require trained assessors to identify risks that might not be acceptable or tolerable. These are carried out by either Council's Tree Maintenance staff or an appointed arboriculture contractor in accordance with an industry recognised tree risk assessment methodology according to three levels – basic, detailed, or advanced.

The following attributes shall be recorded in Council's tree management database (Forestore):

- Tree health
- Tree structure
- Useful life expectancy
- Tree risk category (low, moderate, high or extreme)

Active tree risk assessments shall be undertaken in targeted areas of high use on a more regular basis.

Advanced tree risk assessments are performed to provide detailed information about a specific feature of the tree and usually require specialised equipment and/or expertise. Advanced assessments shall be carried out on trees which can be shown to provide benefit and where budget allows.

In cases where the tree is providing significant benefit, but is of an elevated level of risk, and where all reasonable mitigation options have been considered, it may be determined that the risk is tolerable.

Tree risk is categorised as either low, moderate, high or extreme. Risk categories assist in determining the priority of works, with extreme risk trees being actioned as soon as reasonably possible. Council shall seek to provide clear service level timeframes for request for service based on the allocated risk category.

7. Suspected Damage to Private Property

Tree growth in the urban environment is highly modified and is not governed by property boundaries. Tree and root growth is opportunistic and will proliferate where moisture, aeration, nutrition and soil structure is favourable, which is strongly influenced by both the above and below ground soil conditions and environment.

7.1 Root Damage

Tree root damage to private property can be classified as either direct damage or indirect damage. The type of damage will dictate the investigation methods and management strategies employed by Council.

Direct Root Damage

Direct root damage is the distortion of built structures. This may occur as tree roots grow and exert pressure. This type of damage is usually limited to light-built structures such as pavements and low walls. Direct damage may further affect buildings of sub-standard footings and underground pipes.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield will investigate all claims of direct tree root damage from public trees under control of Council.

Root Entry Into Sewer and Stormwater Pipes

Tree root entry into sewer and/or stormwater pipes occurs following the failure of a pipe. Leaking pipes (as a result of poor construction, old earthenware, cracked and faulty joints and degradation) create a moisture gradient that encourages tree root growth, leading to entry into the pipe. Once the root has entered the pipe, the roots can proliferate in the ideal growing conditions. In most cases, the failure and subsequent leak of the pipe occurs before root entry. In some rare situations, root movement of the pipe may initiate a fracture through direct damage.

The property owner is responsible for the maintenance, repair and replacement of the pipe to the legal point of discharge (stormwater) or the connection point (sewer). The stormwater legal point of discharge is usually an underground drain or street channel outside the property.

Where a stormwater system has been installed within 2 meters of an existing Council tree/s and sustains substantiated damage, Council (where site conditions allow) may request the property owner to redirect their system so as not to have an adverse effect on the trees health and stability at the property owners expense.

Indirect Root Damage

Tree damage to buildings may occur due to indirect damage causing foundation movement. Foundation movement in built structures may be caused by the following:

- settlement, which may be a result of excessive loading or defective material below the foundations
- subsidence as a result of clay shrinkage, soil instability and fluctuations in soil moisture. Chronic soil drying and shrinkage can also be caused by prolonged drought conditions
- heave as a result of rehydrated and expanding soils with increases in soil moisture due to heavy rainfall events or defective plumbing or drainage.

Often there are multiple factors contributing to foundation movement. For this reason, claims of indirect tree root damage must be comprehensively investigated and the City of Port Adelaide Enfield will not remove trees for unjustified claims of property damage from tree root activity unless

it has been proven that tree roots are the primary cause of the damage and there are no alternative measures available to mitigate further damage.

7.2 Claims Process

All claims seeking financial compensation resulting from suspected damage to private property from a Council tree should be lodged to insurance@cityofpae.sa.gov.au along with any evidence to support the claim, including, but not limited to:

- contact details for the person reporting the damage
- location of the alleged damage
- location of the tree(s) alleged to have caused the damage
- details of any known past tree management works undertaken by Council
- photos of the alleged damage.

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield shall be given the opportunity to inspect the alleged damage on site.

Council may also request the claimant to supply an engineer's report or excavate/expose the affected areas to support alleged damage.

Where a claim of damage is made, Council will take action where there is an actual or reasonably foreseeable risk of damage. Council will not take action in response to a theoretical or assumed risk of damage.

Investigation of Indirect Root Damage

Council will investigate claims of indirect tree root damage where a geotechnical or structural engineering report identifies that Council tree/s are the primary contributor to the damage.

In addition to the above claims information, a technical report shall include the following details:

- damage and the likely progression of such damage
- history of the site
- building construction methodology, and a determination of the foundation depth and type
- site topography and drainage
- site profile and soil profile from boreholes. Soil moisture levels and any fine root growth should be recorded
- recommendation for remedial action.

In many cases, extended building level monitoring can also be useful as it indicates where there is seasonal influence of tree root activity on structures.

7.3 Mitigation Measures for Root Damage

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield will seek practical solutions to reduce the risk of damage to private property from Council trees, taking into consideration the cost and benefits of such actions. These measures may include:

- root pruning
- installation of tree root barriers

Tree removal for direct or indirect property damage will only be considered where no practical arboriculture or engineering solution can be implemented to address the conflict whilst retaining the tree.

Every effort will be taken to ensure that any replacement trees will not themselves result in similar future conflict.

8. Council Trees and Development

8.1 Planning

Prior to the lodgement of development application and/ or finalisation of construction drawings, it is recommended that Applicants first contact Council's Tree Maintenance Team to discuss potential impacts to Council trees.

Any development, construction and/ or works activities adjacent to Council trees shall:

- Retain existing Council trees that are of good health and have reasonable life expectancy and amenity value.
- Consider building construction methods that minimise the impact on trees and their root systems.
- Consider existing and future tree growth both above and below ground.

The above may require preliminary tree assessments or arboricultural reports as advised by Council's Tree Maintenance Team.

Where adjacent trees are deemed Regulated or Significant, the applicant must provide an Arboriculture Impact Assessment undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist with scaled construction drawings, to include:

- Numerical identification of all trees
- Identification of trees to be retained, removed, pruned or transplanted.
- Tree Protection Zones (TPZ).
- The Structural Root Zones (SRZ).
- Tree summary:
 - the common and botanical name
 - height
 - canopy spread
 - trunk diameter at 1.0m above natural ground level
 - number of trunks if more than one.
- Recommendations for tree protection

Any development, construction and/ or works activities proposing tree removal or pruning of a Council tree shall be assessed by the Tree Maintenance team and where necessary in consultation with the Manager, Parks and Gardens in accordance with 3. *Pruning* and 4. *Tree Removal* of this guideline. Where tree(s) are approved for removal to accommodate development, Council will place a monetary value on the subject tree(s) using the Tree Amenity Valuation Formula outlined in 5. *Tree Removal for Development Benefit*.

Existing trees on private land intended to be developed shall be assessed as per the requirements in accordance with the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* and associated regulations.

8.2 Protection of Council Trees During Construction

Trees are living organisms that require certain environmental conditions to maintain their value as an asset. It is rarely possible to repair stressed and injured trees, so tree protection is essential during all stages of construction and works activities in accordance with Australian Standard (AS) 4970-2009 - *Protection of trees on development sites*.

Tree protection shall include measures to prevent both direct damage (such as lopping of branches or severing of structural roots) or indirect damage (such as soil compaction or changes to water availability). Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Severing of stems, branches or roots
- Mechanical wounding to stems or branches via impact
- Wounding, crushing or tearing of tree roots
- Significantly changing available soil moisture or air level via construction of impermeable surfaces or soil compaction

Procedures must be implemented for the protection of Council trees at every stage of the project and made available to Council. These may be in the form of site-specific tree protection plans or work method statements for specific construction activities.

Council may deny applications to conduct works on Council land or stop works, due to a lack of tree protection measures and procedures.

9. Tree Amenity Valuation

Where a Council tree is approved for removal in accordance with Policy CA08 – Tree Management and in relation to a development, the applicant shall pay the associated costs prior to the removal, which will be calculated as follows:

Total Costs for Tree Removal = Arborist Report Cost (A) + Removal Cost (B) + Amenity Value Cost (C) + Reinstatement Cost (D)

A	Arborist Report Cost	All costs incurred by Council for an external Arborist report as quoted.
B	Removal Cost	All costs incurred by Council for physically removing the tree & stump (additional costs may also include traffic management, crane hire or other site- specific costs) as quoted by approved Contractor. Indicative minimum costs are provided in the <i>City of Port Adelaide Enfield's Fees and Charges Register</i> .
C	Amenity Value Cost	Tree Amenity Value (V) = Base Value (\$) x Species Factor (S) x Aesthetic Factor (A) x Locality Factor (L) x Condition Factor (C)
D	Reinstatement Cost	Cost of two replacement trees in accordance with the <i>City of Port Adelaide Enfield's Fees and Charges register</i> .

9.1 Amenity Value Cost

The monetary amenity value of a tree is calculated through the following formula:

Tree Amenity Value (V) = Base Value (\$) x Species Factor (S) x
Aesthetic Factor (A) x Locality Factor (L) x Condition Factor (C)

When the tree considered for removal has a trunk diameter of 6cm or less, there will be no amenity value charge.

Base Value (\$)

The Base Value of a tree is determined by matching the trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) with its corresponding base value in the table below:

DBH (cm)	Base Value	DBH (cm)	Base Value	DBH (cm)	Base Value
6	\$309.92	50	\$21,522.33	100	\$86,089.33
8	\$550.98	55	\$26,042.03	105	\$94,913.49
10	\$860.89	60	\$30,992.16	110	\$104,168.09
15	\$1,937.00	65	\$36,372.74	115	\$113,853.14
20	\$3,443.57	70	\$42,183.77	120	\$123,968.63
25	\$5,380.58	75	\$48,425.25	125	\$134,514.58
30	\$7,748.04	80	\$55,097.17	130	\$145,490.97
35	\$10,545.94	85	\$62,199.54	135	\$156,897.81
40	\$13,774.29	90	\$69,732.35	140	\$168,735.09
45	\$17,433.09	95	\$77,695.62	145	\$181,002.82

Base value to be recalculated at commencement of each financial year as a part of the *City of Port Adelaide Enfield's Fees and Charges Register*.

Species Factor (S)

A tree is assessed according to its known natural life span and its rate of growth within its environment. For example, a long-lived tree will be scored higher than a short-lived tree. Significant features of the tree will also modify how the tree is scored. The assessment regarding species factor is made by a qualified Arborist.

Group	Tree Characteristics	Example Species	Score
1	Short life span (less than 50 years) fast growth rate	<i>Prunus, Acacia, Robinia</i>	0.5
2	Short life span (less than 50 years) slow growth rate	<i>Malus, Pyrus, Grevillea, Melaleuca, Hakea</i>	0.6
3	Medium life span (50 -150 years) fast growth rate	<i>Populus, Liquidamber, Eucalyptus, Corymbia, Angophora, Celtis</i>	0.7
4	Medium life span (50 - 150 years) slow growth rate	<i>Brachychiton, Fraxinus, Gleditsia, Jacaranda, Melia, Robinia, Lophostemon, Agonis</i>	0.8
5	Long life span (more than 150 years) fast growth rate	<i>Cupressus, Platanus, Ficus, Pinus, Eucalyptus (Endemic species)</i>	0.9
6	Long life span (more than 150 years) slow growth rate	<i>Ulmus, Quercus, Ginko, Araucaria</i>	1.0
Modifiers	Environmental Weeds Dangerous (e.g. poor branch attachment) Undesirable characteristics (e.g. allergenic)	<i>Salix, Tamarix, Olea</i>	-0.1
	A rare species in the locality A special precious cultivated variety A National Trust registered 'significant tree' Has special historical or other significance		+0.1

Aesthetics (A)**Guideline Number & Name**

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The Aesthetic Factor of a tree valuation is determined by the impact on the landscape if the tree were removed. This category is closely tied to the Locality Factor (L).

Aesthetic Factor	Score
Contributes little to the landscape	0.5
One of a group of close plantings	0.6
Wide plantings	0.7
Irregular spacing between trees; regular spacing one side	0.8
Street or pathway plantings, regular spacing both sides	0.9
Solitary feature specimen tree	1.0
Aesthetics (A)	

Locality (L)

The Locality Factor is determined by the tree's geographical location. Trees located in a main street or boulevard score highest because of the stressful growing environment. As the location becomes more rural, the significance of the Locality Factor diminishes.

Locality Factor	Score
In undeveloped bushland or open forest	0.5
In country rural areas and country roads	1.0
In suburban areas and residential streets.	1.5
In high density growth suburbs.	1.75
In Commercial precinct areas; significant streets or main roads.	2.0
In commercial precinct areas and secondary streets.	2.25
Commercial Centres, Main Street and Principal Boulevards	2.5
Locality (L)	

Tree Condition (C)

The Tree Condition Factor is determined by an Arborist inspection of the condition of the tree considering the following:

Assessment Criteria	Criteria Condition	Score
Trunk	solid and sound	5
	sections of bark damaged/missing	3
	extensive decay, hollow trunk	1
Growth	>15cm twig elongation this season	3
	5-15cm twig elongation	2
	<5cm twig elongation	1
Structure	healthy, stable and sound	5
	some deadwood and dead limbs	3
	extensive dieback and deadwood	1
Pests and Diseases	no pest/disease infestation	3
	minor symptoms of infestation	2

	advanced symptoms of infestation	1
Canopy Development	full balance canopy	5
	full but unbalanced, lop-sided	3
	unbalanced and lacking full canopy	1
Life Expectancy	>50 years	5
	10-50 years	3
	< 10 years	1
Total Score		

Total Score	Tree Condition	Factor
6–9	Very Poor	0.2
10-13	Poor	0.4
14–18	Fair	0.6
19–22	Good	0.8
23 -26	Excellent	1.0
Tree Condition Rating(C)		

DEFINITIONS

Nil