

Council Policy

Council Policy Name: Tree Management and Retention on City Land

Responsible Directorate: Engineering and Works Services

Version: ADOPTED

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidance for the management and retention of trees on City of Busselton owned and managed land to enhance streetscapes and amenity.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. The Policy applies to trees on City of Busselton owned or managed land, including any tree which has a majority (equal to or greater than 50%) of its trunk growing from City managed land.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
Policy	this City of Busselton Council policy titled "Tree Management and Retention on City Land"
Pruning	The arboriculture practice of selective removal of branches or roots

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 4.1. This Policy links to Key Theme 1 – Environment and Key Theme 2 - Lifestyle of the City's Strategic Community Plan 2021 and specifically the following Strategic Priorities:
- 1.6: Promote and facilitate environmentally responsible practices
 - 2.12: Provide well maintained community assets through robust asset management practices.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1. The City recognises the importance of trees in creating functional and attractive streets and reserves within the urban environment. As such, the City is committed to the minimisation of tree removal and encourages the preservation of existing trees.

Tree Removal and Pruning

- 5.2. The City may consider the removal or pruning of trees for reasons including:
- the tree is dead or diseased, cannot be successfully treated, and is not providing essential habitat;
 - the tree is structurally weak or dangerous and places the public at unacceptable risk;
 - the tree interferes with essential services, ie: Western Power, ATCOGas, Water Corporation, Busselton Water.
 - the tree is causing or likely to cause significant damage to property or infrastructure ie, road surfaces, walls, fences, buildings, footpaths, kerbing, crossovers and drainage;
 - the tree has been planted in a manner that is inconsistent with the City's Local Laws;
 - removal of hazardous branches;
 - to manage the health and well-being of the tree;
 - to remove dead/dying wood;

- i. the uplift of low hanging branches;
 - j. to adhere to airside safety regulations;
 - k. to maintain City managed firebreaks;
 - l. to maintain traffic and pedestrian access / sightlines as per Australian guidelines;
 - m. to remove branches overhanging property boundary (the City may also consider proposed application by resident to arrange pruning by a suitably qualified arboriculture contractor to works meeting AS 4373-2007 Pruning of Trees).
- 5.3. Requests for the removal or pruning of trees will not be considered in the following circumstances:
- a. to improve or create views;
 - b. to minimise the creation of natural litter, including leaves, twigs, flowers, sap and fruit;
 - c. to reduce or remove unwanted shading of lawn, gardens or infrastructure (including solar panels);
 - d. due to unsubstantiated property damage claims;
 - e. to reduce allergenic or irritant responses;
 - f. where a tree has been identified as having some significant value, including historical, conservation, rarity in species or form;
 - g. where proposed development can be altered to avoid conflict with existing trees;
 - h. perception of fire risk, danger, poor form, too tall, nuisance; and
 - i. the tree attracts birds and other fauna.
- 5.4. The removal of a tree will only be considered after alternatives have been identified and evaluated, including, but not limited to:
- a. root barriers;
 - b. redesign of structure;
 - c. crown pruning;
 - d. root pruning; and
 - e. tree relocation.
- 5.5. Where a tree is removed by the City or removed without authorisation by another party, the City will replace the tree on the same verge or reserve in the next available planting season, at its discretion. The City may seek to recover all related costs.

Property Damage

- 5.6. Substantiated damage to property or infrastructure shall be assessed by the City and reinstatement undertaken at the City's discretion.

Development Applications

- 5.7. The assessment for tree removal will be considered as part of the development application process and in line with development principles.

Tree Planting

- 5.8. The City is responsible for planting street trees and reserve trees under its annual tree planting program. The City will determine the species and select the location of the tree within the verge.

6. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 6.1. *Local Government Act 1995*
- 6.2. *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- 6.3. *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- 6.4. *City of Busselton Property Local Law 2010*
- 6.5. *City of Busselton Local Planning Policies*
- 6.6. *Council Policy: Private works on City Land, including private coastal protection works on City Land*
- 6.7. *Australian Standard: AS 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees*
- 6.8. *Australian Standard: AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites*
- 6.9. *Dividing Fences Act WA 1961*

7. REVIEW DETAILS

Review Frequency		3 yearly		
Council Adoption	DATE	23 March 2022	Resolution #	C2203/059