

COUNCIL POLICY

Policy Objective

To provide direction to City officers in relation to the management of trees in streets and public open spaces in order to provide an attractive, healthy, resilient and diverse urban environment, and action the objectives of the City's Environment Strategy and Greening Mandurah Framework toward a 'greener' Mandurah.

Policy Statement

The City of Mandurah (the City) will manage and maintain trees in streets and public open space that are under the care and control or ownership of the City in accordance with best practice industry standards and this Policy.

The City's operational tree management processes and procedures will ensure consistency with this Policy and alignment with the Environment Strategy and Greening Mandurah Framework and its objectives including to nurture, value, protect and enhance the urban tree canopy and ecosystem.

Tree management processes and procedures will fall under the following categories:

1) Tree species selection and planting

The City has developed a Locality Street Tree Masterplan, following a city-wide community engagement process, to inform the selection of appropriate tree species to be planted to enhance the urban canopy and compliment the local character of the City's local streets and neighbourhoods. City officers will prepare tree planting programs, based on the Locality Street Tree Masterplan, to guide the staged planting of trees in individual streets and public open spaces. The preparation of the planting programs will include an appropriate level of community consultation, as defined in the City's Community Engagement Framework, and reflect the outcomes of this consultation where appropriate. Specific consideration will be given to:

- 1.1) Appropriate species selection for each individual street or public open space locations including consideration of the local characteristics such as coastal conditions, existing site infrastructure, narrow verges and/or the proximity of a natural bushland;
- 1.2) Promoting and enhancing cultural characteristics of locations; and
- 1.3) Protecting and enhancing environmental value and characteristics of locations.

2) Tree maintenance

City officers will prepare a Tree Management Technical Guideline detailing best practice industry standards and providing a thorough operational methodology for the management of trees in streets and public open spaces. The City will conduct tree maintenance on City managed land in streets and public open spaces **at the City's expense**. The Tree Management Technical Guidelines will cover all aspects relating to:

- Tree planting site requirements;
- Tree stock specifications and quality;

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- New tree planting and establishment methodology;
- Tree maintenance requirements and methodology;
- Asset management;
- Methodology relating to the removal of trees;
- Tree assessments; and
- Tree protection.

2.1) Private street tree maintenance may be undertaken by a requesting person(s), in addition to any tree maintenance performed by the City, if approved by the City under a Permit issued pursuant to the City of Mandurah *Local Government Property and Public Places Local Law 2016*, at the expense of the requesting person(s). Approval will, among other things, be conditional on the private maintenance works having no detrimental impact on the health of the street tree and the requesting person(s) being the adjacent property owner.

3) Consideration of Tree Removal

City officers may consider the removal and replacement of established trees in streets and public open spaces, **at the City's expense**, where one or more of the following applies:

- 3.1) the species of the tree is listed as a pest plant under the City's *Animals, Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2010*;
- 3.2) the tree does not provide current active, or significant future, habitat value and is dead, in decline, diseased or damaged and past the point of recovery and no remedial treatment will be effective;
- 3.3) the tree has been deemed, by a suitably qualified arborist, as a hazard to persons or property and no practical remedial techniques can alleviate the hazard; and
- 3.4) the value of the work required to retain the tree is significantly higher than that of the environmental, social, heritage and aesthetic value of the tree to the broader community.

City officers may also consider the removal and transplanting or replacement of established trees in streets and public open spaces, at the expense of the requesting person(s), where:

- 3.5) the City approves the removal as a result of private development or private works in which case the developer or owner of the works shall be responsible for expenses related to the tree removal and transplanting or establishment of a replacement tree, as directed by the City.
- 3.6) the tree was not approved by the City before it was planted and it is in significant contrast to the objectives of the Locality Street Tree Masterplan, guiding the selection of trees in streets or public open space, in which case the requesting

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person(s) shall be responsible for expenses related to the removal and transplanting or establishment of a replacement tree, as directed by the City.

City officers will ensure a resident can make application for:

- the City to undertake works in relation to tree removal in a street or public open space (where the City or the resident will incur costs associated with the works approved); and
- a Permit for private street tree maintenance in accordance with the City of Mandurah *Local Government Property and Public Places Local Law 2016* (where the resident will incur the costs associated with the works approved).

This application will include details of how to lodge a request, the assessment method that will be used by City officers to determine whether or not a tree will be removed, and details of how a removed tree will be replaced.

4) Review of City officer's decision to refuse removal of a tree in a street or public open space:

- where a request for removal of a tree is not granted by the City officer, the requesting person(s) may request a review of the decision through the presentation of a suitably qualified arborist report, to the City, engaged at the requesting person(s) expense, recommending removal of the tree for one of the reasons outlined in 3.1 to 3.4 of this Policy.
- if there is conflict between advice given by the City's arborist (who is employed by the City) and the requesting person(s) arborist, the City will engage a separate and independent consultant arborist to make a determination on the matter. Where there is conflict between advice given by the City's arborist (who is engaged and is not an employee of the City) and the requesting person(s) arborist, the City's arborist report will prevail.
- a suitably qualified arborist under this Policy is a person who holds an AQF5 (Australian Qualified Framework Level 5) Diploma in Arboriculture qualification.

Legislative Context

Animals, Environment and Nuisance Local Law 2010 – Schedule 1 Pest plants *Local Government Property and Public Places Local Law 2016*.

Review

At a minimum this Council Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Related Documents

These documents are mandatory and required to give effect to this policy:

- Greening Mandurah Framework;
- City of Mandurah operational processes and procedures; and

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- Locality Street Tree Masterplan.

Responsible Directorate: Built and Natural Environment

Responsible Department: Landscape Management

Reviewer: Manager Environmental Services

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Amendments			
Version #	Council Approval Date, Reference	Date Document In force	Date Document Ceased
1	23/7/2019, G.12/7/19	24/7/2019	24/11/2020
2	24/11/2020, G.7/11/20	25/11/2020	25/05/2021
3	25/05/2021, G.11/5/21	26/05/2021	23/07/2024
4	23/07/24, G.5/07/24	24/07/2024	21/01/2025
5	Minor administrative amendment	22/01/2025	