

Significant Tree Register

Recognition for Mandurah's most valuable trees





tree
register

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1. Introduction and Background

The 'Significant Tree Register' aims to protect significant trees within the City of Mandurah and is an important component of the City's philosophy of protecting our Natural Heritage. Many individual and groups of trees are highly valued by the community, including remnants of the original vegetation of the area now left within an urban environment. These trees hold significant value for their visual/aesthetic, botanic/scientific, ecological and historical/commemorative/cultural and social aspects.

The Significant Tree Register is linked to an Amendment to Clause 6.5.2 and 6.5.4 of the City's Town Planning Scheme No. 3 which provides for enhanced provisions for the preservation of vegetation within the City, and provides greater certainty to both officers and applicants regarding the assessment procedure for applications for tree removal.

The Prescribed Requirements for Tree Preservation within the City's Town Planning Scheme No 3. are set out below:

- 1.1.1 *A person shall not, other than with the approval of Council, ring-bark, cutdown, top, lop, remove, prune, transplant, fill or excavate around, injure (whether by injecting anything or otherwise) or wilfully destroy any bushland or tree(s) which is of a height greater than 3 metres and has a branch spread greater than 3 metres in diameter in the following circumstances:*
 - (f) *Where the tree or bushland is registered or nominated for registration in the City's 'Significant Tree Register'.*



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2. Purpose of the Register

The Significant Tree Register is required so that the City of Mandurah has a single Register of all Significant Trees within the City. Through the Register, Council intends to compile and use information to conserve significant trees where nominations are approved.

The Register, along with its standardised assessment criteria, provides a consistent and analytical approach to maximize its value as a suitable reference document for all interested parties.

The Register is a 'living document' and will be updated following registration of all new significant trees as per the approved registration process described below.

The Register is one of many ways the City is protecting its natural environment and must be viewed in the overall context of the suite of protection measures currently in place, most particularly Clause 6.5.2 of the City's Town Planning Scheme No. 3 'Tree and Bushland Preservation'.



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3. Making Nominations

Nominations may be made by any member of the community, City officers or a third party. Trees nominated may be either on public or private property and can be native or exotic species.

Nominations must be on the standard form.

Forms are available from:

- City of Mandurah Libraries;
- the City's Administration Building; or
- the City's Website at www.mandurah.wa.gov.au.

To nominate a particular tree/s for inclusion on the Significant Tree Register, nominees are asked to complete as much of the form as possible. Although there may be limited information on a specimen of possible interest, be sure at least to provide some indication of its identity, an accurate description of its location, the reason the specimen is of interest and your name and contact details.

Please remember to check that the Tree is not already Registered. The Register can be viewed either at the City of Mandurah Library, Administration Building or on the website at www.mandurah.wa.gov.au.

Any person and/or known affected landowners who makes a nomination will be kept informed of the result of the assessment process and outcome.

If you require any further information, please contact the City's Environmental Planner on (08) 9550 3812.



4. Categories of Significance - Assessment Criteria

An individual tree, a stand of trees, or an avenue of trees, growing either on private or public land, will be considered for inclusion in the register on the basis of one or more of the following categories of significance. Significant trees can be either native or exotic.

1. Outstanding Visual/Aesthetic Significance
 - a. Tree/s that is outstanding for its/their height, trunk circumference or canopy spread;
 - b. Tree/s that occur in a prominent location or context;
 - c. Tree/s that contribute significantly to the landscape in which it/they grow [including streetscapes, parks, gardens or natural landscapes];
 - d. Tree/s that exhibit an unusual growth form or physical feature, including unusually pruned forms; or
 - e. Tree/s that are particularly old or vulnerable.

2. Botanic/Scientific Significance
 - a. Tree/s that are of an important genetic value that could provide important and valuable propagating stock. This could include specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or climatic extremes or have a particular growth form; or
 - b. Tree/s that demonstrate a likelihood of producing information that will help the wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

3. Significant Ecological Value
 - a. Priority, rare, threatened or locally uncommon species or ecological community;
 - b. Indigenous remnant tree/s that predate the urban development in its immediate proximity;
 - c. Tree/s that make a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community, including its role as a seed source or specialised habitat;
 - d. A remnant specimen now reduced in range or abundance, which indicates the former extent of the species, particularly range limits; or
 - e. Tree/s which is a significant habitat element for rare, threatened, priority or locally uncommon or common native species.



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4. Historical, Commemorative, Cultural or Social Significance
 - a. Tree/s that are associated with public significance or important historical event;
 - b. Tree/s highly valued by the community or cultural group for reasons of strong religious, spiritual, cultural or other social associations, including trees associated with aboriginal heritage and culture;
 - c. Tree/s associated with a heritage listed place and representative of that same historic era; or
 - d. Tree/s that have local significance, are important to the local community and/or are recognised features of the immediate landscape.

5. Process of Nomination

Council has a set of standard of protocols for the nomination and assessment of a tree (group of tree's) for inclusion in the Register. The process is detailed below and summarised in the flow chart in appendix 1.

On receipt of a nomination on approved nomination form, City officers will undertake the following tasks:

- Notify the owner by letter with reason(s) for nomination as well as the category of nomination;
- Acknowledge the nomination [to the nominee];
- Notify owners of immediate adjacent properties;
- Allow a minimum of twenty-eight (28) days for receipt of objections/submissions;
- 'Significant Tree Working Group' (STWG) to conduct an on-site physical examination of the tree/s in relation to their natural occurrence, age, cultural history, or other identified or nominated category. The landowner to be invited to attend and discuss nomination;
- STWG will report on significance and compile supporting information where possible, from the gathering of reports, photographs, newspaper articles, archival material and oral evidence from relevant public authorities, local property owners, local history and community groups;
- Following initial assessment, parties affected will be notified of whether or not the tree is considered to be significant;
- If the STWG determines there is significance and the landowner objects to the proposed registration the nomination will be determined by Council via a report to Council. The landowners will be notified and provided the opportunity to address the meeting. At this point the landowner will also have the opportunity to engage their own independent qualified arboriculturist if the objection to the nomination is on the grounds of the tree being unsafe.

In this case, a minimum of 28 days will be provided to the landowner to produce the report. The report will be considered in the determination of the proposed registration;

- If Council determines there is no significance or that the tree/s is a risk that cannot be adequately managed, the nomination will be rejected and all interested parties notified;

- If Council determines there is significance, the tree will be formally included on the 'Significant Tree Register' and all interested parties will be notified.

Note: a tree is protected under the provision of Town Planning Scheme No 3 from when a nomination is received by Council. Removing or damaging a tree ***"The ring-barking, cutting down, topping, lopping, removing, pruning, transplanting, filling or excavating around, injuring. (whether by injecting anything or otherwise) or wilful destruction of any bushland or tree(s) which is of a height greater than 3 metres and has a branch spread greater than 3 metres in diameter is prohibited in any of the following circumstances, unless the Planning Approval of Council has first been obtained"*** is a breach of the Scheme. Council will act on breaches of the Scheme and court action is likely to occur.

Note: Significant Tree Working Group is made up of the:

- Co-ordinator EcoServices
- Environmental Planner
- Co-ordinator Landscape Services
- Museum Development Officer.



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6. Responsibilities after Registration

After a tree/s has/have been registered on the Significant Tree Register, there are a number of responsibilities both for Council and the landowner regarding the maintenance and preservation of the listed tree.

Owners' Responsibilities

- Maintain and preserve the listed tree/s;
- Submit a Planning Application for any routine maintenance works, such as trimming, however the application fee will be waived in this instance;
- Any pruning/maintenance to be undertaken in accordance with the Planning Approval, including ensuring that all pruning is in accordance with Australian Standard (AS 4373:2007); Pruning of Amenity Trees;
- In situations where the landowner wishes to remove a registered tree, the removal will be considered as part of a Planning Application. Such applications will be referred to the 'Significant Tree Working Group' and highlighted as an impact of the proposed development in the Council Report; and
- In situations where the landowner wishes to retain a tree but undertake works on the site, a 'Tree Management Plan' will be required to be prepared and implemented by an independent qualified arboriculturist, to the satisfaction of the City of Mandurah, as a condition of approval, prior to any works commencing. The approval of the 'Tree Management Plan' to be determined by the 'Co-ordinator, Landscape Services'.



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Council's Responsibilities

- Maintain the Significant Tree Register, including the associated Geographic Information System [GIS], database and website information;
- Protect Registered Tree/s;
- Advise landowners of their rights and responsibilities;
- Refer all Planning Applications on land with a Registered Tree/s to the 'Significant Tree Working Group' (STWG) for recommendation (EcoServices Section);
- STWG recommendations and conditions to be reflected in the Development approval/refusal, including the requirement for 'Tree Management Plans' to be prepared and implemented by an independent qualified arboriculturist, to the satisfaction of the City of Mandurah prior to any works commencing. The approval of the 'Tree Management Plan' to be determined by the 'Co-ordinator Landscape Services';
- Waive Planning Application fees for routine maintenance works, such as trimming in accordance with Australian Standard (AS 4373:2007); Pruning of Amenity Trees;
- Council reserves the right to review the Register as council determines appropriate. This assessment will take into consideration the condition of the tree/s and continued appropriateness of a tree's listing. Any adjustment to the Register may require Council approval (delegated authority lies with Manager Natural and Built Environment);
- Should it be noted that works are required on a tree, the owner of the tree will be notified of this, and the appropriate approval automatically processed; and
- Council and Government Authorities are exempt from requiring planning approval under the Town Planning Scheme. However any works that will impact on any nominated or registered trees require referral to the 'Significant Tree Working Group'.

Significant Tree Register Proposed Process Flow Chart - Appendix 1

1. Nomination
 (a) Owner
 (b) Council Officer
 (c) Third Party

2. Notification
 (a) Owner
 (b) Immediate adjoining owner/s
 (c) Nominator

2a.
 28 Day Objection / Submission
 Period

3. Assessment
 Significant Tree Working Group
 (landowner invited to comment)

3a.
No Significance Determined
 Listing Rejected

3b.
Significance Determined
 Report presented to Council

4. Council Determination
 Owners and interested parties
 notified & may address meeting

4a.
 Listing Rejected

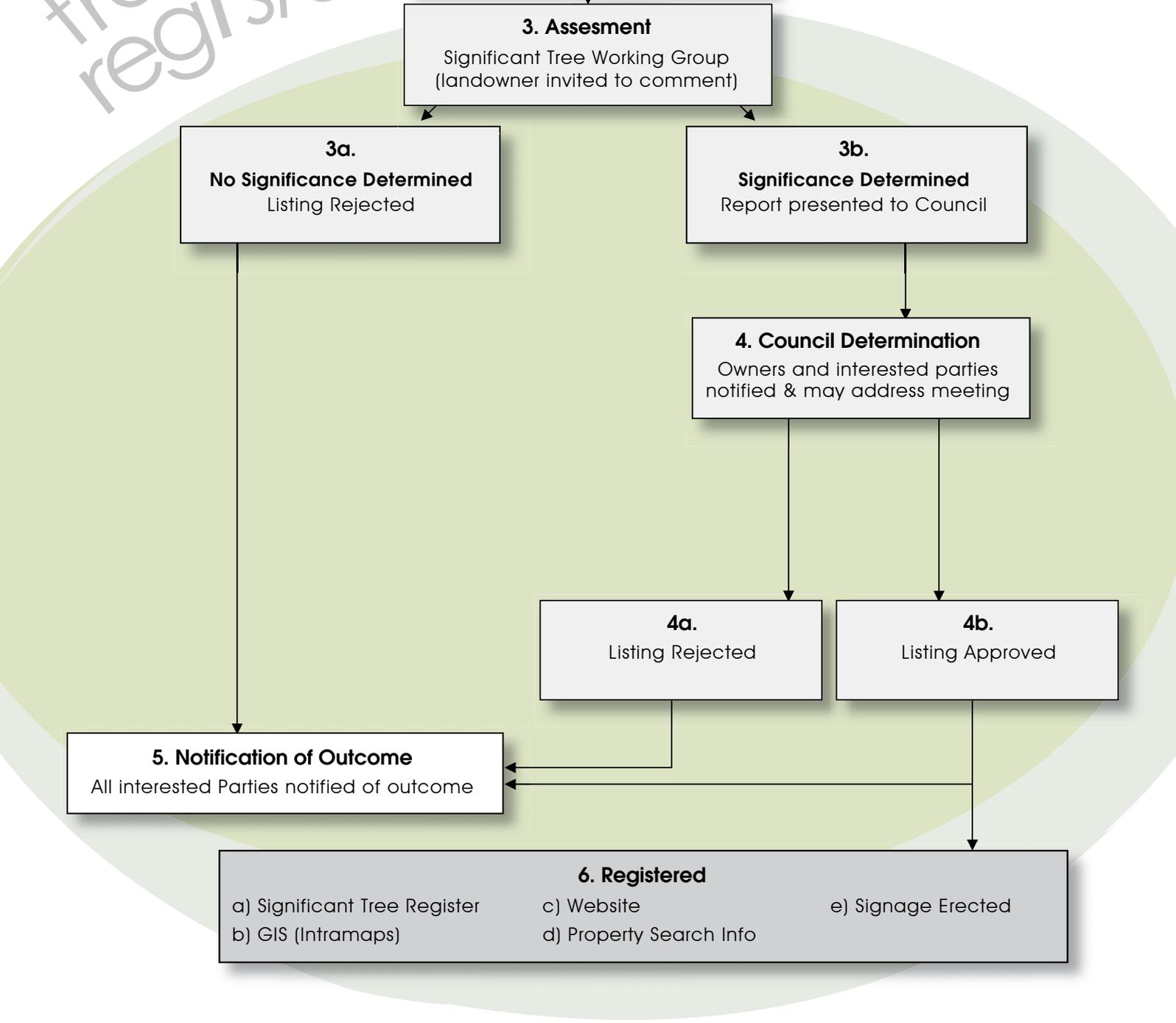
4b.
 Listing Approved

5. Notification of Outcome
 All interested Parties notified of outcome

6. Registered

a) Significant Tree Register	c) Website	e) Signage Erected
b) GIS (Intramaps)	d) Property Search Info	

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NOMINATION FORM

Person nominating tree/s (this information will be kept confidential)

Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Residential Address: _____

Telephone (work): _____ (home): _____

(mobile): _____ Email: _____

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Information about the Tree/s

Address of Property Containing Tree/s: _____

Location Description / Recognisable Location: _____

Lot No: _____ House No: _____

Street: _____ Suburb: _____

PIN No (internal use): _____

Please Tick

Single Tree Group of Trees Number of Trees in group: _____

Common Name/s _____

Latin (Botanical) Name _____

Height: _____ m Trunk Diameter: _____ m Estimated Age: _____

Planted by (if known) & date of planting _____

Note: Council has the absolute and unfettered discretion to accept or reject any nomination made and will be under no obligation to provide any reasons for its determination.



Category under which you are nominating the trees – please select one or more of the categories and sub-categories that **best** describes why you think the tree/s is/are significant.

1. Outstanding Visual/Aesthetic Significance

- a. Tree/s - outstanding for its/their height, trunk circumference or canopy spread;
- b. Tree/s - occurring in a prominent location or context;
- c. Tree/s - contributing significantly to the landscape in which it/they grow [including streetscapes, parks, gardens or natural landscapes];
- d. Tree/s - exhibiting an unusual growth form or physical feature, including unusually pruned forms; and
- e. Tree/s that are particularly old or vulnerable.

2. Botanic/Scientific Significance

- a. Tree/s - of an important genetic value that could provide important and valuable propagating stock. This could include specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or climatic extremes or have a particular growth form; and
- b. Tree/s - demonstrating a likelihood of producing information that will help the wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

3. Significant Ecological Value

- a. Priority, rare, threatened or locally uncommon species or ecological community;
- b. Indigenous remnant tree/s - predating the urban development in its/their immediate proximity;
- c. Tree/s - making a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community, including its role as a seed source or specialised habitat;
- d. A remnant specimen now reduced in range or abundance, which indicates the former extent of the species, particularly range limits;
- e. Tree/s which is/are a significant habitat element for rare, threatened, priority or locally uncommon or common native species;

4. Historical, Commemorative, Cultural or Social Significance

- a. Tree/s associated with public significance or important historical event
- b. Tree/s highly valued by the community or cultural group for reasons of strong religious, spiritual, cultural or other social associations, including trees associated with aboriginal heritage and culture;
- c. Tree/s associated with a heritage listed place and representative of that same historic era; and
- d. Tree/s with local significance are important to the local community and are recognised features of the immediate landscape.

Please describe why you think the tree is significant: _____

Additional Information. To assist the process of your nomination please provide the following additional information as an attachment to this form:

- 1. Any additional information to support your nomination (e.g. media articles, historical information etc.);
- 2. Photos of the tree/s;
- 3. Map indicating location of the tree/s.

If you have any queries please contact: EcoServices on (08) 9550 3812 or email EcoServices@mandurah.wa.gov.au

**Nominations should be submitted to the Environmental Planner
City of Mandurah PO Box 210 Mandurah WA 6210**