



# Council Policy

Trees on City Owned or  
Managed Land



# Trees on City Owned or Managed Land Policy

## Policy scope

This Policy outlines how the City of Fremantle will responsibly manage trees on City owned or managed land.

Trees provide a range of social, economic and ecological services to the community including:

- reduction in air pollution
- control of storm water
- mitigation of wind and noise
- improved biodiversity
- shade and reduced UV exposure
- reduced heat island effect and energy demand
- enhanced sense of place and wellbeing
- increased property values
- carbon dioxide reduction
- visual screening and
- encouragement of outdoor activity.

## Policy statement

### Tree Planting

The City is responsible for planting street and reserve trees. This includes identifying and assessing potential planting sites, selecting tree species and establishment watering.

Street trees will be planted on all available verge spaces, with at least one tree planted per property, or more if space permits, to provide environmental services for the broader community. Tree planting takes precedence over individual preferences of the nearest property owner/s.

Residents can request for the verge bordering their property to be assessed for tree planting.



## **Tree Pruning and Maintenance**

The City is solely responsible for pruning and maintaining City trees. Pruning is undertaken in accordance with *Australian Standards AS4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees* and *Guidelines for the Management of Vegetation near Power Lines (Government of Western Australia)*.

Trees will be pruned as part of the City's program to:

- clear the crown from interfering with overhead powerlines, electrical feeder lines to individual properties and other utilities.
- remove branches that present an unacceptable risk to road or pedestrian traffic, buildings or structures.
- improve aesthetic form and structural architecture.
- remove dead, dying, damaged or pest/diseased impacted branches or abnormal growth.

## **Tree Removal**

The City is responsible for the removal of City trees. They may be removed if the tree:

- is dead.
- is diseased or in decline.
- is damaged or structurally unsound.
- has been identified for removal due to poor performance in the landscape.
- is planted without the City's approval and is deemed not suitable for retention.
- other reasons as determined by the City.

Any trees removed by the City, or removed by another party without authorisation, will be replaced by the City on the same verge or reserve in the next available planting season.

## **Tree assessment requests**

Residents can request for City trees to be assessed for service. An officer will assess the tree and determine whether any works are required and their priority. If appropriate, works will be incorporated into the next round of scheduled maintenance for the area.

The following are not sufficient or justifiable reasons for the pruning or removal of City trees:

- height reduction.
- to reduce natural debris such as leaves, flowers, fruit and bark.
- to reduce presence of birds or other fauna.
- medical concerns.
- blocked views or the potential to block views.
- shading of a residence, garden or solar panels.
- general property clearance.
- species, form, size, shape or location are disliked by the resident.



- to enable vehicles to park on the verge.

### **Tree Protection Adjacent to Development Sites**

City trees adjacent to development sites are to be protected for the duration of the works, including during demolition and construction, at the developer's cost.

For this reason, it is a requirement that:

- A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) shall be identified using temporary construction fencing around the tree trunk for the duration of construction in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.
- At a minimum, temporary fencing must cover two metres by two metres around the trunk. Any lesser sizes will need to be approved in writing by the City.
- The temporary fencing must not obstruct roads or footpaths.

Should a City tree be damaged, decline or die because of the demolition works or development, it will be addressed as per section "Damage to Trees".

### **Bonds**

A bond will be charged by the City prior to the commencement of development or other activities that have the potential to cause damage to City trees. Bond amounts will be determined by the City.

### **Street Trees and Crossovers/Driveways**

A minimum setback is required between any crossovers/ driveways to any street tree based on the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of the street tree:

- DBH of up to 200mm requires a minimum setback of one metre.
- DBH of 201mm to 400mm requires a minimum setback of two metres.
- DBH of 401mm or more requires a minimum setback of three metres.

Should a setback of less than those specified above be required, a site inspection will need to be conducted to determine whether the distance can be reduced. Council inspection fees will apply.

Setbacks of less than 1 metre will not be considered to ensure reduced impacts on the trees' root systems.

Should pruning of street trees' crown or roots be required to accommodate a crossover, the works shall be completed by the City and the cost covered by the applicant/developer.

### **Street Tree Removal and Replacement at Development Sites**

Street tree removal to enable subdivision and/or development will only be considered if no other reasonable design option exists as part of the Development Application or Subdivision process. Where a Development Application or Subdivision approval is not required, tree removal will be considered as part of the Crossover Permit process.



If tree removal is approved, the applicant will be required to compensate the City for the costs associated with the removal, replacement and valuation of the tree.

Replacement street trees will be planted in line with the following conditions:

- At least one replacement street tree will be planted on the verge adjacent to the development.
- If multiple frontages are created, then at least one street tree will be planted in each frontage, space permitting.
- Any replacement street trees that cannot be planted on the verge adjacent to the development due to insufficient space, will be planted elsewhere in the City at the City's discretion

### **Street Tree Attachments**

Residents may install street tree attachments on a street tree directly bordering their property as specified in the Verge Garden Guidelines, taking care to not impact the health of the tree or present a hazard to the community. If in the opinion of the City, a street tree attachment does not meet the requirements outlined in the Verge Garden Guidelines, then the resident will be required to remove and/or modify it to become compliant.

### **Damage to Trees**

City trees provide both ecological and amenity services to the community. As such, damage to street and reserve trees affects everyone. Members of the community who witness vandalism to trees are encouraged to report this information. All reported incidents of damage to City trees will be investigated and responded to.

Resolution of vandalism to trees may involve:

- Issuing of infringements under the City's Local Government Property Local Law 2002.
- Reclaiming the costs associated to any works needed to rectify the damage.
- Recouping costs for the full tree valuation, removal and replacement cost including tree purchase and watering over its establishment period.
- Further legal action.

## **Definitions and abbreviations**

**Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)** – The diameter of the trunk/stem of a tree as measured at 1.4m above the ground. If a tree is has multiple trunks, DBH is calculated as the square root of the sum of the diameters of each stem.



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