

Street and Reserve Tree Policy

Policy statement

This Policy outlines how the City will plant, prune, maintain and remove trees under the management and care of the City of Fremantle.

Legislative requirements

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2005*.

Policy

Trees provide a range of social, economic and environmental values 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
- provide habitat
- increased property values
- carbon dioxide reduction
- visual screening
- encouragement of outdoor activity.

Responsible tree management will help the City achieve the objectives identified in the Greening Fremantle: Strategy 2020 and the Urban Forest Plan.

Tree Planting

The City is responsible for planting street and reserve trees under its annual tree planting program which includes requests from residents. The City will determine the species and select the location of the tree within the verge. Generally, one tree will be planted per property, while larger or corner properties may be subject to more.

Street Tree Requests

Residents can request for a tree to be planted on the verge abutting their property through the City's tree request program. The City will assess the suitability of the verge, determine

the tree species and the location to align with services and infrastructure. The City is responsible for planting, staking, mulching, watering and pruning the tree.

Street Tree Planting by Residents

Residents can only plant street trees on the verge which abuts their property if they obtain written approval from the City. The City will determine the species and suitability of the location of the tree to ensure it aligns with services and infrastructure. Trees are to be planted to the City's specifications to ensure the long term health and vitality of the tree. Trees planted without the City's approval may be removed.

Tree Pruning and Maintenance

The City is responsible for pruning and maintaining street and reserve trees. Trees will be pruned as part of the annual program to:

- remove hazardous branches
- improve form
- remove dead / dying wood
- uplift low hanging branches
- clear trees from overhanging a property boundary
- clear trees from powerlines and utilities.

Residents can request street tree pruning by contacting the City. An officer will inspect the tree to assess if the tree requires pruning. 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)*.

Where a fruit or nut tree is approved for installation under the City's Verge Garden Policy, the City will give tree maintenance requirements, specific to the species and location, at the time of the approval.

Tree Removal

The City is responsible for removal of street and reserve trees. Trees will only be removed if the tree:

- is dead
- is diseased
- is dangerous, damaged or structurally unsound
- is planted without the City's approval and is deemed not suitable for retention.

Tree removal to enable subdivision and/or development will only be considered if no other

reasonable design option exists. The assessment for tree removal will be considered as part of the Development Application process. Where a Development Application 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 and replacement of the tree.

The City will investigate tree removal requests by residents. Trees will not be removed if the tree:

- species, form, size, shape or location is not the personal preference of the resident
- is an inconvenience for construction works
- blocks views
- shades a residence
- drops natural debris such as leaves, flowers, fruit and bark.

Tree Protection at Development Sites

Street trees are to be protected on certain development sites for the duration of construction by a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ). The City will administratively determine those development sites at higher risk of tree damage, and an appropriate condition will be placed on these Planning Approvals. The TPZ is to be constructed of a square of fencing around the tree trunk to help protect the tree and root zone in accordance with AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites. The size and location of the TPZ will be determined by the City. The condition will also require that the tree be replaced at the developers cost in the event that the tree is significantly damaged or dies due to development works.

Reviewing officer:	Manager Parks and Landscape
Policy adopted:	27 September 2017 – OCM FPOL 1709-9
Policy amended:	NA
Legislation:	<i>Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2005.</i>
Related documents:	Relevant City Procedures
Next review date:	27 September 2019