

## Tree Management

### 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the manner in which Council will manage the large stock of trees situated on Council land, road reservations, parks and all other Council managed areas.

It is recognised that trees and associated vegetation form an integral component of the natural environment.

Native tree and vegetation stands exist in bushland reserves, vacant land, sections of Council's parks, along stream corridors and the like. Appropriate management of these areas:

- Maintains and protects the existing ecological values;
- Provides a habitat for fauna;
- Maintains or improves air quality, and
- Provides opportunities for the community to experience natural habitats in close proximity to the City.

Trees in managed parks, reserves and public places may have elements of native/remnant vegetation and the values above apply to such locations, in addition ornamental/planned plantings on managed lands can:

- Provide a pleasing vista in our streets;
- Give 'local character' to certain streets;
- Make parks and reserves a pleasant place to visit;
- Have heritage/cultural values, and
- Blend new developments with the established environment.

There is a need to ensure the impact of trees on the built environment and human activity is managed so as to minimise the possibility of damage and injury occurring.

The task of maintaining balance between the needs of the natural environment and that of the built environment is a difficult one for the Council and the establishment of policies for the care and management of its tree stock will provide a consistent approach from Council.

### 2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this policy is to provide direction and guidance to Council staff in relation to the management of trees under Council control.

## Tree Management

### 3 SCOPE

This policy applies to the entire stock of trees situated on land owned or controlled by Council, including all Council reserves, road reservations and Crown Leases and Licenses.

### 4 POLICY

#### 4.1 Strategic Direction

Council's Corporate Plan 2012-2017 guides the future direction of Council and this policy is consistent with the Corporate Plan.

Objectives of particular relevance to this policy are:

- 1.1 A range of vibrant, safe and attractive community spaces.
- 5.1 Our natural resources are protected and enhanced.
- 5.5 A built environment that is valued reflects our past and embraces our future.
- 7.5 A sustainable long term future is planned through the management of Council's infrastructure and assets.

#### 4.2 Register of Tree Information

Council has a large stock of trees of varying species, significance and are located in:

- Parks;
- Sports Grounds;
- Street Reserves;
- Natural/bushland reserves;
- Creek Reserves, and
- Council controlled/managed vacant land.

In total, Council manages 211 hectares of Open Space Reserves, as well as road reserves and does not have the resources to develop a Tree Register for the individual management of trees.

## Tree Management

However, from time to time, specialist reports or assessment of tree stands may be required for a range of reasons. Factors to consider in commissioning reports or assessment are:

- Historical/cultural significance;
- Natural/conservation significance (e.g. type of tree, specimen quality);
- Level of human interaction/use of areas near trees, and
- Adjacent infrastructure and possible impacts due to tree.

Reports and assessments are centrally stored and support the ongoing management of the tree stock managed by Council.

### 4.3 Inspection and Management Regimes

4.3.1 The operational management of Council's tree stock is guided by the relevant Service Level Documents, the Parks and Reserves Operational Manual and relevant work practices.

4.3.2 These documents detail:

- Customer request management;
- Inspection regimes;
- Tree assessment processes;
- Tree management activities, and
- Recording and implementation of tree assessments.

A risk based approach is taken in respect to tree management considering a range of factors in determining an appropriate course of action.

As part of the assessment processes consultation with relevant stakeholders occurs.

4.3.3 Issues not related to Council infrastructure will be referred to the relevant authority or agency.

### 4.4 Tree Issues Not Under Council Jurisdiction

Council will not take action in relation to tree management issues associated with private lands in relation to any of the following issues:

- Tree disputes between neighbours occupying private land.
- Issues relating to amenity, views, shading and the like by sound trees.
- Tree roots associated trees on private lands blocking internal drainage systems.

## Tree Management

Approved By: **Council**  
Doc Controller: **General Manager**  
File: 4/14/2

Document Code: **CP-CBS-SG-033**  
Version: **3.0**  
Approved Date: **21 Nov 2017**  
Next Review Date: **21 Nov 2021**

Excepting where Council infrastructure may be impacted or where the tree/s may be subject to the provisions of the *Burnie Planning Scheme* or other legislation under which Council has a role.

### 4.5 Infrastructure Works Adjacent to Trees

Infrastructure construction and maintenance works can occur in the vicinity of trees for various reasons and a balance between maintaining trees health and ensuring Infrastructure works are carried out to appropriate standards must be met.

Where significant works are proposed and may impact on adjacent trees, Council will engage an Arborist to undertake an assessment of tree health, identify the potential impacts of the infrastructure works on the tree/s, consider mitigation measures and incorporate actions in project control documentation.

Removal of tree/s may be an option considered to enable necessary works to be undertaken and ensure infrastructure can be used in a safe manner.

In all other instances, due care and attention will be taken to ensure that trees adjacent to Council works are protected so far as practical.

### 4.6 Plantings

The selection of trees for planting on land controlled by Council will consider the following:

- Nature of land – park, bushland reserve, street reservation etc;
- Nature and type of surrounding plantings;
- Infrastructure constraints – underground assets, powers lines, buildings etc;
- Fruit and foliage, and
- Purpose of the planting (e.g. ornamental, habitat, shade, etc).

Given the range of factors to consider a generic list of suitable tree has not been developed. Specialist advice will be sought where necessary in the selection of trees to be planted.

### 4.7 Planting Guidelines

4.7.1 Council will provide general information on its website as a guide to the planting and management of trees on Council controlled land. Issues applicable to private lands may also be addressed on the website.

Website information will include:

- Constraints on planting in easements;
- Areas of Council responsibility for tree maintenance;
- Areas of non-Council responsibility, including boundary trees and power line clearances;
- The process for lodging a request for works;
- Frequently Asked Questions, and
- Other tree-related issues upon which Council will not usually act such as blocked views and blossom nuisance.

### 4.8 Noxious Plants

Council will not plant any tree species listed as either Weeds of National Significance under the National Weed Strategy or Declared Weeds under the *Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999* and *Burnie Weed Management Plan 2005*.

## 5 LEGISLATION

*Local Government (Highways) Act 1982.*

*Public Reserves and Public Buildings By-Law No. 1 of 2011.*

*Highways By-Law No. 3 of 2013.*

*Tasmanian Weed Management Act 1999.*

## 6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

Burnie City Council: Risk Management Framework.

Checklist: Assessment of Trees for Removal FO-WS-P-008.



## Tree Management

Approved By: **Council**  
 Doc Controller: **General Manager**  
 File: 4/14/2

Document Code: **CP-CBS-SG-033**  
 Version: **3.0**  
 Approved Date: **21 Nov 2017**  
 Next Review Date: **21 Nov 2021**

### Policy Endorsement

Responsibility:	The Director Works and Services is responsible for the overall management of this policy. The Governance Unit is responsible for maintaining this policy in the Policy Register.
Minute Reference:	Item AO274-17
Council Meeting Date:	21 November 2017
Strategic Plan Reference:	Strategy 7.1.1 Formulate policy that is equitable, inclusive and responsive to current needs, and ensure decision-making is informed and accountable.
Previous Policies Replaced:	This policy replaces the previous policy Tree Management CP-DBS-SG-033, version 2.0, dated 17 June 2014 (Item AO139-14, 17 June 2014).
Date of Commencement:	22 November 2017
Publication of policy:	Members of the public may inspect this policy at the City Offices or access it on Council's website ( <a href="http://www.burnie.net">www.burnie.net</a> )