



CP 3.3 | Tree Protection

Objective

The Tree Protection Policy aims to preserve and enhance the Urban Forest character of the city, assist in achieving the City's strategic greening objectives, and to ensure the City is not exposed to an increase in legal risk by virtue of diminished standards.

Scope

This policy applies to all trees in the public realm that are owned or managed by the City. It will be referred to:

- in the maintenance and management of the City's Urban Forest, and
- in the decision-making process for development where planning, construction and/or maintenance may impact a tree owned or managed by the City.

Trees growing on private property are excluded from this policy.

Policy statement

1. The City recognises public trees as important community assets therefore tree management will be undertaken in the long-term interest of the community as a whole.
2. Trees provide a range of benefits in an urban environment. They improve the liveability, landscape character, biodiversity, and climate resilience of the city. The presence of a healthy urban forest improves health outcomes in increasingly urbanised environments, mitigates the effects of climate change, and provides enjoyable and engaging public spaces.
3. It is recognised that the value of a tree to the community is defined by many factors including age, size, amenity, and potential longevity, therefore all public trees, unless hazardous, will be protected from any activity that threatens their health and/or longevity.
4. The retention and preservation of trees will be a priority consideration in the assessment and determination of development applications by the City. Where possible the City will prioritise the relocation of infrastructure away from existing trees to reduce the potential for conflict.
5. The City will apply a monetary value to each tree derived from a combination of the amenity and ecological benefits it provides. Where a live tree is damaged and/or removed without authorisation the City will recoup the full tree value to compensate the community for the loss in accordance with the Tree Protection Policy Management Guidelines.
6. The City recognises that its management of trees in an urban environment is at times contrary to some views within the community and therefore provides a mechanism for tree management decisions to be reviewed in accordance with the Tree Protection Policy Management Guidelines.



7. Pruning or removal of the City's trees other than by authorised personnel is not permitted and may incur a fine under the City's Local Law and/or the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Document control

Policy context

Legislation, standards & external guidelines	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>City of Perth Local Government Property Local Law 2005</i> <i>City of Perth Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2017</i>
Policies and procedures	Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032 Local Planning Strategy 2023 Urban Greening Strategy 2023-2036 Urban Forest Plan 2016-2036, and Addendum Report 2017 Sustainability Strategy 2022-2032
Strategies, plans and frameworks	Tree Protection Policy Management Guidelines Street Tree Guide PR0630 Street Tree Enquiry PR0548 Tree Planting Requests

Document custodian

Alliance	Infrastructure and Operations	Service unit	Operations
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Review management

Next review due	November 2026	Document management ref.	EDRMS-1336483316-950
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Document management

Version	Adopted by	Adoption date	Synopsis of changes
1.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	30 March 2021	<i>Council Policy 3.3 adopted - supersedes revoked Council Policy 20.8 Street Trees – Planting, Pruning and removal</i>
2.0	Ordinary Council Meeting	21 November 2023	Council Policy 3.3 amended: Policy Objective - wording updated, Policy Statement: paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 - wording updated; paragraphs 6 and 7 added.