



COUNCIL POLICY

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| TITLE: | Urban Tree Policy |
| DOCUMENT NUMBER: | CPO-ASSETS-WRKS-002 (DocSetID: 2575569) |
| DEPARTMENT: | Assets |
| UNIT: | Works |
| RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: | Director Assets <i>Checked</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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| APPROVED BY: | Council |
| APPROVAL DATE: | 23 July 2019 |
| EXPIRY DATE: | Not Applicable |
| REVIEW DATE: | July 2023 <i>This policy will be reviewed every four years or as required by any legislative or council changes.</i> |

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| AVAILABILITY: | Organisation wide | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Public | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Internet | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ADVISE AVAILABILITY: | Media Release | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Sou Wester (Author to prepare article) | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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| REFERENCES: (If applicable) | <p>Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (DocSetID: 2074689)</p> <p>Botanic Gardens Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Masterplan (DocSetID: 300402)</p> <p>Significant Tree Register (DocSetID: 1330489)</p> <p>Vegetation Management Guideline (DocSetID: TBA)</p> <p>Glenelg Shire Open Space Strategy (DocSetID 2557377)</p> <p>Road Management Plan (DocSetID: 2334848)</p> <p>Glenelg Shire Council, Records Management Policy OPO-CORPS-RECM-001 (DocSetID: 1933907)</p> |
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1. Purpose

Glenelg Shire Council recognises that street and reserve trees are valuable Shire assets that provide social, environmental and economic benefits. Healthy well managed street and reserve trees play a critical role in place making, create attractive streetscapes and liveable neighbourhoods. They provide a vast wealth of benefits to the community including shade in urban areas and habitat for native wildlife. They contribute significantly to neighbourhood character and positively impact streetscape amenity. They contribute to reducing air pollution, stormwater flows, mitigating the urban heat island effect and adapting our towns to climate change.

The aim of this policy is to demonstrate Council's commitment to improving the appearance of its townships and to provide a clear and consistent approach to the way Council manages its tree population, whilst recognising the importance of trees in providing a quality urban environment.

2. Scope

This policy applies to trees along streets and reserves within township boundaries including recreation reserves, playgrounds and public open spaces.

Trees not encompassed by this policy are any trees outside township boundaries including trees under the control of other road authorities (Regional Roads Victoria) and trees on land under the control of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning.

Trees in the Portland Botanic Gardens are excluded by this policy but are subject to the Botanic Gardens Conservation Management Plan and Landscape Masterplan.

This policy is linked to the Council Plan, and will guide the rejuvenation of streetscapes and townships and contribute to maintaining customer satisfaction with the quality of parks and open spaces within the Shire.

3. Policy

To address tree management issues in our Shire, Council will:

- Maintain and enhance the existing tree populations in the Shire by preserving tree health, encouraging biological diversity and managing aesthetic appearance.
- Maintain a high standard of tree management to current best practice.
- Program tree assessment and management to mitigate tree risk to the public.

- Remove hazardous trees and inappropriate species where necessary and plant replacement trees so that the urban landscapes are maintained and safety risks are reduced.
- Select tree species for planting based on their suitability to the site, climatic conditions biological diversity, performance, and potential to contribute to the landscape. Tree selection, placement and planting of trees will be undertaken to mitigate potential conflicts with infrastructure and to reduce long term risk.
- Undertake planting programs to achieve a net increase of trees across the townships.
- Protect Council trees from development and other activities that threaten their health and viability.
- Communicate with the residents and businesses with regard to any major tree removal and tree planting activities taking place.
- Maintain accurate and current documentation on the management of Council's tree assets.

Policy Implementation

This policy will be implemented through of the introduction of a Vegetation Management Guideline (VMG) which will minimise Council's exposure to risk associated with the management of street and reserve trees.

The VMG provides guidance on prioritising works from planting, tree maintenance and service levels through to removal and replacement programs. It is anticipated that the VMG will see a reduction in reactive maintenance requests due to the development of these programs. The VMG will also create opportunity for internal and external stakeholder involvement to consider species selection options, planting locations and have input into determining priorities for tree removal and replanting programs. The key areas covered within the VMG are as follows:

- The VMG will set out how Council will undertake tree inspections and maintenance using electronic data collection.
- The VMG will establish tree maintenance service levels for street and reserve trees.
- The VMG will determine the management and protection of significant trees and avenues of honour.

- The VMG will have an emphasis on informing and consulting with the community.
- The VMG will consider available resources as well as the continued development of systems and processes to enable the effective management of trees, e.g. electronic systems that can easily identify exact tree location and maintenance history.

This policy meets legislative requirements under the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015* in regard to the trimming of trees under powerlines. Vegetation clearances over footpaths, roadways and intersections are covered under the *Road Management Act 2004*. It also recognises controls applicable to trees under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and *Victorian Heritage Act 1987* for trees of significance and Avenues of Honour within the Shire.

4. Records Management

All Council records created and managed as a result of implementing this policy will be managed in accordance with the Council's Records Management Policy.

The Records Management Policy assigns responsibilities for records management to employees, supervisors, volunteers and other specific positions.

No Council records are to be destroyed without consideration of the requirements of the Act(s) that govern the functions relevant to this policy. Prior to destruction, advice must be sought from the Records Management Unit, with consideration to the requirements of the appropriate Retention and Disposal Authority (RDA).

5. Victorian State Legislation Copyright Acknowledgement

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6. Approval and Amendment History

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| Original Approval Date | 26 September 2006 |
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| Approval and Amendment History | Details |
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| Amendment Date | June 2019 |
| Notes | Complete review |
| Amendment Date | <dd/month/yyyy> |
| Notes | <if relevant – administration updates only> <if relevant – complete review> |