



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Public Tree Planting and Management Policy



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Title:	<i>Public Tree Planting and Management Policy</i>
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1. INTRODUCTION

- **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a consistent approach is applied to the planting and ongoing management of street trees within Municipal streetscapes and the urban environment.

- **Scope**

This policy is applicable to Council Officers and Managers of Warrnambool City Council, as well as the wider community. It covers the whole lifecycle of trees, from planning and species selection, maintenance activities to removals, it also covers tree protections and unauthorised activities. This applies to all street and reserve trees on Council managed land.

- **Definitions**

Term	Definition
The City	The Municipality of Warrnambool
Council	Warrnambool City Council
Streetscape	The visual elements of a street (e.g., streets, buildings, vegetation, medians and nature strips), that combine to form the street's character.
Urban Environment	The human made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, including, commercial and residential areas, buildings, parks and open spaces and their supporting infrastructure.
Street tree	A tree or shrub growing within the road reserve, including nature strips, separators and medians.

- **References**

- Warrnambool Planning Scheme
- Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
- Councils Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Warrnambool City Council Community Engagement Policy.
- Municipal Road Management Plan
- Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Green Warrnambool 2018
- Naturestrip Landscaping Policy & Guidelines
- W2040 (Goal 13)
- Street Tree Planting and Management Guidelines

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- To ensure consistency in the approach to street tree planting and management.
- To define Council's responsibilities in street tree planting and management.
- To ensure that proper consideration is given to trees in the planning and design of the built environment.
- To ensure trees contribute to the values of the urban landscape, including greening for biodiversity and climate adaptation.
- To ensure that the amenity value of street trees is retained and enhanced.
- To implement the 2040 Goal of Green Warrnambool for urban areas to have 30% vegetation canopy cover.
- To implement the 2040 Goal of Adaptable Warrnambool for Environmental Sustainable Development principles to be used for all new developments and upgrades.
- To implement the 2040 Goal of Adaptable Warrnambool for all new infrastructure (including street trees) is designed for the changed and changing climate.
- To provide informed and consistent decision making in street tree matters for Council, Council staff, developers and the community.
- To select species that are appropriate for the desired location, particularly street trees. Consideration will be given to potential infrastructure damage (public & private), impact on utilities through root intrusion or canopy growth, impact on road users through site lines and canopy encroachment into traffic lanes and potential issues with allergies to adjacent residents. Refer to 2.17 of the Street Tree Planting and Management Guidelines.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Council has responsibility for the planning, establishment, maintenance and removal of all street trees located within the City's streetscapes.

All decisions related to street trees will be based on the following principles:

- Street trees are valuable community assets that positively contribute to the well-being of the community, and to the built and natural environment.
- Council is committed to planting and maintaining street trees which are visually, historically, or environmentally valuable to the community.
- Council recognises that the historic Norfolk Island Pines are an iconic feature within our City and is committed to their protection.
- Council acknowledges that management and preservation of street trees will be sufficiently accounted for in the annual budget.
- Council will consult and engage the community and affected landowners where large scale plantings, significant streetscape works or tree removal works are to take place.

- Street tree planting programs will prioritise areas of high vacancy rates and where walkability is deemed lower than average for Warrnambool.
- Where urgent tree removal works are required, Council will endeavor to notify property owners prior to removal works. If landowners cannot be contacted, public safety needs to precede consultation.
- Council will encourage the development of staff skills in arboriculture and consider recruitment of suitably qualified staff.
- Council will encourage community participation in public tree planting and ongoing maintenance where appropriate.
- Council will refer to the preferred tree species list published on Councils website to determine species selection. A mix of Indigenous and exotic species will be selected appropriate to the area and conditions.
- Street trees that provide habitat and environmental benefits will be encouraged.
- Council will undertake proper species selection, placement and planting of trees to reduce long term risks.
- Council will consider the potential damage to infrastructure, maintenance requirements, and legislation in species selection.
- Council will only remove street and public open space trees that are in poor health, or which Council believes pose an unacceptable risk to the community, or as part of a broader streetscape renewal. Street trees are not removed or trimmed to facilitate development or to enhance vistas for property owners.
- Council will prosecute persons who prune, damage, kill or remove street trees without approval.
- Urban design treatments and streetscape renewal will incorporate measures to protect the health of proposed and existing trees.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1. Owner

Director City Infrastructure.

4.2. Review

The Manager Infrastructure Services will review the policy for any necessary amendments no later than two (2) year after its formulation or the last review.

4.3. Charter of Human Rights Compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act (2006).