

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS

1. What makes a tree significant?

A Significant Tree, is a tree that meets at least one of the criteria in the categories of significance as set out in the table below:

Category	Criteria
1. Scientific Significance	1.1 Particular horticultural or genetic value 1.2 Important source of seed or propagating stock 1.3 Particularly resistant to disease or exposure 1.4 Particularly old or venerable 1.5 Notable remnant indigenous vegetation 1.6 Outstanding for its height, trunk circumference or canopy spread 1.7 An outstanding example of the species 1.8 Species or variety that is rare or of a very localised distribution (refer to the WA Threatened Species List) 1.9 Critical element of a wildlife corridor 1.10 Important habitat for breeding / roosting / foraging particularly for endangered indigenous wildlife
2. Historical Significance	2.1 Forms part of an historic park or garden 2.2 Historic planting style (e.g. Avenue) 2.3 Associated with an important event 2.4 Commemorative plantings, including an Avenue of Honour 2.5 Associated with an important person, group or institution
3. Social Significance	3.1 Unique location or context 3.2 Important landmark 3.3 Commemorates a particular occasion or association 3.4 Contemporary association with the community
4. Aesthetic Significance	4.1 Important contribution to landscape 4.2 Unique location or context 4.3 Is an outstanding visual example of its species, or a tree in its location 4.4 Exhibits curious growth form or unusual physical features whether naturally occurring, resulting from natural events or human intervention
5. Spiritual Significance	5.1 Strong connection to Wadjuk Noongar culture or is valued for recognising and continuing cultural traditions 5.2 Important spiritual and religious association

The categories and criteria above are based on the definition of cultural significance contained in the Burra Charter and used by the National Trust of Australia.

1. What are the benefits to owners?

The Register provides an opportunity to promote, share and protect trees that are believed to be exceptional. Owners of properties where exceptional trees are located play an important role caring for a valuable community asset.

To help with the management and recognition of your exceptional tree, the City may assist by arranging arboricultural advice, plaques and photography.

2. How are nominated significant trees assessed?

- a) A Panel of City Greening, Statutory Planning and Heritage Officers will undertake a preliminary assessment of nominations received.
- b) If, in the preliminary assessment the City considers that the tree has potential significance, the City will, at its cost, engage a suitably accredited Arboriculturalist to prepare an arboricultural Report to determine the tree's health and structure.
- c) If the nominated tree is determined to be structurally sound a report will be prepared for Council to determine whether the tree should be included on the Significant Tree Register.

3. What are the implications and responsibilities if a tree is listed as Significant?

Landowners

Landowners are advised to think carefully before agreeing to the nomination of a tree for inclusion on the Register. If in future the landowner wishes to remove the tree for any reason, they must submit a Development Application, which takes time and has a cost. Landowners are responsible for the ongoing maintenance of a significant tree within their property boundary.

It is recommended that:

- a) Landowners maintain any significant tree within their property boundary in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373 - 2007 - *Pruning of Amenity Trees*.
- b) Owners who have significant trees on their property arrange for a qualified Arboriculturalist to inspect the tree regularly.
- c) All maintenance and other works be undertaken by a qualified Arboriculturalist, in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373 - 2007 - *Pruning of Amenity Trees*.
- d) Any excavation on the property near a significant tree be done in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 - *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*.

In addition, owners need to be aware that:

- e) A significant tree may only be removed from the Significant Tree Register under certain circumstances, as set out in Clause 5 of Policy ET545 – Recognition and Protection of

Significant Trees. The Policy, [Policy ET545 - Recognition and Protection of Significant Trees](#) is available on the City's website.

- f) A significant tree will remain on the Significant Tree Register if/when land ownership changes.
- g) Landowners are advised to check with their insurer for any implications.
- h) If in the future the land owner wishes to remove the tree for any reason, they must submit a development application and pay the associated fee.

4. Who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a Significant Private Tree?

The property owner is responsible for the care and maintenance of any significant tree on their property. It is recommended that advice is sought from an accredited Arboriculturalist in regard to pruning or other maintenance works for a significant tree and that the works are undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced Arboriculturalist, in particular for the following:

- a) The severing of branches, limbs, stems, trunk or roots of a tree that are greater than 50mm in diameter;
- b) Any excavation resulting in removal of roots greater than 50mm in diameter within the trees calculated Tree Protection Zone (TPZ);
- c) Any excavation within the trees Structural Root Zone (SRZ) that requires the removal of any root;
- d) Pruning for aesthetic appearance; and/or
- e) Any other act that has the potential to cause damage to a tree, as determined by the Standards.

5. Can a tree be deleted from the Register and removed?

Subject to obtaining written approval from the City, a tree may be deleted from the Register if:

- a) The tree poses an unacceptable level of risk within its structure and remedial techniques cannot rectify it, if demonstrated in an arboricultural report prepared by a suitably accredited Arboriculturalist;
- b) The tree is suffering from a disease where remedial techniques will not prevent further spread of the disease, and the removal will be of benefit to other trees around it; and/or
- c) The tree is causing significant damage to infrastructure and suitable documented evidence is provided by a qualified Arboriculturalist, at the expense of the applicant. The City may, at its cost, arrange for a second arboricultural Report.

Generally, applications for de-registering a tree will be assessed by the Panel and reported to Council for determination. The exception to this process would be where a tree is reported as being structurally unsound and remedial pruning would not resolve the instability. In such cases, a report from a suitably qualified and accredited Arboriculturalist would be required and the urgent removal of the tree would need the approval of the Chief Executive Officer. Significant trees removed in such

circumstances will be reported to Council for information. Please contact the City of Canning for advice.

6. How are trees deleted from the register?

If a tree is damaged or reaches a state of severe decline it may be considered for deletion from the register. The process involves an application for deletion from the register, a consultant Arboriculturalist assessment, expert panel review and Council approval. From time to time trees may need to be deleted from the Register. The reasons for this may include the approval of a development where no possible modifications can be made to the design in order to protect the tree, a tree becoming structurally unsound or the death of a tree.

It should be noted that in some instances, particularly where trees have hollows which provide habitat for native species or are culturally significant to Wadjuk Noongar people, such as scar trees, the death of a tree would not necessarily diminish its significance. Such trees may remain on the Register, provided they are structurally sound.

A Development Application for the removal of a tree is needs to be submitted if the tree is identified on the Register or is required to be retained as a condition of development approval.

Proposed development, strata titling and/or subdivision of private land should be designed to account for the ongoing protection of registered trees with all works adjacent to significant trees to be undertaken as outlined in the Australian Standard 4970-2009 - Protection of trees on development sites.

Contact

City Greening Technical Officer on 1300 422 660

Email: parks.admin@canning.wa.gov.au.

Address: 1317 Albany Highway, Cannington, Western Australia, 6107

Postal: Locked Bag 80, Welshpool, Western Australia, 6986