



**CITY OF
CANNING**

**SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER
NOMINATIONS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

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1. What is the Significant Tree Register?

A Significant Tree Register (Register) is a document that lists the trees in an area which are considered to be outstanding for one or more reasons and which are therefore particularly worthy of protection.

The Register sets out a description of each significant tree, its location and the reason for its entry in the Register.

The Register is publicly accessible on the City's website and at the City Administration Centre at 1317 Albany Highway, Cannington.

2. What makes a tree significant?

A Significant Tree is a tree that meets at least one of the 25 criteria in the categories of significance 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.

3. Can I nominate trees in streets, parks and on other Government land?

Yes. You will need to provide as much information as possible about the tree, including its location, photos and why you believe it is significant before the City will assess the tree. You do not have to obtain the landowner's consent to submit the nomination if a tree is growing on public land or on Government controlled private land. The City will assess nominated tree and, if it passes assessment, the City will contact the relevant government department regarding the nomination.

4. Can I nominate a tree on my own property?

Yes, please refer to '*Significant Tree Nominations - Important Information for Owners*', however if you are not the sole owner of the property you will have to arrange for all the property owners to sign the nomination form.

5. Can I nominate a tree on somebody else's property?

Yes. You do not have to be the owner of the property to nominate a tree, but if the tree is on private land that is not government controlled, you will need to have provided the owner/s with the information sheet '*Significant Tree Nominations - Important Information for Owners*' and obtained the written consent of all the landowners for your application to be assessed.

6. What if I can't get in touch with the property owner?

If you are unable to contact the landowner(s) of privately owned land, you will need to demonstrate the steps you have taken to attempt to contact the owner(s). If you can demonstrate that you have taken reasonable steps to contact the landowner(s) the City will assess the tree and, if it passes assessment, the City will contact the landowner(s) on your behalf.

7. Can I nominate a tree if I don't live in the City of Canning?

Yes. Nominations are open to everybody, because trees are a community resource and can be important to anyone who visits the City.

8. How are nominated significant trees assessed and registered?

- 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 panel 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 Register.

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

Subject to obtaining written approval from the City, a tree on 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, at the expense of the Applicant;
- 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.

The installation of a crossover is not considered to be a sufficient reason for removal of a significant tree, and 'reasonable design alternatives' must be examined.

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 City may, at its cost, arrange for a second arboricultural Report. 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.

10. 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 Australian Standards AS4373-2007 - *Pruning of Amenity Trees* and AS 4970-2009 - *Protection of trees on development sites*.

11. Who is responsible for the care and maintenance of a Significant Street Tree?

In most cases, the City is responsible for all maintenance and pruning of street trees. Should an adjacent landowner have any concerns regarding a significant street tree they are to contact the City and the tree will be assessed and managed in accordance with the City's [Policy ET525](#) and the relevant Australian Standards.

For trees on freeways and some sections of Leach Highway and Orrong Road, Main Roads WA is responsible for the care and maintenance of the trees.

12. How are trees deleted from the register?

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. 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.

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.

13. Is there any protection for trees that are not included on the Significant Tree Register?

Yes, trees on public land managed by the City fall under Policy ET525 - Streetscape and Park Management - Trees in Streets, Thoroughfares and Parks. The policy sets out conditions that restrict unnecessary pruning or removal of trees in streets and parks.

Trees on private land may be protected when subdivision, development and building permit applications are lodged.

Contact

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