

POLICY			
TITLE:	MANAGEMENT OF TREES IN STREETS, THOROUGHFARES AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	CODE	ET.525
PURPOSE or OBJECTIVE:	The intent of this policy is to focus on the preservation of the City's urban forest and to conserve and protect trees for the ecological benefits and amenity they provide the community.		
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	Urban Forest Strategy (2019) Local Biodiversity Strategy (2018) Street Tree Strategy (2018) Public Open Space Strategy (2015) City of Canning Local Government Property and Public Places Local Law (2021)		

POLICY STATEMENT
<p>Trees are vitally important components of the managed urban environment. They have many benefits including stormwater mitigation, pollution reduction, energy conservation, sequestration of carbon and the provision of habitat, amenity and shade. Trees are essential green infrastructure that provide environmental, social and economic benefits to the community.</p> <p>The City places a high value on these assets and is committed to protecting a tree's natural form as the priority in the first instance. This Policy outlines the principles for managing existing tree assets in the public realm under the care and control of the City and guidance for tree planting.</p>

1. Scope

This policy applies to all trees on land under the care and control of the City of Canning and may include Public Access Ways and Rights of Way for which the City has responsibility.

2. Definitions

<i>Tree</i>	A long-lived woody perennial plant, generally greater than 3 metres in height at maturity, with one or few stems.
<i>Street Tree</i>	Those plants generally designated as trees that have been planted by the City of Canning, a contractor or resident on the area between a property boundary and the carriageway.
<i>Park Tree</i>	A tree growing on land designated as open space that has been planted by the City of Canning, a contractor or resident, or remnant native vegetation.
<i>Significant Tree</i>	A tree that is considered to be an outstanding example in regard to one or more of the assessment criteria, in accordance with Policy ET545 - <i>Recognition and Protection of Significant Trees</i> .
<i>Tree Protection Zone</i>	Is a specified area above and below ground at a given distance from the trunk set aside for the protection of a tree's roots and canopy. It is the principal means of protecting trees on development sites under the Australian Standard AS 4970-2009.

<i>Accredited Arborist</i>	A suitably qualified and experienced arborist with a Diploma in Arboriculture (Australian Qualifications Framework AQF Level 5) or higher relevant qualification and a minimum of three years demonstrated tree assessment and report writing experience.
<i>Amenity Tree Value</i>	An internationally recognised method used to calculate the monetary value of the visual amenity provided by an individual tree.
<i>Public Open Space</i>	Outdoor public areas including parkland, park, green space, reserve, playground, bushland, conservation area, nature space, foreshore, streetscape, sports ground, playing field and civic space vested in the City or under the management of the City.
<i>Road Reserve</i>	The land in the road corridor between adjoining property boundaries.
<i>Street</i>	Any highway, thoroughfare or land used for vehicular or pedestrian traffic, and includes all land lying between property lines, including the verge and path.
<i>Thoroughfare</i>	Land under the care and control of the City that is provided for pedestrian or vehicular access.
<i>Verge</i>	That part of a thoroughfare that is between the carriageway and a lot which abuts the thoroughfare and includes a nature strip.

3. Principles of Tree Management

The Principles underlying this policy are:

- (1) To grow, protect and manage the City’s Urban Forest including all tree assets and improve the quality and quantity of tree canopy cover for the benefit of the entire community and future generations.
- (2) To value the contribution that urban trees make to the liveability and character of the City.

4. Tree Management

- (1) The management of the City’s trees will be guided by the principles set out in Australian Standard AS 4373-2007 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*, Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites* and the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) framework and/or Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ).
- (2) The City will maintain a database of all trees covered by this Policy.

5. Tree Planting

- (1) When determining suitable tree species for planting, the City will:
 - (a) align with the Local Biodiversity, Street Tree and Public Open Space Strategies;
 - (b) take into account projected climate change for the Perth region and the need for diversity in botanical Families to future proof against potential pest and disease outbreaks;
 - (c) unless otherwise required for specific design purposes, follow existing planting selections and /or streetscaping plans where the existing species is considered to be suitable; and
 - (d) consider if a greater variety of species is acceptable in locations where the established streetscape and landscape character supports a more diverse planting theme, including local ecological corridors to increase biodiversity.
- (2) Residents, owners and occupants, and contractors acting on their behalf shall obtain written approval from the City prior to undertaking tree planting on public land.
- (3) Tree planting programs will be implemented to improve the environment and visual amenity of streets, thoroughfares and open space.
- (4) Generally, a minimum of one tree shall be planted per property, however larger verge spaces may accommodate more than one tree. Trees will be planted following consultation with the owners of adjoining land.

- (5) Where an existing tree is removed a minimum of two replacement trees of appropriate species will be planted at or near the same location during the next available planting season. Where adequate space is not available, the replacement trees will be planted as close to the removal site as possible.
- (6) When considering tree planting the City will, in consultation with the property owner, give consideration to any adjacent dwelling, in particular the orientation and the location of existing renewable energy devices. The City will use this information in determining the species of tree to be planted and its location, to preserve solar access and renewable energy production.

6. Tree Pruning

- (1) Tree pruning may be undertaken to:
 - (a) improve a tree's structural stability;
 - (b) provide necessary clearances for safety and access; and
 - (c) reduce parts of a canopy overhanging property boundary lines, where feasible.
- (2) Trees will not be pruned to:
 - (a) provide or improve views;
 - (b) reduce the impact from shedding of debris;
 - (c) reduce shading of solar panels, except for pruning approved under Clause 6.(4);
 - (d) reduce shading of gardens or lawns; and
 - (e) improve television or wireless digital service reception.
- (3) Trees
 - (a) beneath power lines shall be pruned to ensure necessary clearance is maintained in compliance with Western Power guidelines.
 - (b) on street verges and reserves not affected by overhead power lines shall be allowed to develop their natural canopy
 - (c) in locations where powerlines are removed, will be pruned as required to keep them structurally sound.
- (4)
 - (a) At the request of the adjoining property owner, trees will be pruned by the City to improve solar access where it can be demonstrated that renewable energy device installations are being negatively impacted by the City's tree assets and pre-date the planting of the relevant street or park tree.
 - (b) Further pruning to improve solar access will be at the request of the property owner and will be limited to a minimum interval of three years between requests in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373-2007.
- (5) Root pruning will only be undertaken in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 4373-2007.

7. Removal of Live Trees

- (1) The Chief Executive Officer is authorised to determine requests for the removal of trees, provided the guidelines and limitations of this policy are applied in making a determination.
- (2) Requests for the removal of trees covered by this Policy are to be addressed in writing to the Chief Executive Officer before any consideration can be given to the request. If the applicant specifically requests that Council are to consider the request for tree removal, the Chief Executive Officer shall submit a report for the consideration of Council.
- (3) The City prioritises retention of trees and a staged assessment process shall be undertaken as outlined in the City's Tree Retention Hierarchy. The five steps in the Hierarchy are to:
 - (a) investigate;
 - (b) educate;
 - (c) where feasible innovate;
 - (d) remediate;
 - (e) manage ; and
 - (f) only after all other avenues of tree management have been exhausted will tree removal be considered.

- (4) Trees will not be removed by the City:
 - (a) because of nuisance caused by leaf, fruit or twig drop or wildlife;
 - (b) because the resident or owner requests a different species;
 - (c) to reduce shading of solar panels and gardens;
 - (d) to provide or improve a view;
 - (e) for cultural reasons;
 - (f) because the tree is obstructing a proposed, second, non-essential crossover; or
 - (g) because of allergic reactions and health problems unless:
 - i. the request is supported by written evidence from an immunologist or allergy specialist that the condition is persistent and severe; and
 - ii. the applicant shall demonstrate that they are a permanent resident or occupant; and
 - iii. the species is uncommon in the vicinity of the tree's location; and
 - iv. alternative options for managing the health condition have been investigated and determined not to be feasible.
- (5) Trees will be removed:
 - (a) to facilitate the development of a landscape project which the City considers will have a positive impact on the environment. Such an application must be accompanied by a landscape development plan and approval will be subject to agreement by the applicant to meet all costs associated with the removal and replacement. Landscape plans shall include planting of replacement trees for all trees proposed for removal.
 - (b) when no further remedial techniques such as pruning will resolve a problem. Such problems include trees that are severely diseased, trees that are in terminal decline and trees that are structurally unsound.
 - (c) when the tree species is considered by the City to be a pest, or potentially provide a negative impact or threat to the local environment
- (6) Except where tree removal meets the requirements of Clause 7(5), when the City determines to remove a park or street tree at the request of the adjacent property owner or other individual, all costs associated with the removal, replacement and the cost to compensate for the loss of the Amenity Value shall be borne by the applicant.
- (7) Where the City removes an existing tree for any reason, the tree shall be replaced with two trees of a suitable species appropriate to the location.
- (8) Owners and occupiers are not permitted to undertake or arrange removal of trees on public land managed by the City or to engage contractors to remove trees that are covered by this Policy unless written approval is granted by the City.
- (9) The City will have the final decision on the tree species and location of street trees and may remove inappropriate tree / plant species.
- (10) Any review of a prior decision regarding a tree removal will only be considered if there has been a substantial change in the circumstances relevant to the original decision. Only a clear and demonstrable change in the condition of the individual tree, or the area affected by the tree, is adequate grounds for review of a previous decision by the City.

8. Removal and Replacement of Trees for Approved Development

- (1) A street or park tree may be removed where its removal is necessary to facilitate approved development.
- (2) This includes but is not limited to:
 - (a) Development approvals
 - (b) Building and Crossover approvals
 - (c) Utility Provider projects
 - (d) Civil works
 - (e) City led projects
 - (f) State led projects.

- (3) (a) All costs associated with the removal and including the cost of replacing two trees at an alternative site will be at the applicant's expense. Selection of the replacement tree species and size is at the discretion of the City and the trees to be planted will be a minimum 45 litre rootball in size. Tree removal and replacement costs will be in accordance with the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- (b) To compensate for the loss of a community asset, an amount equivalent to the Amenity Value of the tree will also be required to be paid when a tree is removed as part of approved development.
- (c) The Amenity Value will be calculated in accordance with the City's amenity tree calculation (currently the Helliwell method), or other City approved method of tree valuation.
- (d) the applicant may request a review of the Amenity Value calculation and/or engage a third party to undertake an Amenity Value calculation (at the applicant's expense) for consideration by the City.

9. Removal of Dead Trees

- (1) Dead trees may be removed from streetscapes and park areas. Dead trees in a bushland or conservation area may be assessed for structural stability, risk potential and habitat value before a decision is made whether to retain, dismantle or remove it. Should a Significant tree in an urban or bushland area die, it may undergo an independent assessment for structural stability and risk potential by an accredited arborist and may be retained and actively managed.

10. Protection of Trees Adjacent to Development Sites

- (1) A minimum crossover construction clearance of two (2) metres is required from the base of an existing street tree.
- (2) Street trees shall be protected during demolition and development works occurring on adjacent private property. The developer is to maintain a tree protection zone. At a minimum, the developer is to maintain a tree protection zone with a two (2) metre clearance of the trunk of any street tree. This distance may be varied by the City if the verge is insufficiently large to allow for the full clearance or if the tree is deemed to require a larger tree protection zone under AS4970-2009.
- (3) The City may arrange an inspection by an accredited arborist to verify that a compliant tree protection zone has been established. The fee payable for the inspection will be in accordance with the City's Schedule of Fees and Charges.
- (4) Should any action during demolition or property development result in the unauthorised removal of a tree or substantial damage to a tree covered by this Policy, including the root system, which requires the tree to be removed and replaced, two trees will be planted to compensate for the loss of the damaged or removed tree and the costs will be met by the developer. The location of the replacement trees will be at the discretion of the City.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	
Process Links	<i>Policy ET545 Recognition and Protection of Significant Trees (D20/84303)</i> <i>Policy ET528 Dangerous Trees on Private Property (D13/27571)</i> <i>Policy CM179 Community Engagement (D23/5858)</i> <i>Policy FM.07 Asset Management (D20/103604)</i> <i>Australian Standard AS 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees</i> <i>Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites.</i> <i>City of Canning Tree Retention Hierarchy (D20/140013)</i> <i>The Helliwell System of Amenity Tree Valuation or other City approved method of Amenity Tree Valuation</i>

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Program responsible		Officer Title	
Infrastructure and Environment		Manager Parks and Environment	
Version	Decision Reference	Meeting type and date	Delegation No. (or N/A)
1	OCM 28 February 2006 CM-032-06	Policy adopted	
2	OCM 13 October 2009 CM-191-09	Policy revised and adopted	
3	OCM 9 July 2013 ET-050-13	Policy revised and adopted	
4	OCM 19 July 2016 IE-037-16	Policy revised	
5	OCM 16 August 2016 IE-049-16	Policy revised and adopted	
6	OCM 21 May 2024 IE-009-24	Policy revised and adopted	