POLICY			
TITLE:	**STREETSCAPE AND PARK MANAGEMENT – TREES IN STREETS, THOROUGHFARES AND PARKS**	**CODE:**	**ET525**
PURPOSE or OBJECTIVE:	To enhance the City's parks and streetscapes by the protection and maintenance of existing trees and the implementation of tree planting programs.		
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS:	Local Government Act 1995 s 2.7.(2)(b), 3.53 and 3.54		

POLICY STATEMENT

Trees in parks and in streets form part of the fabric of the City; they affect its environmental character and visual amenity. Trees are of value to the community because they provide habitat for fauna, improve air quality, offer shade and have a cooling influence on climate.

1. **Scope**

   This policy applies to all trees growing in parks, reserves, public access ways and road verges, medians and roundabouts within the City of Canning.

2. **Definitions**

Tree	a long-lived woody perennial plant, greater than 3 metres in height at maturity, with one or few stems
Verge Tree	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

3. **Principles of Tree Management**

   Principles underlying this policy are:

   (1) When the value of a tree is assessed, the environmental and aesthetic contributions it provides to the community will be considered in addition to its effect on any individual resident or property owner.

   (2) The City is committed to maintaining, and where possible, increasing the number of trees in its care.

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.

   (2) The City will maintain and update the database of park, reserve and street trees.

5. **Tree Planting**

   (1) Species selection will follow existing planting selections where the existing species is considered to be suitable. Generally, the number of species used in any one street will be limited, to provide consistency of the planting theme; however a greater variety of species may be acceptable in locations where the established streetscape and landscape character supports a more diverse planting theme.

   (2) Residents, owners and occupants, and contractors acting on their behalf, shall obtain written approval from the City prior to undertaking verge tree planting.

(3) Tree planting programs will be implemented to improve the environment and visual amenity of streets and parks.

(4) Tree planting to ensure continuity of street tree provision will take precedence over residents' refusal to accommodate street trees where a streetscape planting plan has been endorsed by Council.

(5) Where existing trees are removed they will be replaced. Where possible and appropriate, the replacement tree will be planted at the same location.

6. Tree Pruning

(1) Tree pruning will be undertaken to

   (a) improve a tree's structural stability

   (b) provide necessary clearances for safety and access.

   (c) clear parts of a canopy overhanging property boundary lines, where feasible, at the request of the property owner.

(2) Trees beneath power lines shall be pruned to ensure necessary clearance is maintained in compliance with Western Power guidelines.

   (a) Trees on street verges and reserves not affected by overhead power lines shall be allowed to develop their natural canopy.

   (b) In locations where powerlines are removed, tree canopies will be pruned as required to keep them structurally stable.

(3) Trees will not be pruned to provide or improve views, to reduce leaf drop, to reduce shading of solar panels and gardens or to improve television reception to private property.

(4) Owners and occupiers are not permitted to undertake or arrange pruning of trees on public land managed by the City or to engage contractors to prune trees on public land managed by the City. Any pruning of trees on public land managed by the City shall be undertaken by the City or its contractors.

7. Removal of Live Trees

(1) Requests for removal of park or street trees considered to be oversized or not appropriate to the location are to be received in writing before any consideration is given to the request.

(2) Except where tree removal meets the requirements of Clause 7.(6), when Council 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 and replacement shall be borne by the applicant.

(3) A park or street tree may be removed where a written request has been received for its removal, to facilitate the development of a landscape project which the City considers will have a positive impact on the street 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.

(4) A tree may be removed when the City considers that it is detrimental to the character of the street or park environment or where its removal is required to facilitate public road works, utility works or public landscape development.

(5) A street tree may be removed where its removal is necessary to facilitate the construction of a vehicle crossover and/or building in association with a development application approval. All costs associated with the removal and including the cost of replacing the tree at an alternative site will be at the applicant's expense. Selection of the replacement tree species and size is at the discretion of City's Director, Infrastructure and Environment, but will as closely as practicable reflect maturity of the tree to be replaced.

(6) Except for removals approved under Clauses 7.(1) – 7.(5), live trees in parks, on street verges and medians will only be removed 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, trees that are structurally unsound, trees that are clearly damaging private property and trees that are considered unsuitable due to interference with public utilities.

(7) Where the Council resolves to remove an existing tree for any reason, the tree shall be replaced with 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 on public land managed by the City unless written approval is granted by the City.

(9) Trees will not be removed by the City because

    (a) of nuisance caused by leaf, fruit or twig drop; or because the resident or owner requests a different species, to reduce shading of solar panels and gardens, to provide or improve a view, or for cultural reasons.

    (b) the tree is obstructing a proposed, second, non-essential crossover.

    (c) of allergic reactions and health problems unless:

        i. the request is supported by written evidence from a medical 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.

(10) The City will have the final decision on the tree species and location of street trees and may remove inappropriate tree / plant species.

8. Removal of Dead Trees

Dead trees will be removed from verges and from formal parkland areas. A dead tree in a bushland or conservation area will be assessed for structural stability, risk potential and habitat value before a decision is made whether to retain, dismantle or remove it.

9. Protection of Trees Adjacent to Development Sites

(1) A minimum construction clearance of two (2) metres is required from the base of an existing street tree.

(2) Street trees shall be protected during development works occurring on adjacent private property. The developer is to maintain a tree protection zone with a minimum two (2) metre clearance of the trunk of any verge 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.

(3) Should any action during property development result in substantial damage to a street tree, including the root system, which requires the tree to be removed and replaced, the costs will be met by the developer.

10. Council Consideration of Tree Removal Requests

Where a tree removal request has previously been declined under clause 7.9) of the policy, it is open to Council to review the history of a resident's request for tree removal and make a decision to remove the tree based on their assessment of factors other than those encompassed in clause 7.9). A Tree Report to Council shall only occur once all other tree management and monitoring options have been exhausted.

11. Review of Previous Decisions by Council

A referral back to Council to review a decision regarding a tree will only be made if there has been a substantial change in the circumstance 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 Council decision.

GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

Statutory Compliance	
Process Links	

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

Directorate		Officer Title	Authority to Approve
Infrastructure and Environment		Director Infrastructure and Environment	Council
Version	Decision Reference	Synopsis	Delegation No
1	28 February 2006	Policy adopted	N/A
2	13 October 2009	Policy revised and adopted	
3	OCM 9 July 2013 ET-050-135	Policy revised and adopted	
4	OCM 19 July 2016 IE-037-16	Policy revised but deferred at OCM	
5	OCM 16 August 2016 IE-049-16	Policy revised and adopted (D18/3945)	