



POLICY NO. 2.3.9

POLICY STATEMENT: STREET TREES

PURPOSE To provide guidance on the planning, protection, provision, management and maintenance of street trees within the City.

POLICY

1. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all trees within the City’s road reserves, with the exception of any tree provision or removal in association with a subdivision or development process, in which case, guidance is provided by Local Planning Policy 4.7.

2. OBJECTIVES

The City is committed to increasing the number of trees in the public realm to enhance street cooling and amenity, and to provide habitat for native fauna.

This policy is intended to guide the planning, planting, management, maintenance and removal of street trees.

3. POLICY

3.1 The City provides street trees in response to resident requests and through planned planting programs.

3.2 The number of trees planted on the verge abutting the front property boundary line is generally one tree per property (average frontage 15m); however, additional trees may be planted if space permits.

3.3 The species planted will conform to the list of species recommended for planting that is located on the City’s website. Preference will be given to trees that provide the greatest canopy in the available space. Tree selection will be determined with consideration to soil characteristics, watering requirements, resident preference, and potential impact on surrounding infrastructure.

3.4 All trees planted in the road reserve are ultimately the maintenance and management responsibility of the City. The City will work to ensure trees remain healthy, have appropriate sightline clearances for pedestrians and vehicles, and fulfil legislated clearance requirements regarding overhead power supply. Specifically, the City is responsible for the following:

- Canopy maintenance to improve the health, safety and amenity of the tree;
- Removal of trees that present an unacceptable level of risk as assessed by a competent Arborist;
- Pruning to remove branches and roots conflicting with other infrastructure;
- Pruning for pedestrian or, vehicular visibility; or Removal of trees in conflict with utilities and built structures where all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered.



All works undertaken by the City will aim to cause minimum disruption to the tree to achieve the management goal.

3.5 All requests for the removal of street trees will be assessed by the City in accordance with best arboriculture practice to maximise the possibility of retaining the tree. Tree removal is considered as a final option in street tree management and will only be considered in the following circumstances:

- Where the tree is dead,
- Where the tree in a state of decline to the point that survival is unlikely,
- Where the tree is causing significant damage to infrastructure or services, or presenting an unacceptable level of risk to public safety; or
- As provided for by a subdivision or development approval, granted in accordance with Local Planning Policy 4.7.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances; whenever a street tree is removed from the verge, a replacement tree will be planted in its place.

3.6 In considering requests from residents, the City will not support the following:

- Removal of trees not considered to be the responsibility of the City;
- Removal of trees to improve views;
- Removal of trees to improve solar power access;
- Removal of trees due to leaf, fruit or sap drop, bird or bat droppings;
- Removal of trees due to damage to sewer pipes/built structures unless all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered;
- Removal of healthy and stable trees;
- Pruning of trees contrary to Australian Standards;
- Any pruning work outside what a particular species will tolerate;
- Tree work for emotive reasons;
- Removal of trees inhibiting lawn/or grass growth;
- Chemical controls unless deemed absolutely necessary e.g. termite control on nature strips;
- Removal of trees for allergies unless the tree can be medically linked to the allergy by a specialist and all reasonable health alternatives have been considered;
- Removal of trees found to be causing damage to minor ancillary structures such as footpaths and driveways; or
- Requests for topping/height reduction of trees other than for aerial power lines.



GOVERNANCE REFERENCES

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| Statutory Compliance | Nil. |
| Industry Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Planning Policy 3.1 - Residential Design Codes • Western Australian Planning Commission Liveable Neighbourhoods Policy |
| Organisational Compliance | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2021 • Local Planning Policy 4.7 Planning and Development of Public Open Space and Streetscapes • Protection of trees identified by the City of Gosnells Heritage Inventory 2016 • CP 2.3.19 – Trees and Urban Canopy |
| Process Links | Nil. |

POLICY ADMINISTRATION

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|--------------------|---------------------------|---|----------|------------------|------|
| Directorate | | Officer Title | | Contact: | |
| Infrastructure | | Manager Environmental Services | | 9397 3000 | |
| Risk Rating | Low | Review Cycle | Biennial | Next Due: | 2023 |
| Version | Decision Reference | Synopsis | | | |
| 1. | OCM 377/23/08/2011 | Redraft replaces revoked Council Policy 2.3.9 Street Tree Policy. | | | |
| 2. | OCM 418/24/09/2013 | Reviewed with no amendments. | | | |
| 3. | OCM 372/22/09/2015 | Reviewed and amended with minor updates including a new section on street tree pruning. | | | |
| 4. | OCM 317/26/09/2017 | Reviewed and amended with minor updates regarding preference for species native to Western Australia. | | | |
| 5. | OCM 261/24/09/2019 | Reviewed and amended | | | |
| 6. | OCM 16/08/02/2022 | Reviewed and amended with changes to the selection of the species of replacement trees and when trees will be considered for removal. | | | |