



WARRNAMBOOL
CITY COUNCIL

Street Tree Planting and Management Policy



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

Document Title:	<i>Street Tree Planting and Management Policy</i>
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a consistent approach is applied to the planting and ongoing management of street trees within Municipal streetscapes and the urban environment.

1.2. Scope

This policy is applicable to Warrnambool City Council in all its operations and functions relating to street tree planting and management.

1.3. Definitions

Term	Definition
The City	The Municipality of Warrnambool
Council	Warrnambool City Council
Streetscape	The visual elements of a street (e.g., streets, buildings, vegetation, medians and nature strips), that combine to form the street's character.
Urban Environment	The human made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity, including, commercial and residential areas, buildings, parks and open spaces and their supporting infrastructure.
Street tree	A tree or shrub growing within the road reserve, including nature strips, separators and medians.

1.4. References

- Warrnambool Planning Scheme
- Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2015
- Councils Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Warrnambool City Council Community Engagement Policy.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

The objective of this Policy is:

- Ensure consistency in the approach to street tree planting and management.
- Define Council's responsibilities in street tree planting and management.
- Ensure that proper consideration is given to trees in the planning and design of the built environment.
- Ensure trees contribute to the value of the urban landscape.
- Ensure that the amenity value of street trees is retained and enhanced.
- Inform decision making on street tree matters for Council, Council staff, developers and the community.

3. POLICY PRINCIPLES

Council has responsibility for the planning, establishment, maintenance and removal of all street trees located within the City's streetscapes.

All decisions related to street trees will be based on the following principles:

- Street trees are valuable community assets that positively contribute to the well-being of the community, and to the built and natural environment.
- Council is committed to planting and maintaining street trees which are visually, historically, or environmentally valuable to the community.
- Council recognises that our historic Norfolk Island Pines are an iconic feature within our City and is committed to their protection.
- Council acknowledges that management and preservation of street trees will be sufficiently accounted for in the annual budget.
- Council will consult and engage the community and affected landowners where large scale plantings, significant streetscape works or tree removal works are to take place.
- Council will encourage the development of staff skills in arboriculture and consider recruitment of suitably qualified staff.
- Council will encourage community participation in street tree planting and ongoing maintenance where appropriate.
- Council will refer to the preferred tree species list published on Council's website to determine species selection.
- Council will undertake proper selection, placement and planting of trees to reduce long term risk.
- Council will consider the potential damage to infrastructure, maintenance requirements, and legislation in species selection.

- Council will only remove street trees that are in poor health, or which Council believes pose an unacceptable risk to the community, or as part of a broader streetscape renewal. Street trees are not removed or trimmed to facilitate development or to enhance vistas for property owners.
- Council may prosecute persons who prune, damage, kill or remove street trees without approval.
- Urban design treatments and streetscape renewal will incorporate measures to protect the health of proposed and existing trees.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1. Owner

The Director City Infrastructure is responsible for monitoring the currency and relevance of this policy and for updating it when required.

4.2. Review

The Director City Infrastructure will review the policy for any necessary amendments no later than three years after its formulation or after the last review.

4.3. Charter of Human Rights Compliance

It is considered that this policy does not impact negatively on any rights identified in the Charter of Human Rights Act (2007).