

Tree Management Policy

Tree Management Policy April 2023

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| Tree Management Policy | | | | Page 1 of 8 |
| Further Information: Lachlan Shire Council ☎ 0268951900 ✉ Email: council@lachlan.nsw.gov.au | | | | |
| Version: V1.0 | Commencement Date: 30/07/2023 | Last Review Date: | Next Review Date: 30/07/2027 | TRIM No. D23/13933 |

Tree Management Policy

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1 Background

This policy has been developed to provide clear and transparent direction regarding the management of all trees that are the responsibility of Lachlan Shire Council (LSC).

2 Objectives

Council's objectives are as follows:

1. To maximise the benefits of township trees through tree protection and renewal.
2. To plant more trees to fill in the vacant tree spaces to broaden their overall benefits such as shade.
3. To manage the public urban tree population using best practice tree management principles.

3 Scope

This Policy refers applies to all public trees that occur on Council managed land within our townships such as street and park trees.

Trees excluded from the policy are:

- Trees on private property
- Roadsides with speed limits over 80km/hr
- Bushland reserves
- Shrubs and grasses

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4 Policy

Council is committed to managing its trees in line with relevant legislative requirements, strategic policies and industry best practice tree care methods. Any operation that is known to be detrimental to long-term tree health will not be accepted. To meet these commitments, Council undertakes the following:

4.1 Tree Planting

LSC will carry out annual tree planting in nature strips, parks and reserves and other Council managed land to increase shade and amenity within our townships.

Tree Species will be selected by Council staff planting based on their function and suitability for each site.

LSC will not plant tree species that are declared noxious weeds as listed in the Noxious Weeds Act 1993 or environmental or invasive weeds species as declared in our Weeds Policy.

All newly planted tree will be given 2 years of establishment care.

4.2 Tree Maintenance and Pruning

LSC will provide adequate resources to carry out tree maintenance in streets, parks and reserves and other Council managed land to appropriately manage risk as follows:

- Tree maintenance and pruning works will be undertaken on an as needs basis depending on the request, as required to protect, enhance and preserve existing trees and public space to a high standard while minimising known risks
- The principles of integrated pest and disease management (IPDM) will be adopted for pest and disease management with a focus on problem prevention through appropriate tree selection, planting and tree maintenance.

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4.3 Tree Root Management

LSC will consider a range of strategies, such as species selection and site assessment, infrastructure design solutions, root pruning and barrier placement, to avoid or manage tree root conflicts with infrastructure.

4.4 Tree Removal

LSC will manage and monitor all public trees throughout their lifecycle and remove and replace them as required. Tree removal will only be authorised when no other viable options are available.

Public trees may not be removed unless approved by a LSC Urban Works Staff in accordance with the tree removal criteria stipulated in LSC's Tree Management Guidelines.

4.5 Tree Protection

Council managed trees, their stems, roots and crown, shall always be protected from construction works, events, development and other activities, reducing where possible the negative impacts that threaten tree condition, health, safety and/or amenity.

4.6 Assessments

LSC will use an industry wide accepted methodology for assessing trees and their risk.

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5 Associated legislation

Applicable Legislation and Government policy

1. Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
2. Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
3. Electricity Supply Act 1995
4. The Roads Act 1993
5. Rural Fires Act 1997
6. Local Land Services Act 2013
7. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979
 - a. State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017
 - b. *State Environmental Planning Policy – Infrastructure 2007*
8. Biosecurity Act 2015
9. Biodiversity Conservation Act 2017

Australian Standards (Standards Australia)

- AS 4373-2007 Australian Standard - Pruning of amenity trees.
- AS 4970-2009 Australian Standard - Protection of trees on development sites. Provides tree protection distances and tree protection guidelines.
- AS 4419:2018 Australian Standard. Soils for landscaping and garden use.
- AS 4454-2012 Australian Standard. Composts, soil conditioners and mulches.
- AS 2303-2015 Australian Standard. Tree stock for landscape use.
- AS 4687-2007 Australian Standard Temporary fencing and hoardings. Guidance on temporary fencing suitable for tree protection.
- International Standard ISO 31000 Risk Management – Guidelines. Second Edition 2018-02.
- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) (2013). American National Standards for Tree Care Operations - Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management - Standard Practices. ANSI A300 (Part 8) Root Management.
- ANSI (2011). American National Standards for Tree Care Operations - Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plant Management - Standard Practices. ANSI A300 (Part 9) Tree Risk Assessment a. Tree Structure Assessment.
- ANSI A300 (2000) Tree Care Operations - Tree, Shrub and Other Woody Plant Maintenance: Standard Practices - Part 3 - Tree Support Systems (a. Cabling, Bracing, and Guying) (supplement to ANSI A300-1995). American National Standards Institute.

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6 Definitions

DBH Trunk diameter at breast height. Measured vertically at 1.4m from ground level.

Exotic tree: An introduced, alien, exotic, non-indigenous, or non-native species, or simply an introduction, is a species living outside its native distributional range

Noxious weed means; (a) a State prohibited weed; (b) a regionally prohibited weed; (c) a regionally controlled weed; or (d) a restricted weed.

Public tree: defined as any tree which has any part of its trunk growing from Council managed land.

Risk The combination of the likelihood of an event and the severity of the potential consequences. In the context of trees, risk is the likelihood of a conflict or tree failure occurring and affecting a target and the severity of the associated consequences.

Street tree: specifically refers to trees planted within a road reserve.

TPZ Tree Protection Zone. A TPZ is measured by multiplying the DBH by 12.

Tree: A tree is defined as a long lived woody perennial plant with one or relatively few main stems with the potential to grow to a height greater than 3 metres

Tree failure: structural failure or breakage of a tree trunk, branch or root. A tree failure does not include the death of a tree that is still intact and standing, nor a tree that has been or will be removed due to its probability of failure.

ULE Useful life expectancy which is the length of time a tree remains useful in the landscape before it is likely to require removal due to old age, inadequate space, poor health, poor structure or inappropriate species for the location.

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Coder, K. 1996. Tree risk management and hazard assessment. A general review. University of Georgia. Cooperative Extension Service Forest resources. Unit FOR96-33.

Gilman, E. F. (1997). *Trees for urban and suburban landscapes*. Delmar Publishers.

Harris, R.W., Clark, J.R. & Matheny, N.P. (2004). *Arboriculture: Integrated Management of Landscape Trees, Shrubs and Vines. Fourth edition*. Prentice Hall.

Lonsdale, D. (1999). *Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment & Management*. TSO

Records Management Directive

Smiley, E. T., Matheny, N. and Lilly, S. (2011) *Best management practices - Tree risk assessment*. International Society of Arboriculture.

Standards Australia: <https://www.standards.org.au/>

Urban, J. (2008). *Up by roots. Healthy soils and trees in the built environment*. International Society of Arboriculture

8 Review

LSC may review this policy at any time but unless otherwise requested will be reviewed at least every four years from date of adoption. Minor amendments to the policy may be authorised by the General Manager or Director of Infrastructure at any time where such changes do not alter the substance of the policy, e.g. typographical errors, a change to the name of a related policy, or a change to the name of legislation.

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