

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

TS50



NARRANDERA SHIRE COUNCIL POLICY

Narrandera Shire Council
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Policy No: TS50
Policy Title: Tree Management Policy
Section Responsible: Department of Infrastructure
MagiQ No: 13332

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The town of Narrandera is renowned for its tree lined streets and parks and gardens and is often referred to by travellers as an oasis. A rich diversity and maturity of trees can be found throughout the town and is widely acknowledged as providing a positive contribution towards maintaining the town's sustainability. Great value is placed on the shire's overall tree population by the local communities. They recognise that in total, trees play a significant role in determining the character of the shire and in maintaining community health and serenity.
- 1.2 Collectively, trees provide many social and environmental benefits. They beautify and soften streetscapes, complement architecture, screen unsightly views, provide wildlife habitat and provide privacy together with a sense of security and peace.
- 1.3 While trees play an important role in the urban landscape, it is also recognised that trees of the wrong type, or growing in the wrong place, can create problems and risks that are not reasonable in some instances. Property owners and public authorities have obligations with respect to the protection of trees, and responsibilities for any damage or injury associated with the presence, failure or growth of trees.
- 1.4 Issues relating to tree management have a high profile and can generate considerable public debate and passion and as a consequence, careful planning is required in order to facilitate effective tree management.
- 1.5 This policy outlines Council's tree management processes in line with relevant legislative requirements, strategic policies and accepted tree care practices.

2 Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide the strategic framework for the management of trees located on Council managed land. It includes an overview of practices used by Council to protect, maintain and develop the shire's tree resource. It will guide decision making and is intended for use by staff dealing with issues relating to trees on Council managed land.
- 2.2 The policy is complemented by a Tree Management Plan that contains more detailed guidelines regarding specific tree related issues including:
 - Tree selection and planting
 - Risk Assessment
 - Maintenance and tree removal
 - Preservation

3 Scope

- 3.1 This policy shall apply to all trees that are growing on any property under Council's control.

- 3.2 The health, safety and welfare of Council staff and the community, and the protection of public and private property is paramount, and these considerations shall take precedence in any determination regarding existing plantings, preferred or prohibited species selection or any individual tree.

4 Policy Statement

- 4.1 Council is committed to the maintenance and improvement of its “urban forest” environment. This policy provides for the planting, maintenance and, where necessary the removal, of trees on Council controlled property.
- 4.2 The policy also seeks to provide a practical and balanced approach to tree management.
- 4.3 Whilst the health, safety and welfare of Council staff and the community, and the protection of public property, and private property where Council trees may encroach, is paramount; Council is also committed to preserving trees, improving the aesthetic urban landscape, and effectively managing the environment. Whilst these objectives can be conflicting, responsible risk management shall take precedence in any determination regarding existing or future plantings.
- 4.4 In managing its tree assets, Council shall:
- 4.4.1 Engage at five yearly intervals, a suitably qualified arborist to conduct an audit of Council's tree population and to provide a comprehensive report to Council with recommendations for routine maintenance of tree assets.
 - 4.4.2 Maintain and enhance the existing tree population for inheritance by future generations by preserving tree health, aesthetic appearance and amenity value.
 - 4.4.3 Utilise a program of systematic tree assessment and best practice tree management to mitigate tree risk for residents and visitors to the town.
 - 4.4.4 Remove poor performing trees where necessary in order that the town's landscapes are reinvigorated and maintained with regard to safety and amenity.
 - 4.4.5 Select tree species for planting for their suitability to the site, performance, and potential to contribute to the landscape.
 - 4.4.6 Protect Council trees from development and other activities that threaten their health and viability.
 - 4.4.7 Consult and inform the community about all major tree projects, for example, removals that impact a whole street, high profile business centre tree replacements
 - 4.4.8 Manage trees on Council managed land in accordance with Council's Tree Management Plan.
- 4.5 Budget allocations in support of this Policy shall be made on the basis that maintenance of existing trees or plantings of new or replacement trees, is costed and funded in accordance with recognised risk management principles to ensure tree asset protection, community safety, risk and resource priorities and best value.

5 General Tree Management Principles

5.1 In order to make effective management decisions it is necessary to have a core group of basic objectives. The following basic principles apply to most tree related situations:

- Tree Management
- Community Consultation
- Tree Protection
- Tree Selection
- Tree Planting
- Tree Roots
- Pest, Disease, Animal and Weed Species
- Tree Removal

5.2 The Council Tree Management Plan incorporates the above General Tree Management Principles.

6 Roles and Responsibilities

7.1 Deputy General Manager Infrastructure

7.1.1 The Deputy General Manager Infrastructure (DGMI) has the overall responsibility for the tree management program at Narrandera Shire Council.

7.2 Open Spaces and Recreation Manager

7.2.1 The Open Spaces and Recreation Manager (OSR) is responsible:

- for implementing this policy in line with Council's Tree Management Plan;
- seeking Arborist advice as required; and
- developing the annual tree management program in consultation with the DGMI.

7.3 OSR Staff

7.3.1 OSR Operational staff are responsible for undertaking all works associated with the tree management program as directed by the OSR Manager and in accordance with the Tree Management Plan.

7 Variation

7.1 Council reserves the right to review, vary or revoke this policy in accordance with legislative changes, best practice methodologies and technological advancements associated with arboriculture.


8 Related Documentation

- AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk management – Principles and guidelines
- AS 4373-2007 - Pruning Amenity Trees Pruning Types, Classes And Suitability
- Local Government Act 1193 (NSW)
- Civil Liability Act 2002 (NSW)

- Statewide Mutual Best Practice Manual – Trees and Tree Roots
 - Narrandera Shire Council Tree Management Plan
 - NSC Footpaths, Nature Strips, Medians and Shared Paths Inspection and Maintenance Procedure
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Policy History

Adopted	August 1997 (Street Trees and Nature Strip Policy)
Reviewed	July 2008 December 2008 August 2014 May 2015
Amended	April 2016 (Tree Management Policy)

Signed: 
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 31 March 2017