

Policy P210 Street Verges and Vegetation

Strategic Direction	Environment (Built and Natural)
Responsible Business Unit/s	Parks and Environment
Responsible Officer	Manager Parks and Environment
Affected Business Unit/s	Engineering Services, Development Services

Policy Objectives

The City of South Perth is committed to the retention and development of green and leafy streetscapes. The objective of this Policy is to provide a consistent approach to the control and management of trees on land vested or managed by the City.

Policy Scope

This Management Practice applies to all employees, Contractors/Consultants engaged by the City, including volunteers, and work experience students.

Policy Statement

VERGE TREATMENTS

The City's preference is for verge treatments to be predominantly planted with native, low growing waterwise verge gardens and/or lawn.

Residents may establish and maintain a verge garden and/or lawn on the street verge without prior permission from the City where the garden is consistent with the City's Street Verge Landscape Guidelines. The maximum vegetation height (excluding trees) is 0.7m.

Prior approval from the City is required for the installation of verge treatments such as brick and concrete paving. Synthetic turf is explicitly prohibited as a verge treatment. Unapproved treatments are liable to compliance and will result in a direction to remove the unauthorised verge treatment.

The City will not be responsible for public utility service providers reinstatement of verge gardens, lawn or paving affected by routine maintenance or construction projects.

The use of the verge for constructed or residential and visitor car parking bays associated with development applications within the Canning Bridge Activity Centre Plan area is not supported.

STREET TREES

General

The following activities are prohibited without the prior written approval of the City:

- The killing or destruction of a street tree; and/or
- The removal of a street tree; and/or
- The severing of branches, limbs, stems or trunk of a street tree; and/or
- The ringbarking, topping or lopping of a street tree; and/or
- Any other substantial damage to a street tree.

Criteria for Street Tree Removal

Removal of a street tree will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that the street tree is:

- Dead or Dying: The street tree is dead or dying with no potential to recover.
- Diseased: The street tree is diseased and unlikely to respond to treatment.
- Public Safety and/or Liability Risk: The street tree poses a significant, demonstrable risk to public safety or property, and the risk cannot be mitigated through pruning or other management strategies.
- Declared Noxious Weed: The street tree is a species declared as a noxious weed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development or required to be removed under a Quarantine Area Notice.
- Value: The street tree has been assessed by the City to be of no ecological, amenity or community value.
- Strategy Removal: The street tree is being removed as part of a broader strategic plan to enhance the urban canopy or align with landscape design objectives.
- Development Compliance: The applicant has demonstrated compliance with the relevant design principles of the Residential Design Codes or planning framework and obtained development approval, where all other design options have been exhausted.

It is noted that street trees may be removed by public authorities as part of works within the road reserve in accordance with the *Public Works Act 1902* or where authorised by another Act.

Policy Number:	P210	Relevant Council Delegation:	N/A
Council Adoption:	25/03/08	Relevant Delegation:	N/A
Reviewed	10/05, 03/08, 02/11, 03/12, 03/13, 03/14, 03/15, 03/16, 11/16, 12/17, 03/19, 03/20, 09/22, 12/24, 01/25	Relevant Management Practice:	N/A
Modified	04/25		

The City may require additional information in support of a request to remove a street tree, including but not limited to:

- A Quantitative Tree Risk Assessment and/or Arborist Report prepared by a suitably qualified consultant at the expense of the applicant.
- Development plans.
- Justification against the relevant design principles of the Residential Design Codes (where applicable).
- Photographic documentation.
- Other technical expert opinions as determined by the City.

Street Tree Removal and Replacement and Maintenance Costs

Where removal of a street tree has been approved by the City, the City may require payment of fees prior to removal of the street tree associated with removal, replacement and maintenance costs, including:

- Administration: Assessment of application and management of contractors.
- Tree Removal: Physical removal of tree, stump grinding and log disposal.
- Replacement: Cost of the new tree, contractors cost to install the tree and supporting infrastructure such as stakes, rubber ties, tree well and fertiliser.
- Maintenance: Weekly watering (September – May) for two (2) years, fertilising, re-staking, formative pruning and removal of supporting infrastructure at the end of the maintenance period. The frequency and start/ end of the maintenance period are subject to annual rainfall experienced in the City.
- Traffic Management: Costs associated with traffic management and any required road closures where required.

Amenity Valuations

Where removal of a street tree has been approved by the City, the City will require payment of the amenity valuation fee of the tree prior to removal of the street tree in accordance with the Amenity Valuation of Trees and Woodlands (Helliwell) Method:

TREE VALUE (\$) = TREE SIZE x LIFE EXPECTANCY x IMPORTANCE IN THE LANDSCAPE x PRESENCE OF OTHER TREES x RELATION TO SETTING x FORM x SPECIAL FACTORS x \$ ASSIGNED MONETARY VALUE PER POINT.

This fee is in addition to the costs associated with Street Tree Removal and Replacement and Maintenance Costs.

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Modified	04/25		

The City shall establish and maintain a Reserve Account under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1995*, Section 6.11 for money collected, with the reserve account being operated in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996. Money collected will be used for street tree and vegetation planting and maintenance throughout the district.

Legislation / Local Law Requirements

Local Government Act 1995

Planning and Development Act 2005

Public Places and Local Government Property Local Law 2011

Other Relevant Policies / Key Documents

City of South Perth Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031

P206 Urban Forest

Urban Forest Strategy 2018-2023

City of South Perth Green Plan

Street Verge Landscape Guidelines

Road Reserve Access Bonds