



**POLICY NO. CP 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**

Street trees are an integral part of urban streetscapes contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community. The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Encourage, promote and extend the planting of appropriate trees throughout the City;
- Guide the planning, planting, management, maintenance and removal of street trees
- Identify planning, management and maintenance responsibilities within the organisation.

**3.      POLICY PROVISIONS**

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. The species of tree provided will be the same or similar to those already existing in the street. Where possible, preference will be given to tree species native to Western Australia. If there is not a dominant tree species, a tree from the Suggested Tree Planting List, located on the City’s website, will be selected based on its suitability to the site.

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 the tree remains healthy, has appropriate sightline clearances for pedestrians and vehicles, and fulfils the legislated clearance requirements regarding overhead power supply. Specifically, the City is responsible for the following.

- Removal of hazardous trees;



- Selective pruning and weight reduction of limbs to protect the remainder of the tree;
- Maintenance pruning to remove dead, diseased, dying, defective branches to protect the remainder of the tree;
- Selective pruning to remove branches causing conflict e.g. building encroachment;
- Root pruning of trees to ameliorate damage to built and natural structures;
- Pruning for service lines excluding electrical service lines;
- Crown lifting for pedestrian or vehicular access;
- Pruning for vehicle sight lines, signage, and *Road Traffic Act 1974* requirements;
- Removal of trees in conflict with utilities and built structures where all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered; or
- Minimum work to make trees safe. In fauna habitat trees, the City will remove the minimum amount that the City needs to make it safe.

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, 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 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**

<b>Statutory Compliance</b>	Nil.
<b>Industry Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Planning Policy 3.1 - Residential Design Codes</li> <li>• Western Australian Planning Commission Liveable Neighbourhoods Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Organisational Compliance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2012</li> <li>• Local Planning Policy 4.7 Planning and Development of Public Open Space and Streetscapes</li> <li>• Protection of trees identified by the City of Gosnells Heritage Inventory 2016</li> </ul>
<b>Process Links</b>	Nil.

**POLICY ADMINISTRATION**

<b>Directorate</b>		<b>Officer Title</b>		<b>Contact:</b>	
Infrastructure		Manager Environmental Services		9492 0130	
<b>Risk Rating</b>	Low	<b>Review Cycle</b>	Biennial	<b>Next Due:</b>	2021
<b>Version</b>	<b>Decision Reference</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>			
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			