

Tree Management Policy (Revision 1)

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
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I	Document Revision History
Previous Policies	Murrumbidgee Shire Council
	A.301 Urban Tree Removal
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	Murrumbidgee Shire Council
	A.302 Urban Tree Planting
	Jerilderie Shire Council
	2.02 Naturestrip, Footpath and Street Trees Policy
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	Jerilderie Shire Council
	2.11 Tree Removal & Replacement Policy
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1. Purpose

This policy defines how Murrumbidgee Council will manage trees in the Local Government Area, and will assist residents, property owners, authorities, Council officers, contractors, developers, and those working with the Council to understand the requirements for the management of street and reserve trees.

Street and reserve trees contribute to the appearance of the area through their aesthetic value, by providing identity and character. In addition, trees contribute to improving urban environments by absorbing heat, providing shade, reducing solar radiation, providing habitat, utilising stormwater run-off, and assisting in air purification.

The purpose of this policy is to formalise Council's management of trees including:

- Tree selection and planting
- Risk assessment
- Maintenance and tree removal
- Preservation

Murrumbidgee Council LGA encompasses an area of 6500 square kilometres. Operated or controlled land is exposed to varying degrees of risk associated with the hazards which exist on the land - both natural hazards and hazards related to developed facilities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all trees and shrubs that are growing on any property under Council's control, including operational land, community land, nature strips, road reserves, and public reserves. It covers:

- Tree selection and location
- Tree removal
- Maintenance and preservation

3. Legislation

- Australian Standard "Pruning of Amenity Trees" AS4373 2007
- NSW Roads Act 1993
- Local Government Act 1993 No 30

3.1 Essential Energy

Council acknowledge Essential Energy's obligations under the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW) and encourages them to engage with the local community as they enact those powers.

4. Tree Planting

4.1 Residents

Council will advise suitable trees to plant on nature strips, but will also authorise residents to plant trees, provided that:

- a written application is made for such planting, containing an undertaking from the applicant that the trees, once planted, will be watered and otherwise maintained by the applicant;
- the trees will be of a type that is listed in Council's Preferred Species List Appendix 1;

The total number of trees on any section of the nature strip (including existing trees) does not exceed two (2) for each property frontage, except where the Director of Infrastructure may determine that additional trees are warranted, where the property frontage is significantly longer than normal or other unusual circumstances exist.

Residents or land owners may seek approval from the Director of Infrastructure to provide and plant additional trees on nature strips at their own cost, provided that such trees are of a type listed on the Council's Preferred Species List (Appendix 1) and provided that such plantings are located to minimise future problems regarding Council infrastructure, other services and the safety of pedestrians and traffic.

A resident or land owner may be required to remove or relocate any nature strip tree planted without prior approval, if the location or type of tree may cause problems in the future.

4.2 Tree Planting and Maintenance in New Subdivision Developments

Where a developer is required to plant trees as part of the planning permit process for new developments, Council will oversee the planting and establishment.

Approved landscape plans must conform to site assessments and Council's Preferred Species List - Appendix 1.

4.3 Tree Planting - Council

To ensure the long-term success of tree planting, a detailed analysis of site conditions and design constraints is required. The objective is to minimise the risk associated with trees, by selecting trees that will have minimal impact on their new environment.

4.4 Existing Trees

A map of tree types within the Council's urban areas will be progressively developed. This will provide a general overview of trees that currently exist on Council's nature strips, within parks and reserves, and surrounding Council-controlled areas.

Council will also progressively build a register of trees under Council control within urban areas. The Tree Register will identify:

- Tree species and common name
- Location
- · Approximate height of the tree

- Approximate width of the tree
- Approximate age of the tree
- Assessment of the vitality of the tree
- Other information include surrounding infrastructure, risk assessment, and recommendations.

As trees are replaced, or new plantings occur, the new tree is added to the Tree Register, and the existing tree is noted as removed (or other relevant comments).

5. Tree Removal

Whilst tree removal is the last resort management option, public safety always takes priority.

Urban tree removal will not be considered in the following instances:

- If there is a safe and practical means for tree retention
- For solar access
- For unjustified property or infrastructure damage claims
- To reduce leaf, fruit, and debris litter
- If the tree provides an important biodiversity function such as high conversation road reserves
- For personal aesthetic preference
- dropping of leaves, twigs, or other litter,
- overshadowing of property,
- obscures or otherwise detracts from advertising signage

Urban tree removal may be considered under the following circumstances:

- All hazardous trees will be removed as soon as practical
- Trees that are unviable, structurally unsound, and high probability of failure
- Trees that are dead, dying, or in severe decline
- A tree with a defect that cannot be rectified
- Trees are proven to be causing damage to infrastructure
- As part of a treescape upgrade or capital works program
- In such a position as to interfere with the construction of a building or a driveway
- Dead or diseased or damaged in such a way as to be unsightly or dangerous
- Causing damage to or interfering with the proper maintenance of buildings, fences, paths, and drains
- Deemed unsuitable for the proposed development of the land, in which case removed trees are to be replaced by suitable varieties as shown on a comprehensive landscape plan submitted for approval
- No tree removal is to take place before the receipt of written approval by the Council's (Director of Infrastructure)

6. Tree Risk Assessments

All trees under Council control located in urban areas will gradually, and as resources permit, undergo a risk assessment and will be included on the Tree Register with follow-up inspections scheduled by the results of the risk assessment. Priority will be given to those trees where:

- · Complaints have been received
- There are obvious declines in tree health
- The tree has been damaged
- The tree or its roots are affecting Council services or infrastructure
- Planned Council works are in the vicinity

When assessing trees, factors used in the analysis include:

- The likelihood of limb or whole tree failure
- The location and the activity occurring at that location where the tree/limb may fail
- The maximum size of the tree or limb identified as having the potential to fail

Recommendations for mitigation works or tree removal are usually made where the risks are high or very high, and there is minimal environmental or historical value in retaining the tree. Where doubt exists, or where further assessment is required, Council will enlist the services of a qualified arborist.

7. Pest and Disease Management

When pest and disease outbreaks compromise the health or increase the risks associated with trees, Council will only intervene where the trees in question have been planted by Council.

In these circumstances the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of available treatments will be assessed and, if justified, the appropriate integrated pest management techniques will be undertaken.

Where affected trees are privately owned, and Council has been made aware, they will advise the owner so that the owner may take the appropriate action.

7.1 Termite Activity

The presence of pests in trees is not always apparent, and this is the case with termite activity. The Council will treat Council planted trees where it has knowledge, or has been advised, of termite activity within those trees.

Due to the nomadic nature of termites, the place of origin of termites cannot be attributed to any particular tree and therefore Council will not be held responsible for any third-party property damage.

8. Road Reserve Trees and Vegetation

Council, as the Road Authority under the Roads Act 1993, has a duty of care to the travelling public to, as far as reasonably practicable, ensure that trees and vegetation in the road reserve do not present a risk to life or property. To fulfil its duty of care, it will be necessary for staff involved in road construction, maintenance, and road inspections to be aware of trees and other vegetation that may present a risk to road users. This will be especially important following high wind or storm events.

As the Road Authority, Council must:

- Maintain and, where necessary, enhance roadside conservation value roadsides
- Increase public awareness of the importance of roadside vegetation
- Encourage community involvement in roadside conservation projects
- Provide management guidelines for roadside vegetation

9. Species List

Appendix 1 - Murrumbidgee Council Preferred Species List

10. Policy Review

This Policy:

- To be reviewed within the first year of the new Council term;
- May be reviewed and amended at any time at Council's discretion (or if legislative or State Government policy changes occur).

APPENDIX 1



Preferred Tree Species List

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with Council's Tree Management Policy, preferred species is defined as the trees that Council would select for planting after considering various factors including environmental, proximity to infrastructure, and ongoing maintenance.

The following procedure outlines how Council assesses trees and their proposed locations to determine the most appropriate species. The Preferred Species List lists possible trees according to their size and includes tree characteristics to assist in determining site suitability.

2.0 Zone Areas

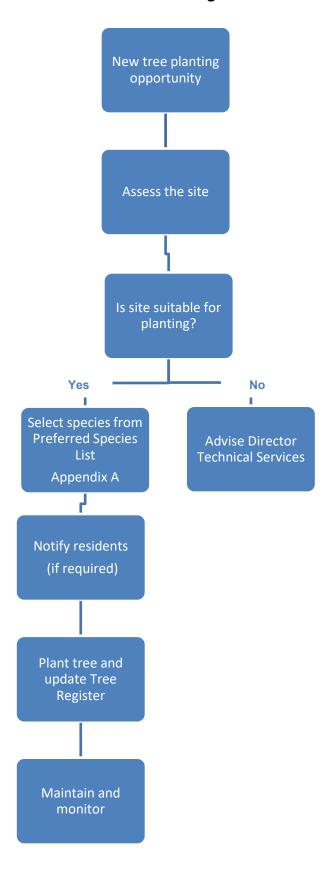
When assessing the site and determining the type of tree to plant, consideration must be given to the following risk zones:

Site Characteristic	Zone A Most constraints (High to Very High Risk)	Zone B Moderate constraints (Medium Risk)	Zone C Fewest constraints (Low Risk)
Electrical and telecommunications	Uninsulated low and high voltage wires;Bushfire prone area	Bundled cables; Insulated cables	No powerlines
Below ground services – typical layouts	Fibre optic cables;High voltage power	Bundled cables;Insulated cables;Water conduits;Sewer conduits	No powerlines;No conduits
Slope	Steep slope	Moderate slope	 Generally flat ground
Paved areas	Paved area;Sealed surfaceBrick pavers	Partially paved areas;Non reinforced concrete	Grassy area
Verge width	• Less than 3.0m	• From 3 to 4m	• 4m or wider
Building set back	• None	• Less than 6m	● 6m or greater
Street lighting	Over pedestrian crossings;Traffic intersections	 Street lighting other than crossings and intersections 	No street lighting
Signage (i.e. traffic signs)	Arterial roads;High density residential streets	Medium density residential streets;Arterial roads in rural zones	 Low density rural/residential streets
Traffic	Large volumes of heavy vehicles	Heavy vehicles in moderate volumes	Residential traffic in low volumes;Cul-de-sacs

Site Characteristic	Zone A Most constraints (High to Very High Risk)	Zone B Moderate constraints (Medium Risk)	Zone C Fewest constraints (Low Risk)
Soils	 Severely compacted; Shallow; Reactive clay; Acid sulphate; Poor drainage 	Moderately compacted;Urban fill;Moderate drainage	Undisturbed soil;Deep profile;Medium texture;Good natural drainage
Water table	• High	Moderate depth	Deep water table

Identify the zone and the constraints that exist at the identified site, and then select a tree from the Preferred Species List, that is suitable to that Zone, climatic conditions, wildlife habitat, landscaping principles, and aesthetic value. For example if you have identified an area for tree planting where fibre optic cables are present, you would not be planting trees that have been identified in the Preferred Species List that have extensive root systems.

2.1 New Tree Assessment Flow Diagram



3.0 Preferred Species List

SMALL TREES - LESS T	HAN 10M														
Image	Botanical	Common	Deciduous/				Site	Suitability							
	Name	Name	Evergreen	Zone	Nature Strip						ure Strip		Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant
				(A,B,C)	Suitability	Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Powerlines	CONTOCCO			Tolorant			
	Eucalyptus eximia "Nana"	Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood	Е		Yes	8m	6m	Yes	No - >6m	Moderate	Moderate				
	Notes: Spring fl Tolerates a wide	owering. e range of soils.													
	Lagerstreomia indica	Crepe Myrtle	D		Yes	6 - 8m	5 – 6m	Yes	Yes but >4.0m	High	High				
	Notes: Tree can range of soils an sun.														
	Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistachio	D		Yes	10m	10m	Yes	Yes but >3.5m	High	High				
Y	Notes: Adapts textures.	o most soil													

Image	Botanical	Common	Deciduous/	Site Suitability									
	Name	Name	Evergreen	Zone	Nat	ure Strip		Under	Underground	Drought	Frost		
				(A,B,C)	Suitability	Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width		Services	Tolerant	Tolerant		
	Melaleuca incana	Grey Honey Wattle	E		Yes	3m	2m	Yes	Yes	High	High		
	Notes: Small wee with bottlebrush ty Tolerant of droug well drained soils positions.	/pe flowers. ht and prefers											
	Callistemon citrinus	Crimson bottlebrush	E		Yes	3m	2m	Yes	Yes but >2.0m	Moderate	Moderate		
	Notes: Very hard minimal mainten- red flowers	dy plants requiring ance with bright											

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/ Evergreen					Site Suitabil			
			Evergreen	Zone (A,B,C)			Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought	Frost	
					Suitability	Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Powerlines	Services	Tolerant	Tolerant
	Eucalyptus eximia	Yellow Bloodwood	E		Yes	10 - 12m	4 – 6m	No	No	High	Low – particularly when young
	Note: Spring flower growing. Able to su gravelly or sandy so	cceed on poor,									
	Hymenosporum flavum	Native Frangipani	E		Yes	6 – 10m	4 – 6m	No	Yes but >4.0m	Moderate	Moderate
	Notes: Adaptable s a range of soil cond										
	Jacaranda mimosaefolia	Jacaranda	D		Yes	15m	10m	No	No – extensive root system	Moderate	Low
AN ALLEY	Notes: Prefers rich soils. Needs protec when young. Suital streetscapes.	tion from frost							>6.0m		
adh.	Nyssa sylvatica	Tupelo	D		Not suitabl near footpaths		6m	Yes	No - >6m	Low	Moderate
	Notes: Slow growing tolerance of wet so										

MEDIUM TREES - 10 - 2	0 METRES IN HEIO	SHT									
Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/					Site Suitabil	ity		
			Evergreen	Zone (A,B,C)	Nature Strip)		Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant
	Pyrus spp	Ornamental Pear (varieties)	D		Yes	10m	10m	Yes – but need to assess all varieties	Yes but >6.0m	Moderate	High
	Notes: Moderate waterlogged sites.										
	Ulmus parvifolia	Chinese Elm	D		Yes	0m	1m	No	Yes but >6.0m	Moderate	High
9	Notes: Adaptable tree capable of growing well in a wide variety of sites. Performs best in well drained soils, but will tolerate compacted conditions.										
	Gleditisa triacanthos	Honey locust	D		Yes	- 15m	10m	Yes	No > 10m	Moderate	High
L. Samuel	Notes: Hardy, ver easy to grow. Tole range of soil cond	erant of a wide									
	Acer x freemanii '	Jeffersred' Autumn Blaze Maple	D		Yes	13	10	No	No	Moderate	Low
	Notes: Well structree. Suitable to camenity areas are street and park pl	ar parks, ound buildings,									

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/					Site Suitabilit			
			Evergreen	Zone		Nature	•	Under	Underground	Drought	Frost
				(A,B,C)	Suitability	Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Powerlines	Services	Tolerant	Tolerant
and the same of th	Melaleuca lanceolata	Moonah	Е		Yes	7m	5m	Yes	No	Moderate	Moderate
	Notes: Good for u and parks. Can be windbreak or for sl maintenance and f	used as a nade. Low									
	Rotes: Very good shelter tree but ver		Е		Yes	9m	8m	Yes	No	High	Moderate
	Acmena smithii Notes: Suitable fo fruit attracts birds a wildlife. Tree can a into a hedge.	and other	Е		Yes but need to keep in mind that this tree bears fruit	5m	5m	No	No >20m	Low	High
	Pittosporum phylliraeoides Notes: Slow growi suitable for parks a		Е		No	6m	- 4m	Yes	>6.0m	Moderate	High

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/					Site Suitabili	ty		
			Evergreen	Zone	N	ature Strip		Under	Underground	Drought	Frost
				(A,B,C)	Suitability	Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Powerlines	Services	Tolerant	Tolerant
	Corimbia ficifolia	Red-flowering gum	E		Yes	10m	5m	Yes	No	Moderate	Low
	Notes: Hardy and and rarely requires does not like water	pruning –									

Image	Botanical Name	Common	Deciduous/					Site Suitabili	ty	I Downstate	T = 4
		Name	Evergreen	Zone (A,B,C)	Suitability	lature Strip Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant
	Callitris glauca	White Cypress Pine	E		Not for pedestrian areas – seed cones	0 – 0m	- 6m	No	Yes but >3.5m – has the potential for an invasive root system	High	High
	Notes: Prefers we sandy soils and hat tolerance								,		
A STATE	Eucalyptus albens	White Box	E		No	18 – 25m	12 – 15m	No	No - >20m	Moderate	Moderate
	Notes: Will grow in soils but uses a lar ground water. A vertical for erosion control spreading roots.	rge amount of ery useful tree									
	Eucalyptus citriodora Notes: Must be prostages to remolimbs and to progrowth to avoid lim	ve wayward mote vertical	E		No	15 -30m	10-25m	No	No	Moderate	Moderate
	Eucalyptus leucoxylon ssp. Pruinosa	Yellow Gum	E		No	15-25m	5-10m	No	No >6m	High	High
	Notes: This tree h different forms and moderately fast greexcellent shade, sl erosion control.	l varieties – owing and									

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/		Site Suitability						
			Evergreen	Zone (A,B,C)	Suitability	Vature Strip Ultimate Height	Ultimate Width	Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant
	Eucalyptus maculata	Spotted gum	E		No	35m	10m	No	No	Moderate	Low
	Notes: Fast growth require some forma address limb failure trees.	ative pruning to									
	Eucalyptus melliodora	Yellow Box	E		No	20 – 30m	8 – 10m	No	No	High	High
	Notes: Fast growing tree not suitable to shady areas or small compact areas. Does not tolerate water-logging.										
	Eucalyptus microcarpa Notes: Suitable for is a good shade tre as an upper canop windbreak planting	ee and is useful y tree in	E		No	25m	8 – 10m	No	No	High	High
	Eucalyptus sideroxylon Notes: Black bar white, pink or red to	flowers – good	E		Yes	10 – 25m	Up to 15m	No	No	High	Moderate

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Site Suitability								
				Zone (A,B,C)	Suitability	Nature S Ultimate Height	trip Ultimate Width	Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant	
	Grevilliea robusta	Silky Oak	E		No		5 – 14m	No	No >20m	High	Modera	
	Notes: Fast growin golden orange bott flowers											
	Acacia salicina	Willow wattle	E		Yes	5 – 12m	10m	Yes	No - <4.0m	Moderate	Modera	
	Notes: Fast growin for erosion control.	ng tree suitable										
	Acacia pendula	Weeping Myall or Boree	E		Yes	6 – 12m	4 – 6m	No	No - <4.0m	High	High	
	tolerate drought an	es: Hardy tree which can ate drought and occasional ling. Slow to moderate th rate.										
A Page	Melaleuca stypheliodes	Prickly- leaved Paperbark	E		Yes	8 – 10m	6 – 8m	No	No - <4.0m	Moderate	Modera	
N.	Notes: Hardy native prickly foliage and flowers during spring	profuse										

Image	Botanical Name	Common Name	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Site Suitability								
				Zone (A,B,C)	Suitability	Nature S Ultimate Height	trip Ultimate Width	Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant	
	Melaleuca armilaris	Bracelet honey myrtle	E		Yes	8m	7m	Yes	No - <3.5m	High	Low	
	Notes: Fast growing and adaptable to most soils. Pruning required to keep it healthy.											
	Casuarina cunninhamiana Notes: Slow grow a windbr	River She-Oak ing tree. Use as eak.	E		Yes	15 – 35m	6m	No	No	High	Low	
	Metrosideros excela Notes: Can survi soil types with un system. Has beel invasive roots.	usual root	E		Yes	12 – 25m	9 – 12m	No	No - > 6m	Moderate	Low	

Image	Botanical Name	Common	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Site Suitability								
		Name		Zone (A,B,C)		Nature S	trip	Under Powerlines	Underground Services	Drought Tolerant	Frost Tolerant	
	Platanus orientalis 'Digitata' Notes: Will tolerate Not prone to insect obvious damage to have good tolerand can handle root dis	s that cause foliage. Seen to e of pruning and	D		No – has prickly fruit and root systems can lift and damage footpaths and kerbing	25 – 30m	20m	No	No >10m	Moderate	High	