



W 5.5 Street Tree Policy

POLICY	As per attachment W 5.5. This policy only applies to townsites within the Shire of Northam.
OBJECTIVES	To ensure appropriate management of road reserves with regard to the planting and removal, where necessary, of verge trees with the Shire Street Tree Management Plan & Guidelines.
GUIDELINES	As attached to Policy W 5.5
HISTORY	Adopted: 15/12/2010
REVIEW	Executive Manager, Engineering Services



ATTACHMENT W 5.5 STREET TREE POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Northam recognises the significant contribution that street trees make to providing a high quality public realm where people are encouraged to partake in a wide range of activities, meet others and to linger in comfortable surroundings.

This policy is intended to cover the provision of street trees in the Shire of Northam including major parks and gardens.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To “green” the towns within the Shire of Northam by the extensive provision of street trees that are pleasing in appearance and provide extensive shade for the comfort of citizens.
- 2.2 To add value to the public and private realms by reinforcing the character of the Shire as a desirable place to live or visit.

3. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 3.1 The Shire of Northam values the contribution of trees to achieving a high quality urban environment and will seek to plant all streets with trees whenever there is an opportunity to do so within the urban design outcomes for the area. Such plantings will complement any heritage building façade.
- 3.2 Trees will be selected for individual streets that support the urban design role of each street in the Shire’s activities.
- 3.3 A diverse range of tree species will be used to reinforce street identity, attract a variety of native bird life to the towns, create visual interest and enhance the amenity of the public realm.



- 3.4** Trees will be planted to form green corridors linking the park lands and major public and civic places.
- 3.5** Historic trees and avenues will be preserved and replaced in recognition of their cultural significance to each town. Adjacent future plantings will be placed to preserve the integrity of these trees and avenues.
- 3.6** All street trees will be managed to maintain them in a healthy state and minimize any adverse impacts of the trees on the public realm.
- 3.7** While exotic deciduous trees will be used in some locations, every attempt will be made to use native trees to reflect and support the growing diverse nature of the Shire's community.
- 3.8** While trees will always be selected that have minimal impact on services such as electricity and water, the Shire of Northam strongly encourages service utilities to minimize the impact of their operations on the street trees of the Shire.

4. PLANTING OF STREET TREES

Trees are an integral part of the fabric of the urban and country environment. Their contribution is both physical and psychological. The Shire of Northam is committed to promoting and maintaining its tree planting/streetscape program.

4.1 Responsibility

The Shire of Northam is responsible for the planting of all trees within reserves under its control, care and management, including road reserve tree plantings, revegetation of denuded sites and various community tree planting projects.



4.2 Type

In the interests of vehicular and pedestrian safety, as well as keeping services clear, street trees on verges shall be of a specific species, planted with a particular alignment.

Trees shall be of a particular variety/species as outlined in the Shire of Northam's "Street Tree Management Plan" and designated tree list.

5. REMOVAL OF STREET TREES

5.1 Natural grown, or Shire planted trees can be removed with the Chief Executive Officer's permission when:

- they are likely to cause damage to public or private property;
- when they constitute a threat to personal safety, trees that are diseased, decaying, infested or dead, or are a traffic hazard; or
- when in appropriate instances, they need to be removed for road widening or because they interfere with sewerage or underground services or Western Power supply lines.

Responsibility for cost of removal in such instances to rest with the Council.

5.2 Private planting, without Council approval, to be removed:

- for reasons described in 5.1 above, or where they are obstructing a proposal entranceway, and no other means of access is available; or
- the tree/s do not conform to the list of approved street trees.

In such circumstances, the responsibility for cost of removal to be that of present owner of property if it can be established that the person was responsible for planting the tree. Where proof of planting cannot be established, Council meet the cost if the criteria for removal is satisfied.



5.3 Trees on common boundaries of roads and private properties:

- Cost of removal to be borne by Council where the tree/s are within the definition and satisfy the criteria set out in 5.1 above.
- Cost of removal, or agreed proportion thereof, to be met by applicant in all other circumstances.



PLANNING

(see also Town Planning Scheme No. 3 & 5)