POLICY 14.01
Other Purpose
Township Street Trees
Version: 3 | Next Review: August 2030

DISTRICT COUNCIL of TUMBY BAY

1. INTRODUCTION

The District Council of Tumby Bay (the Council) recognises the important environmental, social and economic value of trees within townships. Street and park trees contribute to local amenity, biodiversity, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

Council is committed to the establishment, retention and proactive management of trees, with removal considered only as a last resort where justified and supported by sound assessment.

This Policy establishes Council's commitment to an ongoing tree planting program, as well as a transparent and consistent framework for assessing and determining requests for the removal of trees located on land owned and under the care and control of the Council within township areas.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- support Council's urban greening and sustainability goals,
- ensure trees are retained wherever reasonably practicable,
- provide a consistent, transparent and accountable decision-making process,
- balance risk management, infrastructure protection and amenity outcomes,
- ensure compliance with relevant legislation and planning requirements, and
- encourage appropriate species selection and planting practices.

This Policy applies to trees located on Council-owned or controlled land, including road verges (public roads), footpaths, parks, reserves and public open space. It applies to all requests for tree removal initiated by members of the public, Council staff, government agencies and utility providers.

This Policy does not override any statutory approval processes required under State legislation.

3. LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

This Policy is made in accordance with the following legislation:

4.1 *Local Government Act 1999* (section 245) sets out the Council's liability and responsibilities regarding trees in roads.

4.2 *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* governs removal of regulated and significant trees.

4.3 *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017* (as amended) defines regulated and significant trees and approval pathways.

4.4 *Native Vegetation Act 1991* applies to clearance of native vegetation in certain areas.

Where a tree is classified as a regulated or significant tree, development approval may be required prior to removal.

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4. PLANTING OF TREES

As part of Council's strategic plan action to continue streetscape and tree planting works, a staged implementation of a township greening strategy will occur in line with adopted budgets.

Road verges are public land that is owned and managed by the Council. Where it has been identified that a street tree is to be planted as part of the budgeted program, no option is available to opt-out of the planting.

The selection and management of trees for planting will have regard to local environmental conditions, safety, services and infrastructure and compatibility with existing plantings. street tree plantings will be designed to enhance the character and amenity of the streetscape and township environment. Species used must be approved by the General Manager Works & Infrastructure.

Local consultation in accordance with the Council community engagement policy may be required prior to the planting of a street tree where the tree may cause significant impact to a businesses or residents. Significant impacts may include materially impacting access, visibility or operation of adjoining businesses, or impacting on footpath or residential driveway accessibility.

5. MAINTENANCE OF TREES

Council undertakes routine maintenance on trees as part of the annual Works Maintenance program. Requests for trimming or pruning of trees can be lodged in writing to Council marked to the attention of the General Manager Works & Infrastructure. All requests shall be assessed and prioritised for action as part of Council's general maintenance program.

6. REQUESTS FOR REMOVAL OF TREES

Applications from members of the public for the removal of trees from Council road verges, parks or reserves must be made in writing, clearly stating the reason the applicant seeks removal of the tree and including any supporting documentation.

The application will be assessed by Council staff and will take into consideration the health, condition, structural integrity, level of risk and management options for the tree. Council staff may engage the services of a tree specialist or arborist in the assessment of risk associated with larger trees or in more complex situations.

The Council will not remove trees for the reason that:

- the tree obscures views;
- a resident dislikes the species planted or growth habitat;
- leaf, fruit or bark shedding is considered a nuisance;
- allergies or health problems are being experienced (without a medical report);
- the tree is in the way of a second, non-essential driveway crossover, or a proposed primary driveway crossover that can be reasonably relocated;
- a tree is shading any part of a private property, including solar hot water / power installation; and/or
- the tree is believed to "foul" a resident's rainwater collection system

The removal of a tree may be considered where the tree is:

- In poor condition or structurally unsound as a result of age, disease or storm damage and is considered to present an unacceptable risk of failure;
- having a severe detrimental impact on the verge, adjacent gardens, structures, effluent pipes, road pavements and footpaths or other authorities' services and where other remedial works (e.g. root pruning, canopy pruning) are not appropriate or possible;
- an unsuitable species either planted inappropriately or self-sown, and which can be reasonably expected to cause severe future problems.
- required to be removed to facilitate a project approved by the Council

Where the removal of a tree is likely to be of considerable significance, for example, having severe visual impact or is likely to be controversial, as assessed by the relevant staff members, then the matter may be referred to Council to resolve.

The removal of trees on Council property is to be carried out only by Council staff or contractors engaged by Council staff. Permission will not be given for residents, ratepayers, developers or their contractors to carry out the removal of any vegetation on Council property.

7. DELEGATION

Delegated authority is hereby delegated to the following officers to approve the processes for planting or removal of township trees:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- General Manager Works and Infrastructure
- General Manager Environmental Services

8. SUB DELEGATION

Delegation made to a specific position (including Chief Executive Officer) extends to any person appointed to act in the position. In the absence of the Chief Executive Officer, delegation extends to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

9. POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed at least once every four (4) years, or earlier if required due to legislative or operational changes. The Council has the right to review this policy at any time, if considered desirable.

10. AVAILABILITY OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at the Council's Office during ordinary business hours and via the Council's website, www.tumbybay.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to the public upon request and upon payment of a fee in accordance with the Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

11. FURTHER INFORMATION

File reference	R26/10751
Responsibility	General Manager Works & Infrastructure
Version	3
Effective date	11/08/2026
Last revised date	10/11/2015
Minutes reference	8c/82026
Next review date	August 2030
Applicable Legislation	*Local Government Act 1999* *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* *Planning, Development and Infrastructure (General) Regulations 2017* *Native Vegetation Act 1991*
Related Policies	Council's Local Government Land By-law 2025
Related Procedures	Street Tree Removal Request Form

AUTHORITY:

Adopted by Council:	10/10/2011	{Motion 19c/102011}
Reviewed by Council	10/11/2015	{Motion 7c/112015}
Adopted by Council:	11/08/2026	{Motion 8c/82026}

SIGNED: 

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Responsible Officer

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