POLICY 14.01

Other Purpose

Township Tree Removals

Version: 2 | Next Review: Following Next Council Election

DISTRICT COUNCIL of TUMBY BAY

POLICY STATEMENT

The District Council of Tumby Bay recognises the importance of street and park trees in maintaining an attractive urban environment and encouraging the health and wellbeing of residents. Trees in public areas encourage use of open space, support biodiversity in the environment and assist in improving air quality, managing urban heat islands and reducing rainfall runoff.

It is also recognised that trees in poor condition or planted inappropriately can create unacceptable public risk and impact on community and private infrastructure, and that there are occasions when it is necessary for street and park trees to be removed.

The general principle of this policy is that street and park trees should be retained wherever reasonably possible. Pruning of trees (including root pruning) should always be considered in preference to removal of whole trees where possible.

POLICY DETAIL

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(s) is/are:

- 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 will be referred directly 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.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed following Council Election (4yearly).

Strategic Link: Quality Services and Infrastructure

Delegation: Delegated authority is hereby delegated to any group of three of the following Senior Officers to execute the procedures for street tree removal:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- Manager Works and Infrastructure
- Manager Environmental Services
- Works Supervisor
- Team Leader, Parks & Gardens

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.

Documentation: Street Tree Removal Schedule

Authority:	Adopted by Council:	10/10/2011	{Motion 19c/102011}
	Reviewed by Council:	10/11/2015	{Motion 7c/112015}
	Amended by Council:	12/05/2020	{Motion 3c/52020}

SIGNED:

Responsible Officer

Date: 27/05/2020