

Policy Name	Tree Management
Policy Number	CA08
Responsible Section	Parks and Gardens
Responsible Department	City Assets
Date Last Adopted	December 2020
Date of Next Review	December 2023
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Planning Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 Development Regulations 2008 Australian Standards Native Vegetation Act 1991 Landscape South Australia Act 2019 Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Road Traffic Act 1961
Related Governance Documents	Biodiversity Management Plan 2020 Living Environment Strategy 2022 AdaptWest Regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016 Open Space Strategy 2020 Greater Metropolitan Adelaide 30 Year Plan Council Policy TS13 - Private Planting of Verges City of Port Adelaide Enfield Fees and Charges
City Plan Theme	Environment and Heritage

1. PURPOSE/OBJECTIVE

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield has one of the lowest tree canopy covers in metropolitan Adelaide. The tree canopy mapping undertaken by Council in 2019 identified that tree canopy currently covers 14.8% of the total land area in the city. Identified declines in canopy since 2009 have occurred on private land due to urban development, with an associated increase in impervious areas and loss of private open space. This trend increases the importance of tree planting on public land that Council owns (streets, reserves and parks).

This policy guides Council's decision making to ensure that *'green streets are a dominant feature of our urban landscapes, and our tree canopy on private and public land is healthy, connected and expanding. Our green and conservation areas create habits for wildlife and our biodiversity is improving'* (City Plan 2030)

This policy outlines activities associated with tree management, including street tree and reserve plantings and the retention and increase of tree canopy coverage. The policy aligns with relevant legislation, the 30 Year Plan for Greater Adelaide and the greening our city and urban forest aspirations contained in the City Plan 2030, Living Environment Strategy 2022, AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2016 and Open Space Strategy 2020.

2. SCOPE

This policy shall apply to the planting and removal of trees on Council land and formalises Council's role in advocating for, encouraging and supporting the planting and maintenance of trees by other landholders in the city.

EXCLUSIONS

This policy does not cover tree management activities undertaken by other service providers e.g. Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure, SA Power Networks or SA Water.

3. POLICY

Council recognises that trees are a natural asset and as green infrastructure are an important element in the streetscape, landscape and built environment.

Council recognises that trees provide the following environmental, economic, social and cultural value:

- Contribute to the amenity and aesthetics of an area and to the well-being of its residents and visitors;
- Contribute to an identity of place and the character of an area
- Contribute to the heritage, history of an area and can be culturally significant
- Create green streets and corridors that can connect the city's open space network
- Create streetscapes that are conducive and support active transport (walking and cycling).
- Provide an important biodiversity function (for plants and wildlife)
- Improve local climates by providing a cooling function that mitigates the impacts of urban heat (e.g. shade and reduced heat loading)
- Contribute to carbon sequestration and help reduce the impact of greenhouse gas emissions
- Assist in improving air quality.
- Improve soil characteristics that support the growth of other vegetation.

Council recognises that trees should be accommodated within the infrastructure constraints in public streets, reserves and on private property.

Council recognises it has an important role to play in advocating for and supporting tree planting by other landholders and supporting community efforts in tree planting and urban greening.

3.1 Key principles:

- To ensure a planned, coordinated, proactive and risk management approach to tree management
- To value the social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits of trees.
- To prioritise tree planting in areas that are subject to: increased urban density; have relatively high urban heat exposure and levels of social vulnerability; are key pedestrian/active transport routes; and have relatively low canopy coverage.
- To take an evidence based approach in the delivery of this policy including the appropriate use of heat mapping, canopy mapping and tree selection criteria that ensure the tree canopy is resilient to climate change and provides multiple benefits
- To improve the aesthetics and amenity of the urban environment consistent with environmental and infrastructure constraints in public streets, reserves and on private property
- To mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- To incorporate trees planting and water sensitive urban design into new streetscapes and streetscapes upgrades and renewal, where practical.
- To improve urban biodiversity through the planting of trees indigenous to the areas or native trees which are suited to local conditions.
- To maintain and protect trees of cultural significance.
- To ensure the protection, preservation and maintenance of established, historic, regulated and significant trees.
- To advocate to other spheres of government for the adoption of policies, procedures and legislation to maintain and increase the urban tree canopy.
- To encourage and support community involvement in the planting and healthy growth of trees on public and private land.

3.2 Management, Monitoring and Evaluation

Council will set tree canopy and/or greening targets based on sound evidence to improve urban greening and the quality of the public realm, improve biodiversity and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The planting and removal of street trees and reserve trees will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Street Trees and Reserve Planting Program and the appropriate risk management framework to ensure risk and liabilities to council are minimised.

Council will allocate funding for the Street Tree and Reserve Planting Program on an annual basis to allow for the maintenance and growth of the tree canopy on Council land.

Council will permit the removal of street and reserve trees where they are diseased (after assessments by appropriately qualified arborists when necessary and when the disease cannot be remedied) or hazardous to the community and/or infrastructure or where they have reached the end of their useful life.

Council will not permit the removal of existing street and reserve trees due to:

- Nuisance reasons including but not limited to leaf, bark, flower or fruit litter.
- Shading of roof top solar panels.
- Aesthetic reasons, including interruption of views.

Where a street tree is requested to be removed as a necessity to allow new development, the proponent of the request is required to bear the costs for the removal of the tree and the cost of two new replacement trees in line with Councils Schedule of Fees & Charges.

Where a stand of trees has significant aesthetic value in retaining the street or reserve architecture and there are proposals for its removal, the proposal shall be referred to Council for consideration with the results of the consultation of those affected.

Council will advocate for the adequate provision of space for street trees in urban infill development.

Council will encourage the retention, protection, planting and maintenance of trees on private property through education and advice.

Council will encourage and support community involvement in and community led approaches to planting of trees on public land in the City of Port Adelaide Enfield.

Council will partner with others to improve community awareness of the value of trees on public and private property.

Council's tree planting, removal and management activities and procedures are in accordance with the:

- *Australian Standard 4373-2007 Pruning of Amenity Trees*
- *Australian Standards 4970-2009 / Amended 1-2010 – Protection of Trees on Development Sites*
- *Section 68 of the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (establishes legislative requirements in relation to the management of significant and regulated trees).*
- *The Development Act 1993 Section 26 (9) Regulated Trees Development Plan Amendment*
- *Sections 232 and 245 of the Local Government Act 1999*
- and other relevant legislation.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Manager Parks and Gardens is responsible for the oversight and review of this policy.

5. DEFINITIONS

Nil