



URBAN TREE POLICY

COUNCIL POLICY	
Effective Date:	21/09/99
Last Review:	18/02/03
Current Review:	October 2013
Adopted by Council:	22/10/2013
Next Review Date:	2016
Responsible Officer	Director, Asset Services

POLICY STATEMENT

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines for the management of Council's urban tree assets throughout municipality including new plantings, removal and replacement.

The management of the urban tree assets will be performed in a structured and co-ordinated way.

The policy is based on the need to achieve a balance between the management of risk the Council is exposed to through the presence of trees in the urban environment, the need to preserve, develop and improve the amenity of our urban areas, and enhance their natural environmental values and benefits.

POLICY APPLICATION

This policy will apply to all urban areas within the Shire of Strathbogie.

POLICY APPLICATIONS

The following are the key principles that define the Strathbogie Shire Council's Urban Tree Policy:

All tree removal, maintenance, management and/or planting must have council's approval prior to the works being undertaken

New trees will be planted in the Shire of Strathbogie to maintain and enhance the canopy cover in a planned and programmed manner.

Trees provide both environmental and aesthetic benefits to the community. Council will consider opportunities to increase the number of trees within the urban areas. Tree Planting Programs, including Precinct and Park plans will be developed to provide the direction to future planting programs.

Excellent tree management practices will be maintained at all times.

These management practices include:

- Planning processes, including risk management considerations
- Compliance with relevant legislation
- Development of tree management systems
- Inspection regimes
- Tree maintenance standards

A diverse range of native and exotic tree species appropriate to the Shire's urban areas will be maintained.

Planting programs will be developed with community and stakeholder consultation. Planting programs will consider a number of factors including, as appropriate; preservation of the historic character of particular areas, strengthening of existing themes and the introduction of more contemporary landscaping.

Tree species will be selected for planting after consideration of a number of factors including:

- Risk management considerations
- Physical management requirements
- Potential for attack by pests or disease
- Suitability and appropriateness for the proposed planting site
- Potential to contribute to the landscape
- Tree behavioural characteristics (including leaf fall volume and propensity to drop limbs)
- Potential effect on existing Council and private assets (including footpaths and fences, kerb and channel, stormwater drainage and road surface)

The urban tree canopy will be maintained with the implementation of a strategic replacement program in accordance with developed tree programs.

Council will consider existing trees when considering applications for new development. Where appropriate, trees will be protected from development and other activities that threaten their health.

The conflicting requirements of trees and infrastructure will be minimised where possible. Council will consider a number of options including; the relocation or reconfiguration of infrastructure and removal of the tree to reduce the need for excessive pruning.

The community will be educated, consulted and informed about major tree management projects, and the need to effectively manage trees.

Historically Significant trees will be managed as far as practical to ensure preservation.

Catchment management principles will be considered in the management of remnant urban bushland.