

Policy

Pruning and Removal of Trees on City Managed Land



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The City's management of trees located on land vested in the City needs to be transparent, consistent with legislative requirements and seen as an example of correct procedures.

Adopted:	28/11/2012 #241
Last reviewed:	24/06/2015 #499
Legal Authority:	Local Government Act Section 2.7 – The Role of Council

Policy:

Council acknowledges the beneficial role that trees and native vegetation provide for the City's environment and community. The City of Kwinana will strive to preserve trees on City managed land that provide a benefit to the community and the environment while taking reasonable steps to manage existing tree assets in a manner that minimises the risk of injury to any person and damage to public or private property. The City has limited resources so must conduct tree removal or pruning in a reactive manner, directing resources to those trees that present a high risk.

Pruning and removal requests

The City will only undertake pruning or removal following assessment of the tree and then the appropriate work determined in accordance with relevant Australian Standards (AS 4373—2007 – Pruning of Amenity Trees).

Tree works the City will carry out

(A qualified Arborist Report is to accompany any report recommending pruning or removal of significant trees.)

- Removal of hazardous trees.
- Selective pruning and weight reduction of limbs to protect the remainder of the tree.
- Maintenance pruning to remove dead, diseased, dying, defective branches to protect the remainder of the tree.
- Selective pruning to remove branches causing conflict, i.e. building encroachment.
- Root pruning of trees to ameliorate damage to built and natural structures.

- Pruning for service lines excluding electrical service lines.
- Crown lifting for pedestrian or vehicular access.
- Pruning for vehicle sight lines, signage, and Road Traffic Act 1974 requirements.
- Removal of trees in conflict with utilities and built structures where all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered.
- Minimum work to make trees safe. In fauna habitat trees, the City will remove the minimum amount that the City needs to make it safe, whilst still retaining habitat value (e.g. leaving a hollow stump for nesting birds).

Tree works the City will not carry out

- Removal of trees not considered to be the responsibility of the City.
- Removal of trees to improve views.
- Removal of trees to improve solar power access.
- Removal of trees due to leaf, fruit or sap drop, bird or bat droppings.
- Removal of trees due to damage to sewer pipes/built structures unless all reasonable engineering alternatives have been considered.
- Removal of healthy and stable trees.
- Pruning of trees contrary to Australian Standards.
- Any pruning work outside what a particular species will tolerate, i.e. some species if pruned by more than 10% can be predisposed to further damage and deterioration.
- Tree work for emotive reasons.
- Removal of trees inhibiting/lawn grass growth.
- Chemical controls unless deemed absolutely necessary, i.e. termite control on nature strips.
- Removal of trees for allergies unless tree can be medically linked to allergy by a specialist and all reasonable health alternatives have been considered.
- Removal of trees found to be causing damage to minor ancillary structures such as footpaths and driveways.
- Requests for topping/height reduction of trees.

Tree works the City might consider on the basis of exceptional circumstance and cost sharing

Upon a written request setting out the exceptional circumstances, and a willingness to contribute a fair portion towards the cost, the City may approve pruning and or removal of trees on City managed land and share the cost with the applicant, where there are warranted circumstances (e.g. serious incapacitation of a homeowner who resides permanently at the effected property causing them to become unable to adequately maintain their property).

Applicants will be required to fund the cost of an approved Arborist to consider the request and provide an opinion on the tree's existing health, whether works can reasonably occur

and any impacts to the health of the tree that might result, in order that the City can completely consider the request.