



Tree Policy 2015

Policy Ref: **TBA**
Date of Adoption: **TBA**
Date of Last Review: **22/06/2015**
Date of Next Review: **21/06/2020**
Responsible Officer: **Tree Planner**

PURPOSE

This policy states the vision and principles by which Wyndham City manages trees; from planning, planting and through their whole life. Trees on land managed by Wyndham City are covered by this policy.

The policy is also intended to influence utility and government authorities, along with community members, on how trees are managed on their land.

Council will encourage appropriate tree retention on freehold land.

BACKGROUND

Urban growth within Wyndham City requires effective planning for future trees to ensure their success.

Climate change, residential growth and house lot sizing affect trees in public open space. To be successful in delivering a beneficial urban tree population, Wyndham City needs a clear understanding of the value of trees, a willingness to have trees in the urban environment and means to protect and enhance the tree coverage across the municipality.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Organisation will manage trees in land Wyndham City is responsible for in accordance with the principles set out within this policy.

The Open Space Department will create strategies and implement plans to meet the principles of this policy.

The Open Space Department will liaise and consult with relevant organisational and community stakeholders with the development and implementation of strategies, plans and procedures.

The Urban Spaces and Civil Works Department will reference this policy in planning and designing urban spaces.

KEY RELATED DOCUMENTS AND LEGISLATION

Electric Line Clearance Regulations
Road Management Act
Wyndham City Plan 2013-2017

Version 1.0

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wyndhamcity

POLICY VISION

Wyndham City will create and sustain a varied tree population that benefits our community and our environment, by valuing each tree as an integral part of a tree network.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

- 1. Planning – Trees require technical planning to ensure the best Whole of Life outcome.**
This will be achieved by:
 - a. reducing conflicts between trees and assets & people
 - b. managing pests and disease
 - c. managing hydrology and soil condition
 - d. planting the 'right tree in the right spot', by accounting for growth patterns & climatic conditions
 - e. providing a diverse tree population

- 2. Protection – All public trees are provided a level of protection.**
This will be achieved by:
 - a. ensuring a level of protection to all public trees;
 - i. by providing them with a financial value
 - ii. via local laws with suitable penalties
 - b. protecting trees identified as a 'tree of significance' (as indicated for Historical, Social, Scientific or Aesthetic purposes) via a robust management system
 - c. protecting the long-term investment in mature trees, noting they are more valuable than juvenile trees

- 3. Management and Maintenance.**
This will be achieved by:
 - a. understanding that risk management is always a primary management factor
 - b. understanding that mitigation of risk does not only result in action to the tree
 - c. pruning in accordance with AS4373 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*
 - d. protection within construction zone will meet, at a minimum, AS4970 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*
 - e. providing trees for planted that meet AS2303 *Tree Stock for Landscape Use*
 - f. reducing future maintenance costs by undertaking formative pruning

- 4. Benefits – Tree canopy is important in supporting a safe and healthy community.**
This will be achieved by:
 - a. mitigating Urban Heat Island Effect
 - b. encouraging exercise and activity in open spaces enhancing liveability and social interaction

- 5. Biodiversity - Trees support biodiversity.**
This will be achieved by:
 - a. on an ecological, species and genetic level
 - b. considering local flora distribution and maturity and protecting as required
 - c. strengthening habitat corridors for indigenous and native wildlife
 - d. valuing remnant trees in our landscape particularly in the context of growth and associated works

6. The Community - Education and Consultation.

This will be achieved by:

- a. tree education and consultation processes will ensure the success of this policy
- b. collaboration with the community on community plantings

7. City Presentation – trees provide visual enhancements to the built form of the city.

This will be achieved by:

- a. maximising canopy covered connections and places across the municipality
- b. providing the foundation of place making
- c. providing neighbourhood character

POLICY RELATIONSHIP MATRIX



