



POLICY – 10.2 – Tree Policy

Relevant Delegation

N/A

Objective

To provide guidance and direction in the management of all the Shire's trees. To develop a Tree Policy for the Town of Menzies to manage and protect vegetation in the Menzies Town Site.

Policy Statement

It is proposed that this policy be developed that will assist administration to understand the importance of vegetation to the Community and to ensure that the direction set by the Council is honoured.

General

All trees are assets of the Shire that contribute to the well-being of the community and to the natural environment. The Shire recognises and values the significance of trees within the townsite for the many social and environmental benefits they provide.

The Shire of Menzies is committed to protecting, maintaining and increasing its tree population whilst meeting its obligation to provide a safe environment for the community. The Shire will actively protect existing trees, promote the planting of trees and reserves the right to plant street trees on Council verges adjacent to properties where no street trees currently exist.

Tree Planting:

In keeping with good horticultural practices, the Shire will undertake a seasonal tree planting program, ordering in advance to ensure good stock availability.

When planting a tree, the Shire will:

- nominate the species;
- consider the mature species size and shape suitability for the site;
- plant a pot size suitable for the site. Where practicable plant tree species endemic to the area when planting adjacent to natural areas;
- choose a location that considers the:
 - o safety for both pedestrian and vehicles, including restriction to sight lines or impact on road safety;
 - o impact on utilities or underground services;
 - o impact on adjacent infrastructure.
- provide post installation care including watering and maintenance until established;
- position the tree in line with any existing street tree alignment and centrally between property boundaries where practicable.

Tree Pruning, Maintenance and/or Removal:

The Shire is responsible for all pruning, maintenance and removal works on all street and park/reserve trees; this includes trees adjacent to developments. All work shall be undertaken by Shire staff under the supervision of the Manager of Works in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer.

Pruning is undertaken by the Shire of Menzies, as deemed necessary to:

- to clear the canopy or branches from interference with overhead services and/or poles;
- remove overhanging branches considered hazardous to traffic, pedestrian, buildings or structures;
- remove low branches considered hazardous to pedestrians or traffic, or impeding statutory signage;
- remove dead, dying, pest infested or diseased branches or abnormal growth;
- define form, structure or framework of the tree, conducting preventative maintenance; and
- be in accordance with AS 4373 Pruning of Amenity Trees, or as specified by the Shire.

At the Shire of Menzies discretion, a tree will be considered for removal in the following circumstances:

- the tree is an unauthorised planting;
- the tree is dead or in decline;
- the tree is irreparably damaged or structurally unsound;
- the tree has been or will be affected by infrastructure works and cannot be retained;
- the tree has been deemed to be a hazard to persons or property, as assessed by the Shire;
- the tree is deemed, by the Shire, to be inappropriate for that location;
- the tree is causing or potentially causing damage to infrastructure;
- if the street tree impedes development on the adjacent lot and all possible design options have been exhausted by the Shire; and
- the Shire President and the Councillors, with agreement from the Chief Executive Officer, agree that the tree is inappropriate.

The Shire shall investigate and respond to all requests for pruning and/or removal of a tree. However, the following do not provide sufficient or justifiable reasons:

- the tree is disliked;
- the tree is considered to be the wrong species, shape or size;
- the tree is perceived to cause health problems;
- the tree is perceived as a safety concern;
- the tree attracts unwanted fauna;
- the tree causes nuisance by producing natural debris like leaf fall, bark, nuts, flower, or fruit etc.;
- the tree obstructs, partially or fully, views (other than vehicular/pedestrian sightlines);
- the tree shades other features like gardens, lawns, vegetable patches, solar panels, solar hot water systems, satellite dishes etc.;
- the tree restricts access, or is an inconvenience, during development or works.

Where a tree is required to be removed by the Shire, a replacement tree will be planted in the next planting season.

Vandalism

The Shire of Menzies encourages the reporting of vandalism towards the Shire's trees and all reports will be investigated and responded to appropriately.

– *End of Policy*

ADOPTED: 30 AUGUST 2018

LAST REVIEWED: 29 JUNE 2023