



TREES ON COUNCIL CONTROLLED LAND PLANTING, REMOVAL & MAINTENANCE POLICY

Adopted Date:	9 July 2008
Policy Number:	GRC 0008
Policy Type:	Strategic
Responsible Officer:	Director Engineering Services
Department:	Engineering Services

Version	Decision Number or CEO Approval	Decision Date	Status / History
1	GRC 0008	9 July 2008	Review July 2009
2	GRC 0008	8 July 2009	Review July 2014
3	OM-034/14	26 February 2014	Review February 2015
4	OM-025/15	25 February 2015	Review February 2017
5	OM-035/17	22 February 2017	Review February 2019
6	OM-193/20	27 October 2020	Review October 2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a consistent and proactive approach for Council to manage trees and shrubs located on Council controlled land, including requests for removal and maintenance.

Council recognises the significant contributions made by trees and shrubs to both the aesthetic and environmental aspects of the natural and built environment. However, there is a need to ensure the impact from trees and shrubs is managed to minimise the possibility of damage or injury occurring.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Council controlled land within the Goondiwindi Regional Council, excluding private property and rural areas.

3. Procedural Guidelines

3.1. Customer Requests

Council will investigate all requests to inspect trees or shrubs on Council controlled land and provide a response within a reasonable timeframe.

It is preferred that Council receive all requests in writing or through Council's Customer Service Offices.

3.2. Council Assessment

A Council Officer will undertake an assessment and prepare a Tree Inspection Report. The assessment will take into consideration the potential risk to person, traffic, property or infrastructure, and the condition, suitability and significance of the tree or shrub.

Requests shall be assessed and prioritised according to the level of risk and available resources.

3.3. Notification of Council Assessment

Council shall notify the applicant of the Council Officer's assessment in writing within a reasonable timeframe.

3.4. Disputes Against Council Assessment

If the applicant disputes the Council Officer's assessment, a written representation shall be submitted by the applicant for consideration by full Council.

3.5. Tree or Shrub Removal that does not require Council Approval

Exemptions to this policy shall apply under the following circumstances:

- Removal approved by a valid development permit;
- Damage associated with the outlay of new or upgraded public infrastructure; or
- Works carried out by Council or any Public Sector Entity in response to an emergency.

3.6. Planting of Trees and Shrubs on Council Controlled Land

Approval is required from Council prior to the planting of trees or shrubs on Council controlled land. A Council Officer will inspect the proposed site to determine an appropriate location that does not interfere with essential services and infrastructure.

Council generally does not provide trees for planting and all associated costs shall be met by the applicant.

A list of suitable species has been developed as a guide for the planning of trees and/or shrubs on Council controlled land, and applicants are encouraged to select from the approved list. Trees or shrubs planted under or near power lines shall comply with the electricity supplier guidelines for planting near power lines.

Any trees or shrubs planted without Council approval may be removed at the property owner's expense.

3.7. General Maintenance by Council

Council conducts a maintenance program for trees and shrubs on Council controlled land which generally consists of the removal of damaged branches that pose a potential hazard to person, traffic, property or infrastructure

3.8. Nuisance Trees

Issues of nuisance due to the intrinsic nature (eg. shedding leaves, bark, sticks, flowers, fruit etc) of trees or shrubs will not generally constitute justification for a tree or shrub removal except where there is an identified risk (eg. nuts & berries shed over footpath) creating a hazard.

In most circumstances, Council will promote remedial action such as pruning rather than removal.

3.9. Solar Panels

Any requests made for the removal or pruning of trees or shrubs for the purpose of maintaining the efficiency of photovoltaic systems will be dealt with on an individual basis by full Council.

For trees or shrubs that are solely being removed or pruned due to the shading out of solar panels, the full cost will be borne by the applicant.

If the tree or shrub is located on the footpath of the adjoining property, consultation with the property owner will be required before any decision is made.

3.10. Poisoning

Requests for the pruning or removal of trees or shrubs on Council controlled land that are suspected to have been poisoned shall be dealt with on an individual basis by full Council.

For trees or shrubs that are solely being removed or pruned that are suspected of poisoning, all associated costs shall be met by the applicant.

4. Definition

<i>Council Controlled Land</i>	Land owned, controlled or held in trust by Council, on roadside verges and footpaths.
<i>Road Verges</i>	The area between the property boundary line and the kerb.
<i>Tree</i>	A woody perennial plant, typically having a: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single stem or trunk which has a diameter equal to or greater than 12 centimetres at a height of 1.5 metres from grounds level• A height equal to or greater than 5 metres.



Tree Inspection Report

Postal Address
LMB 7
Inglewood QLD 4387

Engineering Services
Ph: 07 4671 7449
Fax: 07 4671 7433

Internet/Email
www.grc.qld.gov.au
mail@grc.qld.gov.au

Internal Document Only – Refer to Council’s Trees on Council Controlled Land Planting, Removal & Maintenance Policy GRC0008 which is available on Council’s intranet.

Inspection Details:

Inspection Date: Inspected by:

Site Details:

Applicants Name:
Street Address: Town:

Tree Details 1:

Species:
General Tree Condition:

- Does the tree impact on solar panels? No Yes (If yes, do not complete Risk Score)
- Is the tree suspected of poisoning? No Yes (If yes, do not complete Risk Score)
- Is the tree dead? No Yes (If yes, do not complete Risk Score)
- Is the tree within 2 meters of the adjoining property? No Yes
- Does the tree/s need to be reported to Essential Energy? No Yes
- Photos taken? Yes (email to kmckenzie@grc.qld.gov.au)

RISK SCORE									
Council Risk					Property Owner Risk				
Pedestrian Risk		Traffic Risk		Infrastructure Risk	Private Property Risk		Private Person Risk		
Very Low	1	Very Low	1	Very Low	1	Very Low	1	Very Low	1
Low	2	Low	2	Low	2	Low	2	Low	2
Medium	3	Medium	3	Medium	3	Medium	3	Medium	3
High	4	High	4	High	4	High	4	High	4
Very High	5	Very High	5	Very High	5	Very High	5	Very High	5

Note: Risk scores are not cumulative. The highest single score is to be used.
 * Only the minimum works that are causing the high/very high risk are to be funded by Council. Owners may pay for additional works.
 # Inspector requests that an additional inspection be undertaken

Council Risk	5					
	4					
	3					
	2					*
	1					*
		1	2	3	4	5
		Property Owner Risk				

	100% Council funded (refer*) <input type="checkbox"/> Remove OR <input type="checkbox"/> Prune
	50 / 50 funding <input type="checkbox"/> Remove OR <input type="checkbox"/> Prune
	No action warranted
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional inspection requested (refer#)	
Comments:	

Most trees are unsuitable for planting under powerlines.

The following list includes some common unsuitable species:

Botanical name	Common name
Acacia species (large)	Wattle
Acer species	Maples - not Japanese
Acmena species	Lilly pilly or Bush Cherry
Alnus species	Black & Evergreen alder
Araucaria species	Bunya-Bunya, Hoop or Norfolk Island Pine
Bambusa species	Bamboo
Banksia species (large)	Banksia
Betula species	Birch
Brachychiton species	Lacebark, Flame & Kurrajong
Caesalpinia ferrea	Leopard tree
Casuarina species	She-Oaks
Cedrus species	Cedar, also Fir & Spruce
Celtis species	Nettle-tree
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor laurel
Cupressus species	Cypress trees
Delonix regia	Poinciana or Flamboyant
Erythrina species	Coral-tree
Eucalyptus species (large)	Gum trees
Ficus species	Fig trees
Fraxinus species	Ash
Gleditsia species	Honey Locust
Grevillia robusta	Silky Oak
Hymenosporum flavum	Native Frangipani
Jacaranda mimosifolia	Jacaranda
Ligustrum species	Privet
Liquidambar species	Liquidambar
Lophostemon confertus	Brush box
Magnolia grandiflora	Bull Bay Magnolia
Melaleuca species (large)	Paperbarks
Melia azedarach	White cedar
Palm species	Palm

Pinus species	Pine
Platanus species	Plane tree
Populus species	Poplar
Quercus species	Oak
Salix species	Willow
Schinus species	Pepper-corn tree
Stenocarpus sinuatus	Qld. Firewheel tree
Syncarpia glomulifera	Turpentine
Syzygium species	Lilly pilly or bush cherry
Tamarix aphylla	Athel pine
Tilia species	Linden or lime tree
Tipuana tipu	Race-horse tree
Ulmus species	Elm
Zelkova serrata	Japanese Elm
ALL	Tall growing fruit & nut trees

Source:<https://www.essentialenergy.com.au/our-network/managing-the-network/unsuitable-trees>