

<b>Aligned City Value/s</b>	<b>Approachable</b>	<b>Responsive</b>	<b>Transparent</b>	<b>Innovative</b>
<b>Responsible Directorate</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b>			
<b>Responsible Business Unit/s</b>	<b>Parks and Environment</b>			
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Manager Parks and Environment</b>			
<b>Affected Business Unit/s</b>	<b>Development Services</b> <b>City Future</b> <b>Engineering Services</b> <b>Facilities, Projects and Assets</b>			

## Objective

The objectives of this policy are:

- To provide guidance in relation to the management of the City’s tree assets to increase the City’s tree canopy cover
- To protect and increase the long term viability of City trees on verges adjacent to development sites
- To provide safe amenity to pedestrians, road traffic and property
- To preserve the existing City trees within the City
- To enhance the amenity of the City through the planting of new trees
- To define the circumstances under which the City’s trees may be removed or pruned.

## Scope

This policy applies to all trees that are owned or managed by the City of Stirling – such trees shall be referred to as City trees. In line with this Policy, Grass Trees will be considered to have the same provisions assigned to them as City Trees for the requirements of their protection.

Residents/owners, builders, developers, contractors, service providers, representatives, and event organisers are all expected to comply with this policy.

## Policy

### 1. Overall

The City of Stirling manages approximately 400,000 City trees, to ensure its residents receive all the economic, environmental, social, and health benefits trees bring to our City and suburbs.

These include:

- Providing cooler, greener, more comfortable access ways for walking and cycling
- Improving air, soil, water and noise quality
- Improving property values
- Providing ecological corridors, habitat, and food for native fauna
- Reducing urban heat islands
- Enhancing the character of our suburbs.

The City recognises the importance of trees in creating functional and attractive streets and reserves within the urban environment. As such, the City is committed to the planting, establishment and maintenance of all City trees with the goal of:

- Preserving the City's urban forest through tree protection and maintenance programs
- Increasing the number of City trees through proactive planting programs
- Boosting canopy coverage on verges and reserves within the City.

To effectively promote the City's goals, all City trees, unless determined hazardous by the City, will be:

- Protected from any activity, including development, that threatens their health and/or longevity with priority given to the relocation of infrastructure away from trees to reduce the potential for immediate or future damage
- Protected from infrastructure conflict, where possible, with priority given to the relocation of infrastructure away from trees to reduce the potential for immediate or future damage
- Prioritised when considering applications for new developments so that potential conflicts with City trees will be addressed before an application is approved for planning, construction/building, demolition and/or verge related permits.

The Manager Parks and Environment has the authorisation as the Delegated Officer for the planting, pruning, removal and management of City Trees, under this policy. Decisions regarding the planting, pruning, removal and management of City trees may be referred to the Tree Appeal Panel for review at a cost to the applicant as specified in the City's Fees and Charges, to give effect to this policy.

## **2. City Tree Planting**

The City is responsible for the planting of all trees on City land as identified under its annual programs which include themed avenue tree planting programs and City tree requests from residents/property owners. However, residents may be permitted to plant a City tree adjacent to their residence on application to the City. Tree planting is generally carried out in the winter months to aid in the establishment of trees. The selection of tree species for all plantings is determined by the City.

In line with the City's Urban Forest Plan, the City's goal is to increase tree canopy for the benefit of the whole community. As such, all available tree planting locations will be planted. Only the City's Delegated Officer may approve a planting deferral due to extraordinary circumstances.

As determined by the City, all verges within the City will be subject to City tree planting with a minimum of one tree per frontage except where sufficient space is not available. Additional trees will also be planted per frontage when there is available space.

The City will endeavour to maximise deep soil planting space where required to increase tree health and canopy growth.

### **2.1 City Tree Planting**

City tree plantings will adhere to the following conditions:

- Be positioned within the verge according to the Utility Services Code of Practice for tree alignment or at the City discretion based on verge widths and other infrastructure that may be present.
- A minimum of one tree shall be planted per property frontage; larger verge spaces that can accommodate additional trees as determined by the City will be subject to additional trees being planted
- Plantings near road intersections and driveway crossovers may be subject to pedestrian and road safety assessments by the City
- All new developments that do not have a City tree on the verge will have a tree planted in the next available planting season, as deemed appropriate by the City, and included as a condition/requirement of development along with a contribution which will require payment by the applicant/property owner for the cost of the tree/s planted as per Council's Fees and Charges. See Section 5 of this Policy for more information related to

- City tree planting and development
- The tree planting locations must be free from other conflicts such as lighting, service pits, other services, and infrastructure etc.
- Tree locations once determined are planted, and should new trees fail to establish they will be replaced until their establishment is successful.

## **2.2 Unauthorised City Tree Planting**

City trees planted without the City's approval are considered unauthorised plantings – an unauthorised City tree planting may constitute any one of the following:

- A tree planted of an inappropriate species for verge planting
- A tree planted out of alignment in relation to the City's identified verge planting locations
- A tree of an undesirable species that has self-germinated in situ.

Where an unauthorised City tree planting is identified, the City will determine whether the planting can be retained or should be removed, dependent upon its conformity to the City's planting requirements. Mature trees will also be assessed in the same manner.

Trees are not to be privately planted on the verge without prior written approval from the City.

Verge gardens are to be maintained by the adjacent property owner in line with the City's Verge Treatment Guidelines and should not include tree plantings. Whilst the City will undertake due care when carrying out maintenance on City trees, the City is not responsible for damage to verge gardens/treatments when carrying out maintenance on City trees.

## **2.3 City Tree Watering and Establishment**

The City is responsible for the post planting care, maintenance and watering of all newly planted City trees until the trees are considered established, as determined by the City. Residents/owners are encouraged to assist in watering City trees during the establishment period.

## **3. Tree Pruning and Removal**

The City is solely responsible for the pruning and/or removal of City trees and/or the written authorisation granted for the removal of City trees. Unauthorised tree pruning and/or removal of any City tree is not permitted.

### **3.1 City Tree Scheduled Pruning**

The City undertakes pruning on City trees as required on an annual program. The scheduled City tree pruning may fulfil any of the following requirements, as determined by the City:

- To clear the canopy from interference with overhead power lines, electrical feeder lines to individual properties and other essential services
- To remove overhanging branches determined as hazardous by the City to adjacent property
- To under-prune annual growth considered hazardous to traffic or pedestrians
- To shape the growth of the lower branches of trees through under-pruning to best shade pedestrians and other verge users.
- To ensure the form, structure and framework of trees is retained
- To remove dead, dying, diseased or pest infested material or abnormal growth
- To prune low growing vegetation that impedes parking control signage/ or regulatory streets signs.

### **3.2 Tree Pruning**

Trees will be pruned, where practicable, in line with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373). Where pruning is required for clearance to power lines, the trees will be pruned as necessary to comply with the 'Electrical Service Providers' current clearance requirements set by the State regulator.

The City will investigate requests from residents/owners for tree pruning. If the City determines that pruning

is required but is not urgent, then the pruning will be incorporated into the next programmed pruning schedule for that suburb/locality.

If the City determines that the pruning requires a more immediate response, then this will be attended to on an as-needs basis. Generally, such pruning is undertaken on a monthly schedule. More immediate pruning will only be undertaken in emergency situations. The resident/occupant will be informed of the outcome of any pruning request by an appropriate means.

### **3.3 Tree Removal**

Unauthorised tree removal of any City tree is not permitted. The authorised officer/ City contractor will undertake any tree removals that are determined by the City to be necessary.

It is recognised that in some cases tree retention is not feasible owing to the condition, location or species of the tree, its implications for development on an abutting site and/or the achievement of other Council objectives. Trees may be considered for removal, as determined by the City, under the following circumstances:

- The young tree has failed to establish
- The tree has died from natural causes
- The tree is diseased or in decline with little chance of recovery
- The tree has been assessed by the City as structurally unsound
- The tree has been irreparably damaged by a storm or other unintentional event
- The tree is determined by the City to be an unauthorised City tree that is not desired
- The tree has been unintentionally affected by infrastructure works and cannot be retained
- The tree interferes with vehicle safety sightlines, as determined by the City, with remediation by pruning not possible
- The tree is in contact with power lines and selective pruning is not practical.

If a City tree prevents the impending development of an abutting property, and all possible design solutions have been deemed exhausted by the determining officer, permission for the removal of a City tree may be granted by the authorised officer under this policy as per below (see Section 5 City Tree Requirements Adjacent Development Sites).

Where a tree is authorised for removal by the City or removed without authorisation by another party, the City will replace the tree on the same verge or reserve in the next available planting season, at its discretion. The City may seek to recover all related costs, as outlined in Section 6 Bonds and Payments.

### **3.4 Tree Pruning and Removal Requests**

The City will investigate and respond to all tree pruning and removal requests, each tree pruning and removal request is considered on a case-by-case basis by the City. However, in the absence of exceptional circumstances, the following are not normally considered to be sufficient or justifiable reasons for the pruning or removal of City trees:

- The tree species is disliked
- The tree considered is too large in size, is slow in establishing, the tree shape/structure is not liked
- The tree species causes nuisance by natural debris production, which includes the dropping of leaf, flower, fruit, bark, twigs etc.
- The tree attracts birdlife or other fauna
- The tree causes allergy and/or health problems
- The tree is slow in establishing
- The tree has been or suspected to have been vandalised
- The tree is an inconvenience during development/ works/ other activities
- The tree has been damaged or is in decline due to adjacent development activities
- The tree is in the way of a non-essential crossover or verge paving/treatment option
- The tree obscures or potentially obscures views (other than traffic/pedestrian sight lines) or

- shades private gardens, verge gardens, lawns, solar panels, solar hot water installations etc.
- The tree extends over the crossover/property line or the tree conflicts with occasional use of the surrounding areas, such as for parking, placement of skip bins, removalist vehicles, access to property, etc.

Once the City has determined the outcome of the request, any further requests for inspections when there is no natural change to the tree may incur an inspection fee as per Section 6 Bonds and Payments and/ or be referred to the Tree Appeal Panel for consideration.

#### **4. Additional City Tree Categories**

All trees located on City land are considered to be protected under this Policy, the Local Government Act, the City's Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law, as well as other regulations and Planning Policies.

Many trees however have additional provisions under this Policy due to their age, size, value, species, cultural or environmental attributes. These trees can include Habitat trees, Prominent trees, Remnant trees and Veteran trees. These trees may be subject to additional requirements in their management such as a Tree Management Plan or when working in proximity to them. Individual or stands of trees may be recognised as prominent, veteran, habitat and/or remnant.

#### **5. City Tree Requirements Adjacent to Development Sites**

City trees need to be protected adjacent to all development and development sites in order to preserve the amenity of streetscapes and neighbourhoods. Development must show the location on the verge where the City tree(s) is(are) to be planted and the soil space being provided on the plan. All developments, where trees may be affected, will include a suitable advice note and/or condition of approval.

Industry recommendations would require that any party utilising the verge or carrying out works on the verge should obtain a Dial Before You Dig verification before starting works. This is to ensure that services, including trees, are not impacted. Documentation regarding requirements when working in proximity to City tree assets will be forwarded as part of the Dial Before You Dig enquiry.

Should works have direct or indirect impacts on the tree(s) that requires assessment/inspection/reports/remediation/rectification/ongoing works as determined by the City, or if a tree is removed without City authorisation, the developer/ property owner may be liable for the associated costs as outlined in Section 6 Bonds and Payments.

##### **5.1 Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Requirements Adjacent to Development Sites**

For all demolition and construction works the property owner is responsible for the protection of all City trees that are to be retained on City managed land adjacent to the property. Where the development is being undertaken the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- A fence must be installed to create a TPZ at the cost of the applicant
- The type of fencing must be in line with the Australian Standard for Protection of Trees on Development Sites (AS4970) and the City's Tree Protection Zone Guidelines
- The size of the TPZ will be determined by the City, dependent on the size of the tree and verge/ reserve space available
- At minimum, the TPZ will cover two metres by two metres around the tree trunk, one metre off the trunk on all sides – any lesser exceptions must first be approved by the City
- The TPZ should not obstruct roads or footpaths unless approved alternatives are in place
- Alternative protections may be approved by the City when space/location restricts the ability to place fencing.

In line with AS 4970, it is highly recommended to follow all the requirements outlined in that document which includes watering of the tree(s) that are being retained and protected. The tree should not present in a lesser condition at the end of the development than at the start of the development.

Specific developments / situations may need to engage a suitably qualified Arborist to provide advice required/requested by the City.

## **5.2 City Trees and Crossovers/Driveways**

A minimum setback of a crossover/driveway (including the splays) from any City tree on the verge is required. The setback distance will be in direct relation to the Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of the City tree:

- DBH of up to 200mm requires a minimum setback of one metre
- DBH of 201mm to 400mm requires a minimum setback of two metres
- DBH of 401mm to 600mm requires a minimum setback of three metres
- DBH of 601mm or greater is considered to be a prominent tree and will require determination on a case-by-case basis, with a minimum setback of four metres.

The above setbacks are measured from the base of the tree at ground level, closest to the location of the crossover. These setbacks are to ensure tree canopy and roots are not impacted and that the tree has the maximum deep soil space available to allow for continued healthy growth and stability.

Crossover applications should look to meet the above clearances required for setbacks before reductions are considered. In order to achieve a compliant setback, crossover designs for primary access may need to meet the three metre minimum width.

Only when the distances required need to be less than the above specifications due to site constraints, and all viable design options have been exhausted, a site inspection will need to be conducted to determine if the distance can be reduced on a tree-by-tree basis. To keep retained trees in a sound condition and to reduce the impact on their root system, no setback requests less than one metre will be considered. Council inspection fees and charges will apply as per Section 6 Bonds and Payments.

For further information, refer to the City's Crossover Policy.

To keep retained trees in a sound condition and to reduce the impact on its root system, no setback requests less than one metre will be accepted. For further information, refer to the Crossover Policy.

## **5.3 City Trees and Structures**

Development within private property should consider the existing City trees and design to have the least impact on them. Tree friendly design should be undertaken to have minimal impact of the structure of trees above and below ground. The City will not generally prune existing trees to accommodate new infrastructure or for required private tree plantings. In this regard, setbacks outlined in Section 5.2 of this Policy should be adhered to where possible.

When City trees are retained as part of any development, they will not then be pruned at the completion of development or in perpetuity due to encroachment over private property. As per Section 3.1 of this Policy, the City will consider pruning back one metre from dwellings. All structures on private property should consider future maintenance requirements and impacts from City trees and private trees in their design and construction methodology. Engaging a suitably qualified Arboricultural Consultant during the design phase to provide advice is highly recommended.

## **5.4 City Trees and Verge Treatments**

Permitted verge treatments will need to incorporate City tree planting when City trees are not currently present. Where existing City trees are present then areas of open soil will be required around the trees with determined setbacks to the verge treatment.

Please refer to the City's Verge Treatment Policy and Guidelines for further information.

## **5.5 City Tree Information Provided with Applications**

The onus is on the applicant to provide accurate information in applications. If any discrepancies in City tree information are identified after an approval is granted for any private development or verge works, the applicant will need to resubmit applications for approval with the correct information. All costs and fees associated are to be met by the applicant. Discrepancies can include any of the following:

- Incorrect DBH measurement
- Failure to mark City trees in the submitted plan
- Failure to mark City tree locations correctly in the submitted plan
- Providing any other inaccurate site information.

Discrepancies identified after the start of any development may not result in tree pruning/removal and may result in impacts to the private property.

### **5.6 City Tree Retention Adjacent to Development Sites**

A City tree is a City asset forming part of green infrastructure. As such, the City actively seeks to retain and protect City trees adjacent to development sites using the following guidelines:

- If inaccurate information presented to the City, as part of any development application, results in a tree needing to be pruned or removed, the required setback being impeded, or any unauthorised removal or pruning of a tree is carried out, the City will recover the full costs associated with the works and any loss of amenity tree value from the applicant
- If City tree damage, decline or death occurs during development then costs may be recovered from the owner/ developer for rectification pruning, or removal and replacement of the tree including the loss of amenity tree value. Dead trees may be retained in situ at the City's discretion if they are determined to provide habitat or other value
- If a tree needs to be removed or, is removed without authorisation, the applicant will be required to reimburse the City the full costs associated with the tree removal / pruning including the loss of amenity tree value.

All costs owed to the City due to any of the above circumstances will be in line with Section 6 Bonds and Payments of this policy.

### **5.7 City Tree Removal and Replacement In Relation to Applications**

The City prioritises tree retention on City managed land adjacent to development sites, and will only consider removal when no other reasonable design alternative exists. In the event that an approval to commence development is granted by the City's Development Services business unit on the advice of the City's tree delegate, which has permitted the removal/pruning of one or more City trees, the applicant will be required to inform the City two weeks prior to the start of works to arrange the City to carry out the approved tree works. Where a tree is approved by the City's Delegated Officer to be removed/ pruned, the landowner/applicant will be required to meet the full costs associated with the removal and replacement of the tree and will be required to compensate the City for the costs associated with the loss of the tree asset, as outlined in Section 6 Bonds and Payments.

Replacement City trees that are required as a result of tree(s) being removed through the development process will be in line with the following:

- A minimum of one replacement tree will be planted on the verge adjacent to the development for each tree removed
- Where there is room for more than one tree on each frontage/lot, then multiple trees maybe planted in relation to the available space, as determined by the City
- Any replacement trees that are not able to be planted on the verge adjacent to the development, due to reduced verge space post development will be planted elsewhere in the City and at the City's discretion at the cost of the applicant/property owner
- All replacement trees will be of a species and size that is acceptable to the City
- The replacement cost will be met by the developer/ applicant/ owner as outlined in Section 6 Bonds and Payments.

### **5.8 City Tree Planting Adjacent to development Sites**

The City strives to create a balance between promoting development and providing cooler, greener and more sustainable urban environment. As such, the City applies the following City planting guidelines:

- The City at all times holds the right to reserve verge space for future tree planting and crossovers will be assessed to accommodate future City tree planting on verges

- Where there is no existing City tree, the City will plant at least one City tree in the next available planting season, space permitting
- Where there is room for more than one tree, then multiple trees may be planted in relation to the available space, as determined by the City
- Verges which have been treated with hardscape, paving or synthetic turf are required to have at least one City tree in accordance with the Verge Treatment Policy
- When considering development of car parks and/or parking bays in the road or other reserve, the plan must accommodate new tree plantings in line with Local Planning Policy 6.6
- Where a number of frontages are created due to subdivision, then a minimum of one tree shall be planted on each frontage, space permitting. More trees may be required where space permits.

## **6. Bonds and Payments**

Where development or other activities have the potential to impact on City trees, a bond for the protection of the tree will be held by the City prior to the commencement of development. A bond will be held for the duration of the works. Minimum bond amounts will be determined by Council's Fees and Charges.

Where a City tree removal/pruning is approved by the City in relation to a development or works, the full associated costs of the tree (including loss of the Helliwell value) and its removal (or pruning) shall be paid by the property owner or representative prior to the removal/pruning works and commencement of development.

Alternatively, in the instance of civic works by government departments the City may request a five for one tree canopy cover offset contribution.

Where impacts to trees is identified within a Bond or outside of a Bond process, holding of/recovery of costs for associated damage, removal, Loss of Helliwell value, reports, ongoing works, inspections, remediation works, rectification works, assessments, immediate/ongoing works as determined by the City may be held/recovered.

The costs associated with removal, pruning and/or damage of a City tree include the following three elements:

- Removal/pruning costs – amounting to the costs incurred by the City for undertaking the actual removing/ pruning of the tree/ or part thereof
- Amenity Value – calculated in accordance with the City's amenity tree calculation (currently the Helliwell method or other City approved valuation system)
- Reinstatement/Replacement Tree Costs – calculated in accordance with the greening required to replace the loss incurred by the tree removal. The level of reinstatement/replacement required will be determined by the City (in line with the Council's Fees and Charges). Reinstatement tree costs will include costs of watering for two subsequent seasons as well as other formative pruning and establishment costs.

Additional costs may be recovered for Arboricultural reports, tree watering, erecting of tree recovery fencing, any other ongoing maintenance requirements as determined by the City.

## **7. Vandalism to City Trees**

Members of the community who witness vandalism of City trees are encouraged to report this information. All reported incidents of vandalism will be investigated and responded to by the City.

Where vandalism has been committed, the City will take steps to gather information relating to the incident which may include:

- Sending letters seeking information to residents in the vicinity of the vandalism
- Talking to residents in the local area
- Posting notices in local newspapers, notice boards, social media platforms, and on the City's website seeking information
- Installing signage requesting any information pertaining to the vandalism
- Reporting damage to the Western Australian Police.



Once information is acquired an appropriate resolution will be carried out, which may involve:

- The installation of signage at the site advising on the damage/seeking further information
- Installation of a Tree Recovery Zone (TRZ) around the tree or other protective measures on/around the tree to prevent further vandalism
- Retaining any vandalised tree in sound condition until confirmed dead
- Placement and planting of additional trees at the location of the vandalism to compensate for the damage and loss of tree canopy
- Reclaiming immediate/ongoing costs associated with any works required to rectify the damage
- Recouping the full cost of the Helliwell valuations of the asset prior to the vandalism and tree replacement/establishment costs
- Media
- Further legal action.

## **8. Attachments to City Trees**

The City understands that the activation of the verge space is becoming more popular as private garden space diminishes. As such the City is open to the installation of play equipment within City trees adjacent to the property owner's residence. This must be done in such a way that it does not:

- Impact the health or structural integrity of the tree or any part of the tree
- Present as a hazard to users of the play equipment
- Present as a hazard to other users of the verge, surrounding footpaths, or roadways.

Other requirements that must be adhered to regarding play equipment or other attachments/installations:

- The installation of bolts, screws or other attachments into the tree is prohibited
- Any play equipment is to be retained in safe condition by the adjacent property owner /resident/ tenant
- Nothing should be installed in a tree where overhead power lines are present
- Lights must be low-voltage and solar powered
- Items such as boats/trailers/basketball rings etc. are not to be tethered to trees
- Signage is not to be installed in trees
- No installations will be permitted in reserve trees.

Any play equipment installed is in the public space and as such others may use the equipment. The installer cannot restrict this or claim exclusive rights to the usage. Therefore, it is recommended that the equipment is removed when not in use.

The City will not accept any responsibility for the loss/theft of equipment, or for any injury to persons or damage to property caused by the private installation of any attachment to a City Tree.

Any damage that may happen to the equipment as part of tree maintenance requirements will not be covered by the City or its contractors. The City reserves the right to remove any equipment at any time. Should the City determine that any equipment, attachment or installation presents as an immediate hazard, it will be removed without notice.

## **9. Community Consultation and Involvement**

The City values its community's opinion, and encourages consultation and communication in the improvement of its urban forest. As such, the City will endeavour to apply the following practices:

- Increase resident activity in the ongoing care of its urban forest by encouraging tree planting involvement and citizen science programs
- Inform adjacent residents of City tree plantings and removals through various mediums
- Encourage community consultation in themed City tree plantings by providing opportunities for comment
- Prioritise community safety when conducting City tree maintenance works
- Raise community knowledge about the benefits of trees and the urban forest through various

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## Definitions

**Applications** are considered to be any formal written request made to the City.

**City Tree** is considered to include any tree which has a majority (> 50%) of its trunk growing from City managed land and includes Grass Trees.

**Diameter at breast height (DBH)** is the recognised method for measuring the diameter of the trunk of a tree. The measurement is taken at 1.4 metres from the ground level. Refer to Australian Standard 4970- 2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites for more detailed information.

**Development** is considered to be any demolition or construction work on private land, any City infrastructure upgrades on the verge or reserve, crossover installation or upgrade, any private works on the verge such as landscaping, reticulation installation/works, verge treatments and or any use of the verge space that requires a permit or any works carried out by Service providers on the verge or reserve.

**Helliwell method** is a recognised system that allows for a monetary value to be placed on the visual amenity provided by an individual tree asset.

**Structures** are considered to be any construction or other element that may impact on a City Tree. These may include but are not limited to boundary walls/fences, dwellings and/or private trees.

**Tree** is defined in the City's Thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2009 as a woody perennial plant generally having a single stem or trunk which will grow to a height of approximately four metres or more.

- **Habitat Tree** is any tree, alive or dead, that presents habitat opportunities for wildlife
- **Private Tree** is any tree which has a majority (> 50%) of its trunk growing from private property
- **Prominent Tree** is any tree that has identified features such as large canopy height/spread, wide trunk, large structural roots that would require additional considerations/protections when working in proximity to the tree
- **Reserve Tree** is a tree that is located within a park, reserve or natural area
- **Remnant Tree** is any tree that has naturally grown in an area, usually prior to development
- **Veteran Tree** is a tree, generally in a post mature state, with unique qualities that requires specific management.

**Tree Protection Zone (TPZ)** is an area above and below ground that is set aside for protection of trees roots, trunk and crown in order to provide for the viability and stability of a tree that is to be retained at a development site.

**Tree Recovery Zone (TRZ)** is an area above and below ground that is established to assist in the recovery of trees when they have been impacted by vandalism, poisoning environmental factors or other contributors or interferences.

**Urban Forest** is a population of trees and other plants growing within an urban setting for the purpose of improving the liveability of that urban setting whilst providing social, economic and environmental benefits to the community as a whole.

**Vandalism** means the unlawful destruction, damage or injury to City owned tree assets which can include, but not limited to, poisoning, pruning, causing malicious damage to, removal and/or ringbarking, negligence during demolition/development/construction activities.

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## Relevant management practices/documents

Crossover Policy  
Permits to Use Verge Areas  
Street Tree Placement Guidelines  
Urban Forest Plan  
Verge Treatment Policy

## Legislation/local law requirements

Bush Fire Act 1954  
City of Stirling Local Government Property Local Law 2009  
City of Stirling thoroughfares and Public Places Local Law 2009  
Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996  
Local Government Act 1995  
Local Planning Scheme No 3 – City of Stirling  
Planning and Development Act 2005  
State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning Bushfire Prone Areas

Office use only				
Relevant delegations	Not Applicable			
Initial Council adoption	Date	8 December 2015	Resolution #	1215/010
Last reviewed	Date	15 October 2024	Resolution #	1024/003
Next review due	Date	2026		