



Tree Management Policy





Tree Management Policy

Name of Council	District Council of Franklin Harbour
Responsibility	Governance
Revision Number	1.2
Effective date	September 2023
Last revised date	September 2019
Minutes reference	81/09/23
Next review date	September 2027
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act DCFH Strategic Management Plan

INTRODUCTION:

The community generally accepts that street trees are highly desirable and can transform a bleak street scene into an aesthetically pleasing urban environment.

Practical benefits also result in that unsightly structures can be screened, traffic noise diminished and impurities in the air reduced. Nevertheless, quite serious problems can arise if careful thought is not given to both the types of trees selected for street planting and their location.

Council’s Strategic and Master Plans provide further guidance on streetscapes and Avenue Plantings.

Essential services such as sewerage, public mains and private drain/septic tanks, can be blocked by tree roots. Both overhead and underground electricity and water supplies can be interrupted and street infrastructure such as kerbing and footpaths damaged. This can lead to considerable inconvenience, expense and ill-feeling both to property owners and to public utilities.

To limit this damage, certain restrictions have been imposed on the planting of trees in streets by Local Government and the public utility service authorities involved.

The following policy is based upon the rules and regulation of the State Government (Section 232 of the local Government Act sets defines Council’s responsibilities in relation to Trees), the public service authorities and on practical experience in tree planting and tree maintenance in the District Council of Franklin Harbour, plus knowledge gained from associations engaged and interested in research and tree planting in municipalities. This policy is directed at establishing firm guidelines and managing risks for the future development and retention of trees and shrubs planted on town streets within the District Council of Franklin Harbour.

DEFINITIONS:

- “Council” is the District Council of Franklin Harbour.
- “Street” means any highway, street, road, grove, place, avenue, drive, terrace, parade, crescent, court, lane or walkway.



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- “Other Property” includes all land that is under the care, control or management of the Council except streets and parks.
- “A tree in poor health” means a tree deleteriously affected by insects, parasites, stress or disease.

1. STREET TREE PLANTING

- 1.1** Tree planting can only be carried out in streets and public roads in compliance with the requirements of the Minister of Transport and/or Local Government authority, that is:-
- a) All trees planted in public roads must have the approval of the said Minister or Local Government authority.
 - b) Under the above approval, certain species only may be planted an at least one metre away from any sewer or sewer connection.
- 1.2** A tree is defined as any bush or tree with potential to reach 4.5 metres or more in height.
- 1.3** All streets or roads where tree planting is proposed should have a nature strip width not less than 2 metres. (The nature strip is the area between the kerbing or the proposed kerb line, and the proposed or constructed footpath).
- 1.4** In streets or roads where kerbing has been constructed but a footpath does not exist, the reserved width for the footpath shall be 2 metres. This is measured from the property alignment to the outer edge of the footpath. The remaining area shall be available for tree planting but must but be less than 2 meters as in Item 3 above.
- 1.5** It shall not be permissible to plant a tree or shrub in such a position on the nature strip that it stands on the continuation of a boundary line of two properties. Minimum distance each side shall be 1 metre.
- 1.6** Trees or shrubs shall not be placed nor permission given to plant trees and shrub less than 2.5 metres from any constructed or unconstructed driveway.
- 1.7** If any stobie pole or similar construction is located on the nature strip the position of the tree shall not be less than 2 metres from any such objects. Trees with a mature height of greater than 7 meters must not be planted under power lines.
- 1.8** Permission for tree planting may be refused when any overhead wire or similar construction is likely to interfere with the upward growth of the tree.
- 1.9** In case of a corner block, to provide visibility, it shall be required that the tree shall be planted a minimum distance of not less than 10 metres from the corner extremity.



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However in certain circumstances (main roads or highways), the minimum distances may need to be increased.

- 1.10** On the main roads and highway it may be necessary to obtain approval from Transport SA.
- 1.11** On application in writing, permission to plant trees or shrubs on nature strips may be given by Council. Ratepayers shall receive a copy of such permission which will state, inter alia:-
- a) That the tree or shrub shall be the responsibility of the ratepayer including cost of removal should this be required.
 - b) That the ratepayer will care for the tree or shrub, and may undertake minor pruning.
- 1.12** Tree planting shall be carried out by, or under the direction of qualified staff employed by the Council as directed by the Works Manager.
- 1.13** Any trees or shrubs planted without written permission of the Council and declared unsuitable for a particular street or location, shall be removed at the ratepayer's expense within 3 months from the date of notification. After expiry of the said time the Council may remove the said tree or shrub without further notification. The Council reserves the right to recover all costs involved in such a removal.
- 1.14** The Head Gardener or an officer acting in that position can determine what tree species shall be planted in any street or locality subject to the requirements of any relevant Government legislative requirements in consultation with adjoining residents.
- 1.15** Council advise it is illegal to use tyres as tree guards.

2. STREET TREE PRUNING

- 2.1** The thinning and lifting method of pruning is to be used generally.
- 2.2** The pollarding method of pruning should be only used in special circumstances where other methods will not fulfil the objects of maintaining healthy and well-shaped trees.
- 2.3** Wherever a tree is to be pruned the least drastic method practicable is to be used.
- 2.4** No tree shall be lopped, pruned, removed or disturbed to facilitate the visibility of a sign or advertisement if such tree was in place prior to the erection of any such sign or advertising (excluding regulatory signs).



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3. STREET TREE REMOVAL

- 3.1** Trees shall only be removed when they are posing a danger to people or property or they are in poor health or dead.

The Council's Works Manager, Maintenance Supervisor and Head Gardener are authorised to deal with the tree removal requests in line with this policy.

- 3.2** Where a resident or property owner requests the removal of a tree which is considered to be a good healthy specimen, or a tree considered to be of some significance by the Head Gardener and/or the Maintenance Supervisor, the matter shall be discussed with the Works Manager and if deemed necessary placed before Council for decision.

It will be the responsibility of the resident or property owner to place the request in writing to Council, setting out the full details of the reasons why the street tree needs to be removed.

- 3.3** Council retains sole authority over tree removal. Residents, Contractors or Service Authorities who remove street trees without council authorisation will be liable for damages (pursuant to the Local Govt. Act 1999 Sec. 233), and costs associated with stump removal, tree replacement etc.

- 3.4** Capital works development shall, where possible, facilitate native vegetation, however when necessary, and in accordance with the tree removal delegation from Council to the Works Manager, trees may be removed as required to allow capital works development, subject to requirement of the native title vegetation act.

- 3.5** Trees planted under overhead power cables may be removed by Electricity Contractor if they have grown into the area occupied by the power cables, or if it is considered that they have the potential to grow into the area occupied by the power cables.

4. REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed by the District Council of Franklin Harbour within 12 months after each general election of Council. To ensure that the principle of open Government is being applied in the proper manner, it is anticipated that a review of the Policy will take place every four (4) years. However, Council has the right to review this Policy at any time, if considered desirable.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect this Policy at the principal office of the District Council of Franklin Harbour, 6 Main Street Cowell SA 5602, and on payment of a fee obtain a copy. A copy may also be downloaded from Councils website www.franklinharbour.sa.gov.au.



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SIGNED:

Chief Executive Officer

Date: 6 / 10 / 23

Change History

Version	Issue Date	Change
1.0	August 2016	New Policy
1.1	September 2019	Reviewed and Updated (Post election)
1.2	September 2023	Reviewed and Updated (Post election)



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RECOMMENDED TOWN STREET TREES

Trees recommended for planting on footpaths.

Plantings must comply with the District Council of Franklin Harbour 'Street Tree policy'.

Trees that can only be planted where no overhead cables are present

- **Eucalyptus Torquata "Coral Gum"**
Height >8m
Small, fast growing tree with profuse pink flowers. Tolerates most soils. The "Torwood" variety is more stable in windy conditions due to the fact that less flowers are produced.
- **Agonis Flexuosa "Western Australian Willow Myrtle"**
Height >8m
Small tree with multi-branched short trunk and rough bark. A good shade tree with pendulous branches and foliage. Particularly suited for areas where it will receive extra water. Will tolerate alkaline soil.
- **Celtis Australis "Nettle Tree"**
Height >12m
Attractive medium sized tree with spreading branches. Deciduous. Inconspicuous flowers. Very hardy. Prefers a well drained soil. May require some irrigation in dry years.
- **Acacia Pendula "Weeping Myall"**
Height >8m
Fast growing, small tree with grey/green pendulous branches and foliage. In comparison with most Acacias the flowers are inconspicuous but may give off an odour that some people find offensive. Very hardy.
- **Koelreutaria Paniculata "Golden Rain Tee."**
Height 5-8m
A handsome, deciduous, wide crowned tree. Sprays of deep yellow flowers, followed by striking bladder-like pods. Very hardy. Tolerates alkaline soil.
- **Casuarina Cristata "Belah/Black Oak"**
Height >10m
A fast growing, conical tree with fine dark green foliage. Will tolerate most soils
- **Casuarina Stricta "Coastal/Drooping She Oak"**
Height >8m
A small tree with drooping foliage. Very hardy and reliable in most soils and aspects. Will tolerate exposure to salt spray.



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SA Power Networks have developed a full list of suitable trees for planting under overhead cables. This can be found at <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/energy-and-environment/safe-energy-use/powerline-safety/list-of-trees-that-can-be-planted-near-powerlines>

The list includes the following trees that can be planted under overhead cables:

- **Prunus Cerasifera var'nigra "Purple Cherry Plum"**
Height >5m
Small, deciduous, upright tree with slender ascending branches. Dark, reddish-purple foliage and pink flowers. Will tolerate most soils and conditions but will benefit from irrigation.
- **Pittosporum Phillyreoides "Weeping Pittosporum"**
Height >5m
An attractive small tree with pendulous foliage. Prefers sandy soil. Will tolerate moderate coastal exposure.
- **Callistemon Salignus "Willow Bottlebrush"**
Height >6m
An attractive small tree with single slender trunk. Flowers pale yellow, occasionally red. Will benefit from irrigation.
- **Callistemon Viminalis "Captain Cook"**
Height >3m
Slender, small bottlebrush with red flowers in Spring and Summer. Will benefit from irrigation.
- **Callistris Verrucosa "Scrub Cypress Pine"**
Height >5m
Slender native conifer. Frost and limestone tolerant. Suitable for 2nd line coastal conditions.
- **Eucalyptus Forrestiana "Fuchsia Gum"**
Height > 5m
Small tree with pendulous, red bell like flowers. Suitable for most soils.
- **Eucalyptus Lansdowneana sub sp. Albopurpurea**
Height >6m
An attractive small tree or mallee. Flowers occur mainly in Summer and vary from purple to white. Tolerates moderate coastal exposure and limestone soils.
- **Eucalyptus Calycogona "Square Fruited Mallee"**
Height >5m
A small tree/mallee with a compact habit and deep pink flowers. Tolerates most soils.
This tree was chosen as South Australia's Jubilee 150 Gum



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- **Eucalyptus Erthronema var. Marginata**

Height > 6m

A slender, erect, small tree with a white trunk. Cream to scarlet flowers occurring in Spring/Summer. Will tolerate limestone soils.

These trees are only recommendations. Council will consider other types of street trees upon application.