

Urban Tree Management

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Policy Name:	Urban Tree Management
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Responsible Officer:	General Manager Urban and Community Services
Relevant Legislation:	<p>Local Government Act 1999</p> <p>Development Act 1993</p> <p>Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</p> <p>Natural Resource Management Act 2004</p> <p>Environmental Protection Act 1993</p> <p>Electricity Act 1996</p> <p>Heritage Places Act 1993</p> <p>Road Traffic Act 1961</p> <p>Native Vegetation Act 1991</p> <p>Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988</p> <p>Water Industry Act 2012</p> <p>Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016</p> <p>Telecommunications Act 1997</p>
Related Policies:	<p>Community Engagement (Public Consultation) Policy</p> <p>Open Space Policy</p> <p>Environment and Biodiversity Policy</p> <p>Risk Management Policy</p> <p>Bushfire Hazard Management Policy</p> <p>'Be the Future' of Burnside 2012-2025</p> <p>City of Burnside Development Plan 2017</p> <p>The Eastern Health Authority, Regional Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2014-2018</p>

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Urban Forest is recognised as providing a range of benefits to the community including attracting economic investment, improving public health outcomes, supporting habitat, addressing climate change and shaping the historical character of the area.
- 1.2 Council and community recognise that climate change and population growth present unique challenges and threats to maintaining canopy cover.
- 1.3 This policy provides a strategic framework to protect, promote and nurture the city's trees in our streets, parks and reserves.

2. Strategic Plan Desired Outcomes

- 2.1 Conservation and enhancement of the historic character of the City.
- 2.2 Sustainable, engaging and functional public spaces and streetscapes.
- 2.3 Natural environments and watercourses protected, conserved and enjoyed.

3. Our Approach

- 3.1 Support the protection of the City's local heritage, character built heritage and natural heritage.
- 3.2 Maintain and enhance streetscapes for improved amenity, character and environmental outcomes.
- 3.3 Promote and educate the community on the value of trees and their biodiversity.
- 3.4 Undertake responsible bushfire management to protect and enhance the natural environment and property.
- 3.5 Restore and improve local native vegetation and habitat ensuring biodiversity is protected.
- 3.6 Consider the strategic acquisition of land for "Urban Forest" expansion and diversity.

4. Legislative Requirements and Corporate Policy Context

- 4.1 This policy is necessary as a document that links Council's legislative requirements with its aims and vision for the management of the City's urban forest. The policy links directly to relevant sections of the *Local Government Act 1999*, in particular Sections 221, 232, 234 and 245 has specific relevance to the appropriate management of trees on public land.
- 4.2 The *Development Act 1993* and the *Development Regulations 2008 6A* designate the management of "Regulated and "Significant Trees" on public and private property, through the Council's Development Plan 2017.
- 4.3 The interpretation and interaction of this policy with a number of Council and State Government policies and strategies including Target 5 of the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide, which is to increase canopy cover by 20% by 2045.

5. Interpretation

- 5.1 For the purpose of this policy:
 - 5.1.1 "Regulated Tree" and "Significant Tree" are defined in reference to Regulation Part 2, 6A of the Development Regulations 2008 .
 - 5.1.2 "Diploma level Arborist" is defined as a professional practising in the field of Arboriculture that has a minimum Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Level 5 (Diploma) Horticulture (Arboriculture) or similar. A tree expert at this level should have experience in planning, consultation, determining the required level of tree assessment, write reports and give legal testimony.
 - 5.1.3 "Certificate level Arborist" is defined as a professional practising in the field of Arboriculture with a minimum Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) Certificate 3 Horticulture (Arboriculture) or similar. An Arborist practising at this level should be experienced in the cultivation, maintenance, pruning and removal of individual trees.
 - 5.1.4 "Arboriculture" is defined as the study, cultivation, care and management of trees, particularly in the urban environment.
 - 5.1.5 "Urban Forest" refers to all trees, shrubs and ground layer plants whether planted or naturally occurring, growing in public reserves, streets, parks, car parks and private gardens and collectively constitutes an urban forest.
 - 5.1.6 "Risk management" is the term applied to a logical and systematic method of establishing the context, identifying, analysing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and communicating risks associated with any activity, function or process in a way that will enable organisations to minimise losses and maximise opportunities.
 - 5.1.7 "Urban Tree Valuation Formula" is a term used to define a systematic approach in determining a monetary value to an urban tree either as an individual or as a collective group. This process is captured in Council's Urban Tree Strategy 2014-2025.
 - 5.1.8 "Reinstatement Greening Costs" is the cost to establish green assets as determined by Council Senior Arborist. Costs may include a 24-month maintenance, monitoring fees and or any treatment or Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) measure deemed necessary to establish replacement growth.

- 5.1.9 Canopy Cover is a measure of the amount of tree canopy over land and is used to measure and set urban forest targets.

6. Policy

Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy is to sustainably manage the urban forest through the:

- 6.1 Recognition that trees are an intergenerational asset;
- 6.2 Recognition that trees have a measurable value to the community;
- 6.3 Implementation and continues improvement of the 'Canopy Action Plan'; developed to address Canopy Cover
- 6.4 Demonstrated commitment to raise community awareness on the value trees make to the community (both locally and globally).
- 6.5 Demonstrated commitment to enhance the City of Burnside reputation as a leader of Urban Forest management.
- 6.6 Setting of Canopy Cover and other targets to monitor progress toward achieving measurable outcomes.
- 6.7 Continuous improvement and development of the Urban Tree Strategy 2012 – 2025 and relevant Technical Manuals.
- 6.8 Use of accurate and timely information; recorded and managed through the employment of an effective Geographical Information System.

Principles

Council will seek to:

6.10 Tree Replacement

- 6.10.1 Remove and replace poorly performing trees as part of the annual tree planting programs.
- 6.10.2 Ensure tree replacement programs are suitable toward achieving canopy cover targets, preserving habitat and increasing species diversification and age distribution.
- 6.10.3 Select appropriate species for planting based on their suitability for the site, performance and potential to contribute to the streetscape.
- 6.10.4 Ensure tree species selected are appropriate in consideration of climate change, streetscape character, and environmental impacts and resourcing.

6.11 Risk Management -

- 6.11.1 Manage risk by routine tree inspections, undertaken by a qualified Arborist trained in hazard identification and risk mitigation and these findings recorded.

6.12 Education & Consultation –

- 6.12.1 Communicate and consult in accordance with the Urban Tree Strategy and Communication Engagement Policy.
- 6.12.2 Proactively communicate the value of the urban forest so as to inform the community on the benefits trees provide and challenges facing the Urban Forest.

6.13 Protection & Conservation –

- 6.13.1 Ensure all public trees are protected from construction activity through the application of the Australian standard AS4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites where practicable.
- 6.13.2 Investigate unauthorised tree pruning/poisoning or removal and pursue enforcement action where appropriate and in accordance with the Local Government Act 1999 and or consider Civil Action.

7. Tree Removal on Public Land

- 7.1 Where trees are assessed for removal any removal considered will ensure that this action does not result in a net loss of canopy coverage for the suburb impacted by removal, effect avenue planting symmetry and or Councils future capacity and ability to plant trees.
- 7.2 Trees assessed for removal must meet the requirements for removal as listed in the Urban Tree Strategy.
- 7.3 Criteria for Removal at Council Cost
- 7.3.1 Where a tree meets the criteria for removal, as listed in the Urban Tree Strategy and Technical Manuals, Council will pay for the cost of tree removal.
- 7.4 Removal for Development benefit
- 7.4.1 Where authorisation is granted to remove tree(s) to accommodate development, Council may place a monetary value on the subject tree(s) using the Urban Tree Amenity Valuation Formula. All costs associated with tree loss will be at the applicant's expense and all payment must be made prior to work being commenced.
- 7.4.2 The applicant will pay the following:
- Amenity Value
 - Arborist report cost

- Removal cost
- Reinstatement Greening Cost

7.4.3 All development applicants are to be advised of their liability for damage/loss of any street tree on the site frontage and that Council may seek to recover costs in respect of any damage/loss of public trees.

8. Review and Authority

8.1 This Policy will be reviewed bi-annually in accordance with Council's Policy and Procedure Framework.

9. Availability

9.1 The Policy is available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's website www.burnside.sa.gov.au

9.2 The Policy will be available for inspection without charge at the Civic Centre during ordinary business hours and a copy may be purchased at a fee as set annually by Council.

City of Burnside Civic Centre
401 Greenhill Road, Tasmore SA 5065

Telephone; 8366 4200
Fax; 8366 4299
Email; burnside@burnside.sa.gov.au

Office hours: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm (except public holidays)

10. Further information

10.1 For further information about this policy please contact:

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