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7.4 C-7TSRRF04 – Street Trees and Streetscapes

Previous Policy Number – 7.3 & 7.4

PART A - Policy

Objective:

The objective of this Policy is to set out how the Shire of Dandaragan (Shire) will

- (i) promote the use, maintenance and removal of appropriate trees within the public places across the Shire, including foreshore area, urban streets and rural roads; and
- (ii) provide the community with direction regarding the development, maintenance, use and vegetation to be used in verges within townsites.

Policy Statement:

1. Street Trees

The Shire recognises the significance of streetscapes and naturally occurring and planted trees as integral to the identity of the Shire and having an urban forest is shown to contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community.

The Shire is committed to:

- The conservation and preservation of existing street trees.
- The protection of significant trees and remnant bushland on the roadside.
- The enhancement of streetscapes through street tree planting and landscaping with suitable species.
- The reduction of risk through pruning, canopy reduction, tree removal and verge treatments, as appropriate.
- Vegetation care principles to aid the health and resilience of plants.

In achieving these principles, the Shire will:

1. Take a proactive asset management approach to the management of street trees and streetscapes.
2. Recognise and manage budget limitations and ensure decisions reflect the principles of financial sustainability.
3. Achieve utility and infrastructure requirements.
4. Minimise risk and meet its duty of care legal obligations.
5. Deliver broader ecological, social and aesthetic benefits to present and future generations.
6. Retain trees wherever possible.

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7. Remove street trees where:
- (a) All or part of the tree is dead, suffering termite or other damage or is determined by the Shire or its arborist to be declining in health. In some cases, dead trees may provide habitat for local fauna and will be assessed accordingly for possible retention.
 - (b) It is a cultivated street tree and is considered a hazard to residents, motorists or property.
 - (c) The street tree was planted without approval from the Shire and is determined to be unsuitable in the area.
 - (d) As part of the development approval process the tree is considered, by the Shire, appropriate to remove.
 - (e) The tree causes reoccurring damage to public infrastructure.
 - (f) The tree impacts sight lines, visibility and access.

2. Verge Treatments and Maintenance

The Shire recognises that the installation of appropriate verge treatments will enhance the streetscape and amenity of an area.

Any owner or occupier of land within the townsites, excluding Beachridge Estate, Jurien Bay (in accordance with the Design Guidelines) may plant lawn on the street verge adjoining their property, without obtaining approval from the Council.

To minimise the impact of the adverse winds experienced on the coast, where reinstatement and backfill of kerbs is required, consultation will be undertaken with the property owners adjacent to the road verge affected to identify their requirements in accordance with the approved options for this work.

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PART B - Management Procedures

Definitions:

Nil.

Detail

1. Trees - Streets, Road Reserves and Foreshores

1.1 Tree Planting - Foreshores

Foreshore tree planting is to generally consist of a variety of trees that would not obscure the views of nearby residents however, the planting of some larger trees can take place where resident's views will not be affected.

1.2 Street trees – Townsites

The planting of street trees will be subject to the following provisions:

(i) The approved varieties of trees are
Coastal Towns

- *coastal moort* (eucalyptus utilis)
- *bushy yate* (eucalyptus lehmannii)
- *illyarrie* (eucalyptus erythrocorys)
- *peppermint* (agonis flexuosa)
- *jingymia mallee* (eucalyptus synandra)
- *coral gum* (eucalyptus torquata)
- *emu tree hakea* francisiana
- *red flowering gum* (corymbia ficifolia)
- *sliver princess* (eucalyptus caesia subsp. magna)
- *fuchsia mallee* (eucalyptus forrestiana)
- *red flowering paperbark* (melaleuca viridiflora)
- *platypus gum* (eucalyptus platypus)
- *snow queen* (eucalyptus victrix)
- *honey myrtle* (melaleuca nesophila)
- *black paperbark* (melaleuca lanceolate)
- *willow myrtle* (agonis flexuosa)
- *she-oak* (casuarina equisetifolia incana)
- *emu bush* (hakea laurina)
- *olive* (olea europa verdale)

Inland Towns

- *banksia*
- *red flowering gum* (corymbia ficifolia)
- *river gum* (eucalyptus camaldulensis)
- *bottlebrush* (callistemon)
- *illyarrie* (eucalyptus erythrocorys)
- *tuart* (eucalyptus gomphocephala) (only on sides of streets where no power lines exist)

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- (ii) Street tree planting
The Shire does not permit residents to plant any species, either an approved species or not, without the prior approval of a *Streetscape Application*. All applications for street tree planting will be assessed by the Shire to determine if there is adequate room on the verge for the tree(s), the number of trees that may be planted, species selection, current street trees nearby, and any additional site constraints that may be relevant.

Site constraints can include verge width, length and shape, building setback, overhead powerlines, vehicle and pedestrian access, street lighting and sightlines. These factors will influence the most appropriate location of the street tree(s). Consideration should also be given as to whether an evergreen or deciduous tree would be most appropriate for the site.

If a *Streetscape Application* is approved, applicants can commence the planting works denoted. Applicants can request the Shire to assist with the following works:

- remove weed or overgrown grass;
- breakup topsoil and do minor earthworks;
- deliver mulch; and
- plant street trees.

The landowner and/or community groups is to water and maintain any trees supplied.

Street trees are to be planted the following minimum clearances from the listed infrastructure:

Infrastructure	Clearance required in metres
Private property boundary	2.7
Street intersection	10
Crossovers	3
Power pole	3
Underground service pits	2 from edge
Stormwater inlet	2 from edge
Traffic signs	5 if in front or 2 if behind the sign
Other signs	2

1.3 Street Trees – Rural Residential and Rural Areas

The planting of street trees will be subject to the following provisions:

- (i) The Shire will generally encourage the planting of trees in rural road reserves, with the exception of 20 metre road reserves.
- (ii) The Shire will generally encourage the planting of trees in areas that have been denuded of natural vegetation.

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- (iii) In areas approved by the Chief Executive Officer (following consultation with adjoining landowners and the Executive Manager Infrastructure) the Shire will provide up to 50 trees free of charge for the landowners to plant.
- (iv) The Shire will endeavour to assist with any clearing and earthworks required provided such work does not require excessive use of Shire plant and providing the plant is in the general vicinity.
- (v) Trees must be planted by the adjoining landowner and must be tended by the owner during the first summer following.
- (vi) Trees should not be planted any closer than 14 metres from the centre line of a road.
- (vii) All farmers who are renewing fencing along road reserve be encouraged to relocate new fencing 5 to 10 metres inside their property.
- (viii) No tree planting should be carried out on Shire of Dandaragan road reserves without prior approval from the Shire.
- (ix) Any person wishing to plant trees is to contact 'Dial Before You Dig' to ascertain the location of any cables to ensure trees are not planted where they may affect underground telephone services.
- (x) Trees are not to be planted where they may interfere with Western Power transmission lines and are not to be planted at curves where they may obstruct sight/vision of motorists.
- (xi) The Shire prohibits the taking of any timber from Shire reserves and road reserves.

2. Streetscapes – Townsites

2.1 Backfill of Kerb and Reinstatement – Jurien Bay and Cervantes

In order to prevent backfill material from being blown onto the street and away from the kerb caused by the adverse winds experienced on the coast, prior to the installation of the kerbing Shire staff consult with the property owners adjacent to the road verge affected to identify their requirements in accordance with the options available below:

- (i) The following materials may be used as backfill:
 - (a) If there is evidence that the road verge prior to the kerbing being installed has been watered on a regular basis that yellow sand be used.
 - (b) Other material approved by Executive Manager Infrastructure.
- (ii) Gravel is not to be used as backfill material.
- (iii) If reticulation equipment has been installed and operating prior to the installation of the kerb and or the widening of the road verge, the Shire of will arrange to replace or carry out the required repairs to the same standards.
- (iv) Existing crossovers will be reinstated to the same standard as previously installed.

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2.2 Verge Development – Street Lawns and Gardens

Any owner or occupier of land within the townsites, excluding Beachridge Estate, Jurien Bay (in accordance with the Design Guidelines) may plant lawn on the street verge adjoining their property, without obtaining approval from Council.

Street lawns are to be maintained by the owner or occupier of the property.

Any person wishing to install reticulation within a street verge for watering a street lawn or for any other purpose is required to apply in writing via a *Streetscape* Application.

Any approval to install reticulation in a street verge is to contain a condition that the Council will not under any circumstances be responsible for any damage caused to the reticulation whether that damage is caused by the Council, another public authority or any other agent or individual. A further condition of approval is that the reticulation is to be located so that it will not create a hazard for pedestrians.

Any person wishing to develop a street verge with anything other than lawn, e.g. brick paving, bitumen, native plants, etc., is required to make a Streetscape Application.

2.3 Cervantes Townsite – Memorial park Tree Planting

Any person wishing to undertake a private planting in Memorial Corner, Cervantes is required to liaise with the Cervantes Memorial Park Committee and disputes are to be referred to the Chief Executive Officer for determination.

Shire will approve the planting of:

- (i) melaleuca;
- (ii) callistemon;
- (iii) templetonia; and
- (iv) Other native plants (not growing higher than two (2) metres).

The applicant is to be urged to maintain the plant (pruning, etc) however, if not done, the Shire will undertake this work in its normal maintenance programme.

Any plaques to be installed are to be no larger than 300mm x 300mm and placed no higher than 300mm off the ground. The applicant is to be urged to make the plaque as secure as possible because the Shire will not accept responsibility for damage or removal.

The Shire does not oppose the disposal of ashes at the site of the plantings.