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## 7.4 Street Trees and Streetscapes

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### **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:

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

## **2. Removal of Street Trees**

The Shire may approve the removal of a street tree when it is determined that the tree is no longer viable or poses an unacceptable risk. This includes situations where all or part of the tree is dead, affected by termites, suffering from significant structural decline, or otherwise assessed by the Shire or its arborist as being in poor health. In some circumstances, dead trees may still provide important habitat for local fauna; in these cases, the Shire will consider the ecological value of retaining the tree before making a final decision.

Street trees that have been cultivated but present a hazard to residents, motorists, or property may also be removed when the risk cannot be adequately mitigated through other means. Trees that have been planted without Shire approval and are deemed unsuitable for their location may be subject to removal, particularly where they interfere with public infrastructure, create access issues, or fail to meet established species or placement standards.

During the development approval process, the Shire may identify trees that require removal to support the safe and compliant progression of works. Trees that cause recurring damage to public assets or infrastructure, or those that obstruct sight lines, visibility, or access for road users, pedestrians, or vehicles, where such issues cannot be reasonably resolved through pruning or standard arboriculture treatments, may also be removed as part of responsible asset and risk management.

The Shire does not support the removal of street trees solely for the purpose of improving private or public views. Decisions regarding tree removal will always consider safety, environmental value, community benefit, and long-term sustainability

## **3. Tree Planting**

### **3.1 Foreshore**

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 may be affected.

### **3.2 Townsites**

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

a) Street tree planting on verge

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 may request the Shire to assist with the following works:

- remove weeds or overgrown grass within the immediate vicinity of the tree planting location;
- minor earthworks limited to soil preparation directly associated with the planting of the tree, and excluding broader excavation, regrading or verge modification;
- deliver mulch; and
- plant street trees.

The owner or occupier is to water and maintain any trees supplied.

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

<b>Infrastructure</b>	<b>Clearance required in metres</b>
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

- b) The approved varieties of trees are;

### ***Coastal Towns***

1. *coastal moort* (eucalytus utilis)
2. *bushy yate* (eucalyptus lehmannii)
3. *illyarrie* (eucalyptus erythrocorys)
4. *peppermint* (agonis flexuosa)
5. *jingymia mallee* (eucalyptus synandra)
6. *coral gum* (eucalyptus torquata)
7. *emu tree hakea* francisiana
8. *red flowering gum* (corymbia ficifolia)
9. *sliver princess* (eucalyptus caesia subsp. magna)
10. *fuchsia mallee* (eucalyptus forrestiana)
11. *red flowering paperbark* (melaleuca viridiflora)
12. *platypus gum* (eucalyptus platypus)
13. *snow queen* (eucalyptus victrix)
14. *honey myrtle* (melaleuca nesophila)
15. *black paperbark* (melaleuca lanceolate)
16. *willow myrtle* (agonis flexuosa)
17. *she-oak* (casuarina equisetifolia incana)
18. *emu bush* (hakea laurina)
19. *olive* (olea europa verdale)

### ***Inland Towns***

20. *banksia*
21. *red flowering gum* (corymbia ficifolia)
22. *river gum* (eucalyptus camaldulensis)
23. *bottlebrush* (callistemon)

24. *illyarrie* (eucalyptus erythrocorys)
25. *tuart* (eucalyptus gomphocephala) (only on sides of streets where no power lines exist)

### **3.3 Rural Residential and Rural Areas**

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

- a) The Shire will generally encourage the planting of trees in rural road reserves, with the exception of 20 metre road reserves.
- b) The Shire will generally encourage the planting of trees in areas that have been denuded of natural vegetation
- c) In areas approved by the Chief Executive Officer or delegated officer (following consultation with adjoining landowners and the Executive Manager Infrastructure) the Shire may provide some trees free of charge for the landowners to plant.
- d) The Shire may assist with clearing and minor earthworks required, provided such work does not require excessive use of Shire plant and providing the plant is in the general vicinity.
- e) Trees must be planted by the adjoining owner or occupier and must be tended by the owner or occupier during the first summer following.
- f) Trees should not be planted any closer than 14 metres from the centre line of a road.
- g) No tree planting should be carried out on road reserves without prior approval from the Shire.
- h) Any owner or occupier wishing to plant trees is to contact 'Dial Before You Dig' to ascertain the location of any cables and utilities, to ensure trees are not planted where they may affect underground assets.
- i) Trees are not to be planted where they may interfere with Western Power transmission lines
- j) Trees are not to be planted where they may obstruct line of sight/vision of motorists, pedestrians and other road users.
- k) The Shire prohibits the taking of any timber from Shire reserves and road reserves.

## **4. Verge Treatments, Maintenance and Asset Protection**

### **4.1 General**

Owners or occupiers within townsites may, with consultation, develop the verge adjoining their property, subject to this Policy and any approval conditions. Properties within Beachridge Estate are excluded (separate Design Guidelines apply).

### **4.2 Lawn on Verges**

Prior to planting lawn on a verge, owners/occupiers must consult the Shire to confirm suitability and ensure no conflict with existing or planned infrastructure.

Where lawn is supported, the owner/occupier is responsible for all costs associated with installing, operating and maintaining any reticulation and for ongoing lawn care.

### **4.3 Reticulation**

Reticulation within the verge requires written approval via a Streetscape Application. Approval conditions will include that the Shire accepts no responsibility for damage to private reticulation and that reticulation must not create a pedestrian hazard.

#### **4.4 Other Verge Developments**

Any verge treatments other than lawn (e.g., brick paving, bitumen, native plantings) require a Streetscape Application.

#### **4.5 Reinstatement and Asset Protection**

Where kerbs or footpaths require reinstatement or backfilling (e.g., due to wind erosion or other environmental impacts), the Shire may consult adjoining property owners on suitable remedial works that meet approved standards.

Where there is evidence that a verge was regularly watered prior to kerb installation, yellow sand may be used for backfilling. Alternative backfill materials may be used if approved by the Executive Manager Infrastructure.

Where reticulation was installed and operating prior to kerb installation or road verge widening, the Shire will endeavour to repair or replace the system to the same or reasonably similar standard.

Existing crossovers will be reinstated to the same or reasonably similar standard as previously constructed.

<b>Policy Number</b>	2.7– Street Tress and Streetscapes
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