

 <p>City of Mount Gambier</p>	<h2>T120 TREE POLICY</h2>	Version No:	4.0
		Issued:	19 September 2017
		Next Review:	September 2021

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier (“Council”) for the management of trees situated on Council property as set out below:
  - (i) streets; and
  - (ii) parks, gardens, reserves and playgrounds.
- (b) It is the policy of Council that all streets be planted according to a defined street scaping plan and planting be aimed at beautifying the street as a whole, rather than individual properties.

## 2. STREET TREES

- (a) Council has resolved that, where applicable, to plant streets with the same species of tree, but the species may vary from one side of the street to the other.
- (b) In some streets, it may be necessary to remove a small number of existing trees to try and maintain uniformity within a street.
- (c) A list of tree species suitable for planting in the City has been adopted and is outlined in Section 7 of this Policy.
- (d) The list provided will be reviewed annually so that preferred species may be added to the list.
- (e) In selecting the type of tree suitable for a particular street, the following criteria should be taken into consideration:
  - (i) the character and amenity of the individual street;
  - (ii) the actual width of the footpath, or if a footpath width is less than 1.5 metres between the back of the kerb and the boundary, a tree not be planted;
  - (iii) the location of species as set out by individual utilities outlined in the species list in Section 7.
- (f) On footways, Council permits the development of footpaths adjoining residential allotments through the planting of approved trees and or lawn by residents subject to:
  - (i) A clear trafficable pedestrian way of 1.5 metres width by 2.5 metres height being retained at all times along the footpath;
  - (ii) No vegetation (except lawn) to be planted within 6.0 metres of the intersection of the junction of two or more streets;
  - (iii) Planting being in accordance with an approved Streetscape Plan in accordance with 2(c).

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(g) Notification to Residents:

- (i) Where Council undertakes street tree plantings, whether the street has been selected by Council, or letters received from residents of a particular street, all residents will be informed in writing prior to the commencement of the plantings.
- (ii) Council invite comment on the proposed plantings of trees within each individual street with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue, in accordance with Council's Public Consultation policy.
- (iii) Council notify residents of Council's conditions and feedback of the consultation.
- (iv) Should Council resolve not to adopt a particular street to be included in an annual street tree program due to popular demand from a majority of residents, those willing to have a tree planted will still be supplied with a tree.

(h) Notification to Authorities:

- (i) Council invites comments on the proposed plantings of trees as outlined on the annual street tree program, with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue to the following authorities:
  - APA Group
  - SA Power Networks
  - SA Water
  - Telstra
- (i) Council is to review previously planted streets and individual trees that have been vandalised and replaced with the species originally planted. If the specific cultivar is not available then replace with one that is of similar characteristics i.e. flower colour, size, shape etc.
- (j) Where Council grants approval for the removal of a tree for the benefit of a resident, and the tree is in a healthy state, removal and where applicable replacement will be at the ratepayers expense. This may apply where a tree is located in an area where a resident wishes to remove a tree for a supplementary driveway.
- (k) Council is frequently requested to remove street trees. The reasons for seeking the removal can vary considerably and each case is to be assessed on its merits.
  - (i) A resident may seek removal of a tree in writing to the General Manager City Infrastructure, stating their name, address, location of the tree and the reasons for the request for the removal of the tree.
  - (ii) For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment of the tree is to be undertaken and a recommendation submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure, or in his absence the Chief Executive Officer.

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- (iii) If the tree is diseased to the point that it is unlikely to recover, is too big for its location (based on size of tree in relation to footpath width, vehicle sight distance or power lines) or is causing or is likely to cause damage to adjoining property infrastructure the General Manager City Infrastructure, or in his absence the Chief Executive Officer, may grant approval to remove the tree.
- (iv) Removal of a sound tree of appropriate size and location for reasons of appearance, overshadowing or dropping of foliage etc. is generally not supported and any recommendation to remove a tree on this basis is to be referred to Council for a final decision.
- (v) This Policy does not apply to dead trees, which may be removed on the authority of either the General Manager City Infrastructure or Chief Executive Officer

### 3. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS WOOD

- (a) Council, in the course of its normal maintenance function, quite often is involved in tree pruning and/or removal that results in a supply of surplus timber that is suitable for firewood.
- (b) Council will make surplus wood available to local service clubs/organisations on the provision that the club/organisation be a "not for profit" club/organisation and that the club/organisation be responsible for all activities associated with the surplus wood (eg. cutting, splitting, loading and cartage).
- (c) The surplus wood will be stored at a location specified by Council.
- (d) Any wood accessed by a club/organisation in accordance with this policy must not be sold or used for private purposes. The intention of this policy is that such wood will be provided to needy families free of charge by the club/organisation, or the wood can be sold as a fund raising activity by the Club.
- (e) Access to the wood to be on a "first in, first served" basis and applications to be made to Council, in writing, for access to surplus wood.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate wood supplies in accordance with this policy.
- (g) Any organisation participating in this activity must indemnify the Council against any actions that may result as a consequence of this policy.
- (h) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate any surplus wood supplies not utilised by local service clubs/organisations under this policy, to be made available for sale to the public at the Mount Gambier Reuse Market.

### 4. RESERVES

- (a) Botanic Park - Commemorative and Memorial Trees

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- (i) Approval is granted for service clubs to place plaques at the foot of each of the existing lemon scented gums at Botanic Park to commemorate deceased members of the Clubs from within Mount Gambier.
- (ii) Clubs to provide (or bear the cost) of the plaques, plinths, installation thereof, future maintenance and replacement of plaques etc.
- (iii) Council will provide, as and when required, further advanced growth lemon scented gums as a boulevard to Botanic Park and as a perimeter planting to this entire area to which further commemorative plaques may be placed in the future.
- (iv) An area be set aside at Botanic Park for the placement of suitable tree species which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.

(b) Hastings Cunningham Reserve - Memorials

- (i) An area be set aside at Hastings Cunningham Reserve for the placement of suitable tree species, which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.

(c) Marist Park

- (i) An area of Marist Park, to the east side of the roadway from Shepherdson Road, be set aside to allow the planting of a tree and placement of a plaque by Rotary Exchange students to celebrate their time on Mount Gambier.

**5. TRANSPORTATION, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF INFECTED OR DISEASED WOOD MATERIAL**

(a) When pruning/removing trees with fungi/disease:

- (i) all infected or diseased prunings and felled trees should be destroyed by burning;
- (ii) the material should not be mulched or carted to the greenwaste pile, but cut into manageable pieces and carted away to the designated burn site;
- (iii) stumps should be ground out as soon as practicable after the tree is felled and the material carted away to the designated burning site;
- (iv) establish the safest route to transport the material to the designated burning site to help minimize the spread of disease during transport.

(b) Sterilise pruning equipment if the disease is present, or suspected to be present, on the tree being pruned/felled.

(c) All remaining plant material such as chips and sawdust should be swept and removed from site and transported to the designated burning site.

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- (d) Common symptoms of diseased trees include:
- (i) leaf yellowing and death
  - (ii) fruit distortion
  - (iii) stem, root and flower rot
  - (iv) stem cankers
  - (v) dieback within a tree
  - (vi) leaf curl etc.
- (e) If in doubt about the health of a tree or the request to implement this policy, contact the Engineering Technical Officer.

## 6. PROPERTY OWNER VEGETATION

- (a) Pursuant to Section 299(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council may issue notice to the owner or occupier of adjoining land to remove or cut back vegetation which has encroached onto any street, road or footpath.
- (b) Should there be no response to this request within seven (7) days from the issue date of the notice, Council may undertake the work and seek to recover the expenses incurred for the relevant works.

## 7. ADOPTED TREE SPECIES PLANTING SCHEDULE

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SA POWER	SA WATER SCHEDULE	PLANT ORIGIN	PLANT TYPE	COMMENTS
1	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood		2	N	E	Grows Well, Good Structure
2	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>	Trident Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3	<i>Acer Campestre</i>	Hedge Maple					Grows Slow
4	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Maple		2	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
5	<i>Acer palmatum sp.</i>	Japanese Maple	2				Grows slow
6	<i>Acer rubrum sp.</i>	Canadian Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Slow
7	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lillypilly			N	E	Grows Well, Moderate
8	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
9	<i>Betula pendula 'Dalecarlica'</i>	Cut Leaf Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
10	<i>Betula platyphylla var. Japonica 'Whitespire'</i>	Asian White Birch			E	D	Grows Well
11	<i>Callistemon viminalis 'Harkness'</i>	Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
12	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
13	<i>Carpinus betulus 'Frans Fontaine'</i>	Common Hornbeam			E	D	Moderate Growth

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14	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	Purple-leaved Eastern Redbud	2		E	D	Grows Well, But Slow
15	<i>Eucalyptus platypus</i> var <i>heterophylla</i>	Round Leaved Moort	P	2	N	E	Grows Well
16	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'	Euky Dwarf	2	2	N	D	Grows Growth
17	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> var. <i>Megalocarpa</i> 'Rosea'	Yellow Gum	2	2	N	E	Grows Well
18	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> 'Meczek'	Flowering ash	P	2	E	D	Grows Slow, But Outstanding Form & Structure
19	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	2	1	N	E	Grows Vey Slow
20	<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Scrub Willow			N	E	Grows Very Slow
21	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var <i>inermis</i> 'Sunburst'	Honey Locust		2	E	D	Grows Slow
22	<i>Hakea Laurina</i>	Pincusion Hakea	2	1	N	D	Grows Well, Fast, Blows Over in Heavy Winds
23	<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i>	Native Frangipani		2	N	E	Grows Well In Some Areas, Slow
24	<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	2	2	E	D	Very Slow
25	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> sp	Crepe Myrtle	2	1	E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
26	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
27	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> 'Fastigiatum'	Upright Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
28	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Brush Box			N	D	Grows Well
29	<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>	Liquidamber		2	E	D	Grows Slow
30	<i>Malus ioensis</i> 'Purpurea'	Crab Apple	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
31	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio		2	E	D	Unknown
32	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane			E	D	Grows Slow
33	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
34	<i>Prunus fruticosa</i> 'Globasa'	Designer Cherry		1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
35	<i>Prunus persica</i> sp.	Flowering Peach	2	1	E	D	Attracts Leaf Curl, Very Slow
36	<i>Prunus 'sekiyama'</i> syn. 'Kanzan'	Flowering Cherry	2	1	E	D	Unknown
37	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Flowering Cherry		1	E	D	Unknown
38	<i>Pyrus betufoia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Southworth Dancer Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
39	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	Aristocrat Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
40	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Capital'	Capital Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
41	<i>Pyrus calleryana x</i> <i>betulaefolia</i> 'Edgedell'	Edgedell Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
42	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer	Callery Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
43	<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i> 'Pendula'	Willow Leaf Pear	2	2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
44	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
45	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pinoak			E	D	Grows Slow
46	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Pagoda Tree		2	E	E/D	Unknown
47	<i>Tilia Cordata</i>	Linden		2	E	D	

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48	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> <i>'Shamrock'</i>	Linden		2	E	D	
48	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> <i>'Lutescens'</i>	Golden Elm			E	D	Grows Moderate
49	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chines Elm			E	D	
50	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chines Elm			E	D	
51	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Green Vase Japanese Zelkova			E	D	Grows Well, Slow

	Trial Trees
	These trees only to be planted in large road reserves or nature strips

(P) - Not listed but ok to plant under powerlines

**ETSA List 1** - Species with expected height between 2 and 3 metres

**ETSA List 2** - Species with expected height between 3 and 6 metres

In South Australia a great deal of research has been done to determine the suitability of various trees for planting near sewers. Some of the results of this research have been incorporated into Regulation 24 of the Sewerage Act.

This contains two schedules which list over 200 trees and shrubs, the planting of which in streets is controlled, but which may be planted on private property without the need to obtain prior approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 1** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 2 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

**Schedule 2** lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 3.5 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

#### Provisionally Classified Schedule 2

Any tree which is not listed in these schedules may not be planted in any street in any declared drainage area without the prior approval in writing of the South Australian Water Corporation.

In addition to Schedule 1 and 2, approximately 400 trees and shrubs have been *provisionally* classified into the same two groups. The distinction between the trees listed in Schedule 1 and 2 and those which are only provisionally classified is that the latter may not be planted in streets or roads without the prior written approval of the South Australian Water Corporation for home gardens.

The Schedules quoted are for guidance only as Regulations 24 does not apply to private property.

In addition under Regulation 37 of the Waterworks Act, trees and shrubs must not be planted in a public street or road closer than one metre to any water main or service connection. Approval may be obtained by submitting.

in writing details of proposed planting to the contact detailed above

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## 8. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in September 2021, however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

## 9. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website [www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au](http://www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au). Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

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File Reference:	AF11/1747
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan	Goal 2: Our Location
Related Policies:	
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	AF11/1259 <a href="http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/">http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/</a>

## DOCUMENT DETAILS

Responsibility:	General Manager City Infrastructure
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