

Policy Section:	4. Infrastructure & Engineering Services
Policy Name:	Tree Removal On Council Land
Classification	Public – Council Policy
Adopted:	11 September 2018
Frequency of Review:	Four Yearly
Last Review:	September 2018
Next Review Due:	September 2022
Responsible Officer(s):	Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services
Policy and Code of Practice Manual File Ref:	CC10/2601
Council File Reference:	CR18/5425
Legislation Authority:	<i>Development Act 1993</i> <i>Development Regulations 2008</i>
Related Policies:	Tree Management CR16/37311
Related Procedures:	Flowchart Tree Removal process IC18/268

1. PURPOSE

It is Councils' objective to maintain the tree and shrub vegetation under Council's care and control in a manner that enhances the amenity of vegetation throughout the Council area while at the same time considering the public safety and development interests.

The Policy will support Council's Infrastructure and Planning departments, for a consistent and transparent approach to tree management process for the removal of Council's trees.

That when considering trees described as regulated trees by the *Development Act 1993*: defines certain activities, such as tree removal, that effects a Regulated or Significant tree as development, and such activity requires Development Approval.

A significant or regulated trees which is in good condition and which is suited to its location, shall not be removed for infrastructure works unless approval is granted through the formal Development Assessment Panel.

- 1.1 It will be the intention of Council and its employees to retain as many street trees, as is reasonably possible within legislation and safety guidelines.

TREE REMOVAL ON COUNCIL LAND - POLICY

2. TREE REMOVAL FOR SAFETY OR IS UNSUITABLE

- 2.1 If an application proposes the removal of a tree or trees which are unsuitable species i.e. prohibited under SA Water or SA Power networks regulations, the Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services or Delegated Officer can authorise the trees to be removed.
- 2.2 If an application proposes the removal of a tree or trees which are suitable species, but are diseased, dying, malformed, structurally unsound, or interfering with traffic safety at entranceways or intersections, the Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services or Delegated Officer can authorise the trees to be removed.
- 2.3 If an application proposes the removal of a tree or trees which are not suitable species, but are considered worthy of retention, the applicant shall be advised accordingly. At this time, the applicant shall also be advised that the matter could be considered by Council if the applicant requests formally in writing.
- 2.4 Where tree roots that have resulted in damage to Council's kerb, footpath or private infrastructure and has required replacement or substantial repair works on more than one occasion within a 5 year period, once all reasonable alternatives have been explored the Manager Infrastructure and Engineering Services or Delegated Officer can authorise the trees to be removed.

3. TREE REMOVAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 Where street tree removal is approved as part of a development approval or a section 221 (Alteration of road) of the Local Government Act Application (Application to construct, remove or repair a crossing place, stormwater pipe and connection to the kerb), this will be noted as advice on the provisional approval. The approval will be contingent on the applicant meeting the costs of removal, replacement planting and establishment by the Council.

In accordance with Council's Fees and Charges Register the following will apply:

- Removal costs determined by diameter of the tree, when measured at 1m above natural ground level which defines the tree as small medium or large and will include the grinding of the stump to 300 mm below ground level.
- In the case that the trees can be relocated to another location to be assessed by a qualified arborist, the cost for the removal, relocation and the maintenance establishment of one (1) year will be required by the applicant.
- Trees that are approved to be removed for a new driveway, secondary driveway, or development shall be replaced with one or two new trees as appropriate, and a fee will assist in the planting and establishment at a suitable location within the Town Of Gawler.
- Replacement plantings based on the purchase of a 35 litre pot size tree of a species acceptable to the Council, and include a two (2) year maintenance cost to ensure successful establishment.
- All applications will be priced on assessment (POA).

4. REVIEW AND EVALUATION

This Policy will be reviewed every four (4) years.

The Chief Executive Officer will report to Council on the outcome of the evaluation and if relevant make recommendations for amendments, alteration or substitution of a new Policy.

The Policy will not be altered or substituted so as to affect a process already commenced.

5. FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information about this Policy can be obtained by:-

Telephone: 8522 9211

Email: council@gawler.sa.gov.au

Appointment: Town of Gawler Administration Centre, 43 High Street, Gawler East.

Letter: PO Box 130, Gawler SA 5118

6. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

The Policy is available for inspection during ordinary business hours at the Council principal office, Town of Gawler Administration Centre 43 High Street, Gawler East or is available on the Council website at www.gawler.sa.gov.au.

A copy of this Policy will be provided to interested parties upon request, for a fee as contained in the Register of Fees and Charges.