

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

Policy Number 31.POL1

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Version 2.0

Adopted 15 June 2010

Last Reviewed 16 May 2017

Business Unit:	Parks, Sport & Recreation
Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks, Sport & Recreation
Approved By:	Chief Executive Officer
Next Review:	May 2020

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to tree management (Urban Forest) within Greater Shepparton’s streetscapes and urban environment.

Good planning and appropriate maintenance is vital for safe and manageable street, roadside, park and reserve trees that will provide aesthetic, material, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

This policy (and associated guidelines) provides a framework for ensuring structured, consistent and sound management decisions are made for all trees on land owned by Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) or under Council’s control.

SCOPE

This policy is applicable to Greater Shepparton City Council in all its operations and functions relating to street tree planting and management.

- **“Urban Zone”** – The parameters of Urban Zones are determined to be equal to the commencement of speed limit zones at township or city boundaries. Trees planted or self-sown within the road reserve, open space area or floodway zones of the Urban Zone boundaries are maintained by Greater Shepparton City Council.
- **“Council Tree Asset”**– Any tree planted or self-sown that is owned and maintained by the Greater Shepparton City Council within the Urban Zone. Referred to as tree or trees in this policy.

DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
approved tree list	Species of trees identified as appropriate for the local region
Tree Precinct list	Specific list of suitable trees
Tree Technical manual	Documents that provide technical guidance to council staff and contractors

POLICY PRINCIPLES

Decisions made in relation to Tree management will be based on the following principles:

1. Trees are considered to be community assets that contribute to the well-being of the community and to the natural environment. Council recognises and values the significance of street trees within the urban setting in that they create functional and aesthetic streetscapes, provide natural habitat and natural shade.
2. Council is committed to planting, preserving and maintaining, in a safe and healthy condition, those trees which are currently or which will become visually, historically, socially or environmentally valuable to the community
3. Council acknowledges that the management and preservation of street trees will be accounted for in the annual budget. By applying appropriate levels of resources and

best practice management, council will strive to develop streetscapes of attractive, healthy and safe trees for the benefit of the entire community.

4. Council is committed to protecting and maintaining trees within the municipality whilst meeting its obligation to provide a safe environment and will plan for the provision, retention and maintenance of suitable street trees and streetscapes consistent with the Urban Forest strategy and Tree management manual and other relevant legislation.
5. Council will utilise a decision making framework as outlined in the Urban Forest strategy and Tree management manual to aid and justify species selection and ongoing management.
6. Unless otherwise directed by Council, decisions in relation to street tree planting and management will be made by the Director Infrastructure.

RELATED POLICIES AND DIRECTIVES

The implementation of the Tree Management Policy supports the following Greater Shepparton City Council strategic documents:

- *Urban Forest Strategy*
- *Asset Management Strategy*
- *Asset Management Plans*
- *Service Plans*
- *Road Management Plan*
- *Infrastructure Design Manual*

RELATED LEGISLATION

- Electric Safety (Electric line clearance) regulations 2015
- Local Government Act 1989 (the Act). Regulations under the Act
- Road Management Act

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years by the Team Leader Parks, Sport & Recreation from the date of adoption.



29/5/17

Peter Harriott
Chief Executive Officer

Date

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

