



URBAN FOREST POLICY

Document No: A3755849

1.1 Objectives: Ipswich City Council is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of its Urban Forest Areas through its planting and management practices. Its professional and industry leading approach will ensure the expansion of the Ipswich Urban Forest area with the specific outcome to benefit the urban amenity and community environment. This will be achieved through the use of available funds and resources in a cost effective and timely manner.

1.2 Regulatory Authority:

- Local Government Act 2009
- Local Law No. 7 (Local Government Controlled Areas and Roads)
- Australian Standard 4373 – Pruning of Amenity Trees
- Australian Standard 4970 – Tree protection on development sites

1.3 Scope:

Tree Protection

- Council will protect the Urban Forest through best practice management, local laws and the planning scheme to ensure the overall Urban Forest is increasing.
- Council will protect and manage the Urban Forest based on a Risk Management Classification approach.
- Council will maintain a zero reduction strategy of trees on Council control land in the Urban Forest in that any trees removed will be replaced. (Replacement trees may not necessarily be in the same position.)
- All trees and significant vegetation on rural roads and reserves areas under Council's control yet outside the Urban Forest area will be protected and managed based on the criteria and strategies of this policy.

Tree Planting

- Council will ensure species selected for planting in streetscapes, parks and Council managed land comply with current strategies (eg. Ipswich Streetscape Design Guide), where practical be indigenous to the region and will contribute positively to the City's environment.
- All tree plantings on Council controlled and managed land will comply with Councils planting procedures and management policies.
- All tree plantings on Council controlled land will be carried out based on current industry best practises and reflect any local or regional environmental issues at the time of planting.
- Residents are not permitted to plant trees or shrubs within the road reserve or on Council managed parks unless approved in writing by Council.
- Residents will not be compensated for trees or shrubs that have been planted without permission that require removal. Residents will be given reasonable notice to remove the planted material if required. Should the material not be removed then Council will remove the planted material. Replacement plants will be in line with the Ipswich Streetscape Design Guideline.

- All tree plantings and associated approvals will take into account the surrounding facilities and services, local amenity, design requirements and Ipswich Streetscape Design Guideline.

Tree Pruning

- All tree pruning and associated work will be carried out in accordance with the Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees.
- Where a healthy, safe and appropriate tree has been assessed and determined for retention, further consideration of broader community concerns will be considered by the Chief Operating Officer (Works Parks and Recreation) following consultation with the relevant divisional Councillor.
- All pruning and associated work to trees on Council managed land must be carried out by or supervised by a qualified arborist, unless in an urgent or emergency situation.
- Street or park trees hanging over private property that require pruning must be reported to the Council and Council will then inspect the tree and take appropriate action.
- Trees over hanging and impeding on Council controlled land from private land that are deemed by Council to be a public safety issue will be treated as follows:
 - Notification to the adjacent land owner to trim their tree within a specified period. This period will be based on the public safety aspect of each case, however it will generally be between seven and thirty days.
 - If no action is taken by the adjacent land owner Council will undertake the pruning works. Pruning will only be to the extent to remove the public risk.

Tree Removal

- Removal of trees will only occur if a tree is dead, near death, deemed a public risk, performing poorly or is an inappropriate species or as approved by the Chief Operating Officer (Works, Parks and Recreation).
 - Where a tree has been assessed and determined for retention, further consideration of broader community concerns may be considered by the Chief Operating Officer (Works, Parks and Recreation) following consultation with the relevant divisional Councillor.
- Street Trees requiring removal will be removed after advising adjoining residents.
- Residents will be given fourteen days' notice of the tree removal along with the reasons for removal.
- Street Trees that pose immediate public danger will be removed immediately and the adjoining residents notified as soon as practical.
- In line with a zero reduction strategy Council will replace any trees that have been removed. Replacement trees may not necessarily be in the same position.

Significant Trees

- A detailed criteria description can be found in the Heritage and Significant Tree Register however single or grouped trees on Council controlled land may be deemed significant if they fall into one or more of the following categories;
 - High Horticultural Value
 - Based on their age in relation to the urban environment
 - Location in the Urban Environment
 - Size and aesthetic value
 - Historical Value
- A significant tree register will be maintained
- Trees of significance will only be added to the register after consideration of the relevant criteria.
- Ipswich City Council will develop management plans for significant trees under their

control to ensure the longevity and specific needs of those trees are met.

- Significant trees will be protected under the appropriate local planning scheme, relevant local laws and tree management strategies.

1.4 Roles, responsibilities and actions: Officers responsible for the implementation of this Policy are the City Maintenance Manager and the Principal Officer (Natural and Urban Forest) or their delegates.

1.5 Policy Author: Principal Officer (Natural and Urban Forest)

Date of Council Resolution: 13 May 2014

Date of Review: 29 November 2016

Committee Reference and Date: Policy and Administration Board No. 2014(04) of 29 April 2014 – City Management and Finance Committee No. 2014(05)

No. of Resolution: 1

Date to be Reviewed: 29 November 2018