



Tree Management Policy

Responsible Officer	Chief Executive Officer
Relevant Delegations	Director Corporate Services
Legislation and References	Local Government Act 1999

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear direction to the community on how Council will manage its trees to ensure a diverse environment with risks minimised.

2. Scope

The policy covers:

- Programmed tree plantings (along riparian corridors, trees for life, bush care sites etc.);
- Street trees planted as part of beautification/streetscape works;
- Reserve trees planted as part of beautification/amenity works;
- Remnant trees in road corridors
- All other remnant, significant, or regulated trees.
- And Removal of Trees if required / necessary

On Council road reserves, maintained reserves, land or other areas under its general maintenance responsibility.

This policy does not cover trees within private properties or trees not under Council's responsibility.

3. Policy Aim

The aim of this policy is to implement consistent guidelines for the management of trees. This will include the maintenance, planting and removal of trees.

4. Definitions

For the purposes of this Tree Management Policy, a tree is defined as:

- A woody perennial plant, including palms that can have more than one trunk and a distinct elevated crown or lateral branches.

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5. Policy procedure details

5.1 Planting of trees

The selection and management of trees for planting in road reserves will be planned with great care and will have regard to local conditions, safety, and compatibility with existing plantings, and be designed to enhance the character and amenity of the streetscape and rural environment.

Species used must come from the approved list of street trees

(Refer <https://www.sapowernetworks.com.au/public/download.jsp?id=7708>).

New tree plantings will take into account:

- The surrounding vegetation composition and any environmental or aesthetic considerations;
- The capacity for planting a single tree species to develop and achieve a consistent uniform planting (an 'Avenue Effect') with trees having a similar size, shape and look where possible;
- The purpose of the road as well as the type of construction of the road and any impact the trees might have on it, or surrounding structures;
- The impacts the proposed trees may have on any services present, above or below the ground, taking into account Legislative requirements The preference of the adjacent resident with regards to the tree species;
- The type of traffic using the road and potential impacts on road safety;
- The possible impacts on the safety of the public; and
- Any other matters which might be pertinent to the site.

Where Council has committed to significant roadworks within a street as part of its capital program, consideration will be given to a holistic approach for the installation and/or replacement of street trees in accordance with the following guiding principles:

Tree planting guidelines are based on the urban design concept that a strong visual effect can be obtained by using a bold and simple layout without complicated and numerous variations in style and materials.

The following tree planting principles have been developed to address the various site conditions found in our streetscapes:

- Symmetrical planting- similar tree species on both sides of the road. This is the preferred layout but is not always possible because of site constraints
- Asymmetrical planting- different sized species and/or form on either side of the road. This layout is appropriate where power lines occupy one side of a road, or where a narrow street allows planting on one side only

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- Formal planting - a formal streetscape is created where the roadway forms a grid pattern, usually at right angles to each other. Formal planting should be symmetrical and use a single tree species at regular spacing intervals.
- Informal planting - random placement of trees. Appropriate in some urban road settings where street locations have a direct or visual relationship to a natural environment, such as a river or bushland.
- Single tree species per street - generally a single street tree species is desirable, and should be pursued unless restricted by site constraints. Feature specimen planting may be considered at key intersections, central business zones, pedestrian crossings and the like.
- Solar orientation in certain situations street planting can be designed to provide shade and also allow winter sun.

5.2 Planting of Vines – Town Centre

On application Council may authorise the planting of Glory Vines only adjacent to existing or proposed veranda posts to promote the greening of a town centre. All costs of such works shall be borne by the applicant.

5.3 Rural roadside planting

Council supports the planting of suitable species of trees along Road Reserves upon successful application of a permit (SF031 - Authorisation to alter a public road) from Council. The trees are required to be planted as near as practicable to the property boundary and in any case not closer than 2 metres from the shoulder of the carriageway; where constructed, and no closer than 25 metres to a road junction. The species planted to be of a type with an expected maximum height of 10-15 metres at maturity, preferably type's native to area.

If planting either sides of road, or one side already is planted, trees should be staggered along the road alignment to avoid excessive canopy growth and ensure road is traversable by larger agricultural equipment etc. Council may prune the vegetation / trees to ensure the road is traversable.

All plantings shall give consideration to future maintenance, roadside hazards, visibility and the clearance envelope that will enable farming equipment to travel without restriction.

5.4 Maintenance of trees

The allocation of resources by Council for managing trees will determine the extent of implementation of any maintenance programs developed for this purpose. The implementation of maintenance programs will be prioritised according to the level of funding, available resources and any risk assessment undertaken on the trees.

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Requests from the public for trimming or pruning of trees must be lodged in writing to Council or by completing an appropriate works request form, this can be undertaken online www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au or email admin@cgvc.sa.gov.au.

The request will be recorded and referred to the Manager Works and Infrastructure for assessment. A determination will then be made and any necessary work referred to Council's staff or approved contractual service provider for action.

Tree trimming is carried out by Council staff or contractual service provider to improve vision at intersections and on/near any driveway, including the removal of new growth. Pruning of trees will be carried out to ensure the tree remains in a healthy and aesthetic state.

If trees overhang on a road/footpath from a private property, the property owner may be requested to remove the offending limbs/foliage at their own cost and dispose of accordingly.

Council may issue an order pursuant to Section 254 of the Local Government Act 1999 ordering the removal of overgrown vegetation, the cutting back of overhanging branches or the removal of a tree.

If the work is not performed, then Council reserves the right to perform the work and recover the costs pursuant to Section 257 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Tree heights are to be cleared for pedestrian access to clearance height of 3 metres and for vehicular access to a clearance height of 5 metres, as per the road class construction cross sections in the Transport Asset Management Plan.

5.5 Removal of trees

Council recognises that from time to time it is necessary to trim, alter and in some instances remove trees for safety, risk management or other reasons.

It is Council's policy to retain all trees which are growing on its land including road reserves and other reserves except in the following circumstances:

- The tree is considered by Council to be a danger to the public;
- The tree is dead or diseased and offers limited habitat for wildlife;
- The tree is unsuitable in the location;
- The tree has caused or has the reasonable potential to cause damage to Council's assets and infrastructure;
- Where roads are widened or re-constructed (or will be in the foreseeable future) and it is not possible to avoid the trees;
- Where the trees are on a surveyed fence line;
- Where trees affect public utilities (power lines, water mains, communication cables or overhead wires) in a way which requires such harsh pruning it will limit the future development of the tree;

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- Where trees require thinning to enable the better species to grow to maturity;
- The tree obstructs the view of oncoming traffic such that sight lines in accordance with Austroads Guidelines cannot be achieved.

In addition to the above Council will also give consideration to removal of trees in the following special circumstances:

- A tree has been identified by a medical practitioner to have a detrimental effect on the physical health of an adjacent resident;
- There is evidence that the tree roots have caused or are likely to cause significant damage to infrastructure on adjacent private land.

In these instances Council will remove the tree at its cost and replace where necessary in accordance with the “Planting of Trees” section of this Tree Management Policy

In circumstances where Council does not have the expertise to assess a tree issue, an Arborist report will be sought.

It is an offence for any person to cut, saw or remove any tree or shrub on any land under the care, control and management of Council and may result in prosecution under the Local Government Act 1999 or Planning Development & Infrastructure Act 2016.

6. Review & Availability

This policy will be reviewed every four years, or as required.

The public may inspect a copy of this policy without charge at the Council offices during office hours and may obtain a copy for a fee fixed by Council.

The policy is also available on Council’s website www.claregilbertvalleys.sa.gov.au

7. References

- Planning Development & Infrastructure Act 2016
- Electricity Act 1996
- Local Government Act 1999
- Road Traffic Act 1961
- Sewerage Act 1929

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8. Document History

Approved by	Issue Date	Minute Reference – Details of Review
CGVC	20/09/2004	Adopted by Council
CGVC	16/11/2015	Reviewed by Council
CGVC	20/08/2018	Reviewed by Council , (Incorporated Tree Planting on Rural Roadsides and Planting of Vines Town Centre Polices)
CGVC	18/07/2022	Reviewed by Council

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