

## 1.56 Street Tree Management Policy

<b>Policy Owner</b>	Executive Director Infrastructure, Development and Environment
<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manager City Reserves
<b>Date of Approval</b>	17/12/2013
<b>Amended/Revised</b>	25/06/2024

### Objective

This policy and associated [City of Albany Street Trees – Community Guideline](#) provides clear and effective direction for the management of street trees within the City of Albany (City) to ensure they are maintained in a healthy state and minimise any adverse impacts of the trees on public safety.

### Scope

The Policy provides the framework through which street trees will be maintained within the City of Albany and applies to Council, residents, builders and developers alike.

### Policy Statement

Sustainable street tree management plays an integral role in reducing the City carbon footprint and providing a clean and green urban environment.

The [City of Albany Street Trees – Community Guideline](#), is to be used to guide City operations to ensure that the City manages street trees in accordance to best practice guidelines, to:

- Protect and preserve trees, and
- Ensure public safety is not compromised.

### Legislative and Strategic Context

The [City of Albany Activities on Thoroughfares and Public Places and Trading Local Law 2011](#) facilitates tree management through several key provisions:

- **Permit Requirements for Planting:** Individuals or entities wishing to plant trees on thoroughfares must obtain a permit. This ensures that tree planting is controlled and aligns with the city's overall urban planning and environmental goals.
- **Verge Treatments:** The law outlines permissible verge treatments, which include guidelines for planting and maintaining trees on verges. This helps maintain consistency and safety across public spaces.
- **Clearance of Vegetation:** A permit is also required for the clearance of vegetation, including trees. This regulation helps protect existing trees and ensures that any removal is justified and managed appropriately.
- **Roadside Conservation:** Specific provisions are made for the conservation of flora on roadsides, including the designation of flora roads and special environmental areas. These areas are protected to preserve native vegetation and biodiversity.
- **Public Works:** The law grants the city the power to carry out public works on verges, which includes the planting, maintenance, and removal of trees as necessary for public safety and infrastructure development.

These measures collectively ensure that tree management within the City of Albany is conducted in a

structured and environmentally responsible manner.

### Review Position and Date

This Policy is to be reviewed annually.

### Associated Documents

Strategies, procedures, references, guidelines or other documents that have a bearing on this policy and that may be useful reference material for users of this policy:

- [City of Albany Street Trees – Community Guideline](#)
- Australian Standard 4373-2007 'Pruning of Amenity Trees'. This standard specifies methods for pruning trees and guides correct and uniform practices. It is intended for use on amenity trees, including palms, and covers various pruning techniques such as removal of deadwood, crown lifting, formative pruning, reduction pruning (including line clearance), selective pruning, crown thinning, and remedial or restorative pruning
- [Code of Practice for Vegetation Worker Electrical Safety | Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety](#). This code details the requirements for vegetation control work carried out near the live conductors of overhead power lines and is to be read in conjunction with *Electricity Regulations 1947 Regulation 316A*.

### City's Strategy Community Plan 2032:

The [City of Albany's Strategic Community Plan 2032](#) outlines several initiatives related to streetscapes, verges, and trees, aiming to enhance the urban environment and improve the quality of life for residents.

- **Streetscape Enhancements:** The plan emphasises creating attractive and functional streetscapes that promote pedestrian activity and enhance the visual appeal of the city. This includes the use of native plants and trees to create green corridors and improve biodiversity.
- **Verges Management:** There is a focus on maintaining and improving verges (the strips of land between the road and the property boundary). This includes planting native species to reduce water usage and maintenance costs, and to provide habitat for local wildlife.
- **Tree Planting and Preservation:** The plan includes initiatives to increase tree canopy cover in urban areas to provide shade, reduce heat island effects, and improve air quality. Preservation of existing mature trees is also a priority to maintain the ecological balance and heritage value.
- **Community Involvement:** The City encourages community participation in streetscape and verge projects. This includes programs where residents can adopt a verge or participate in community planting days, fostering a sense of ownership and pride in the local environment.

These initiatives are designed to create a more sustainable, liveable, and aesthetically pleasing urban environment, benefiting both the community and the natural ecosystem.

### Definitions

Key terms and acronyms used in the policy, and their definitions.

- **Street Tree** – A tree or shrub that has been either planted or is naturally occurring within an urban road verge and is under the care and maintenance of the City of Albany.