

WHAT TREE WORK COUNCIL WILL NOT APPROVE

- Removal of healthy trees;
- Removal or pruning of trees to improve views;
- Removal or pruning of trees shading lawns or inhibiting grass growth;
- Removal of trees for driveway crossings where other options are available;
- Removal or pruning of trees to reduce fruit fall, leaf fall, sap drop, bird droppings or similar;
- Removal or pruning to increase street lighting onto private property;
- Pruning of trees contrary to *Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of amenity trees*; and
- Chemical pest control except termite treatment where necessary.

PLANTING REQUESTS

It is important to recognise that street trees are Council's responsibility, and for landscape management and legal liability reasons street trees should only be planted by Council. Generally, Council does not support residents planting their own trees in the streetscape unless it is part of a Council approved scheme or as a condition of development consent.

However, Council encourages residents to identify planting opportunities and initiatives to beautify the streetscape, and requests for the planting of street trees can be directed to Council.

Council is also happy to support neighbourhood and community groups in street planting projects.



Street Tree Management in Willoughby

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WILLOUGHBY'S STREET TREES

The Willoughby Local Government Area is well known as a green and leafy area, and street trees play a central role in contributing to this landscape quality.

Street trees are defined as those trees growing in the road reserve (the area stretching between the front boundaries of the properties on opposite sides of the road). This includes trees growing on footpaths, median strips and roundabouts.

Willoughby streetscapes support an extensive street tree population of over 20,000 trees from more than 150 different native and exotic species. The streetscapes contain a mix of formal and informal plantings of various age classes, and includes many remnant and self-sown locally occurring native species, particularly in streets adjacent to bushland reserves.



VALUES OF STREET TREES

Street trees provide a wide range of aesthetic, environmental, social and economic benefits. They:

- Provide a softening effect to streetscape and urban environments, particularly in highly built up districts such as commercial and industrial areas;
- Improve the local micro-climate by reducing the effects of strong winds;
- Provide shade in summer;
- Contribute to air quality by producing oxygen and reducing air pollution by the entrapment of airborne particles;
- Provide landscape interest through shape, form and colour;
- Provide habitat for urban wildlife, and provide linkages between natural areas;
- Contribute to overall bio-diversity;
- Enhance cultural, historic and environmental values;
- Help to define localities and create a sense of place to an area;
- Contribute to storm water management; and
- Enhance property values.

PRUNING AND REMOVAL REQUESTS

Council's Streetscape Coordinator inspects trees to assess the requirement for any necessary pruning or removal work. In general, Council does not support the removal of healthy street trees. Council will only remove street trees if they are dead, dying or hazardous, or where the tree is causing damage to adjacent structures and there are no other viable management solutions available.

WHAT TREE WORK COUNCIL WILL APPROVE

After assessment by the Streetscape Coordinator, the following work may be undertaken:

- Removal of dead, dying, hazardous or unsuitable trees;
- Removal of trees in conflict with adjacent utilities or built structures where no other viable option is available;
- Removal of dead, diseased or defective branches;
- Selective pruning to remove branches causing conflict with adjacent built structures;
- Pruning for overhead line clearance; and
- Selective pruning for pedestrian and vehicle access and traffic safety.

All pruning work is carried out in accordance with *Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of amenity trees*.