



VEGETATION MANAGEMENT POLICY

Date Adopted/ Approved:	10 February 2020
Review Date:	February 2024
Version:	1
Responsible Position:	Director Planning and Infrastructure
ECM Doc ID:	5804936

1. Purpose

This policy brings together a suite of documents and consolidates various plans, policies and procedures for vegetation protection, management, connectivity and sustainability. These documents include:

Volume 1: Urban Tree Management Policy
Volume 2: Vegetation Management Guidelines
Volume 3: Willoughby Street Tree Master Plan
Volume 4: Willoughby Natural Heritage Register
Urban Bushland Plan of Management
C.9 Vegetation Management of *Willoughby Development Control Plan*(WDCP)

2. City Strategy Outcome

1.2 – Promote sustainable lifestyles and practices

1.3 – Enhance, protect and respect waterways, bushland, nature, wildlife

1.1 – Create and enhance green spaces

3. Application

This policy applies to the management of public and private vegetation throughout the Willoughby LGA.

4. Policy Principles

- Provide safe and enjoyable spaces for residents and visitors;
- Protect and manage Willoughby LGA's vegetation;
- Maintain the quality and quantity of Willoughby LGA's canopy cover;
- Enhance species and age diversity, connectivity and recovery of fragmented habitat;
- Facilitate the removal of undesirable exotics, noxious weeds, and any other inappropriate plantings, and to replace these with suitable local indigenous species;
- Establish the requirements for removal of vegetation in the Willoughby LGA;
- Recognise and protect vegetation considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social and ecological criteria;
- Ensure whole-of-life-cycle vegetation asset management;
- Promote ecologically sustainable development;
- Promote community awareness and appreciation of the many values and benefits of vegetation; and
- Provide a consistent framework to assess applications for the removal or pruning of vegetation;
- To provide for no net loss over time of tree canopy cover and bushland in Willoughby City.
- To enhance canopy cover in the Willoughby LGA

5. Policy Statement

- All clearing of vegetation by non-Council entities on private and public land requires a permit from Council unless meeting one or more of the criteria laid out in the C.9 Vegetation Management of *Willoughby Development Control Plan* (WDCP).
- Vegetation management will consider this Policy, any relevant provisions in the Willoughby Environmental Plan 2012 (Willoughby LEP) and DCP, any SEPP's, and the relevant provisions of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* to support Council's aims and objectives for sustainable development.
- Management of vegetation in Willoughby LGA will be in line with best practice standards including Australian Standard AS 4373 (2007) Pruning of Amenity Trees and AS 4970 (2009) Protection of Trees on Development Sites. Council implements a whole of life approach to vegetation management to balance potential risks against the benefits that vegetation provides.

6. Responsible Officer

This Policy is the responsibility of the Planning and Infrastructure Directorate and is managed by the nominated Officer in each of the separate documents.

7. Monitoring and Review

- The policy and its suite of documents will be updated as required where Legislative or Procedural requirements necessitate.

Governing laws and standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i> ▪ <i>NSW Biosecurity Act 2015</i> ▪ <i>NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> ▪ <i>NSW Local Land Services Act 2013</i> ▪ <i>NSW Rural Fires Amendment (Vegetation Clearing) Act 2014</i> ▪ <i>State Environmental Planning Policy No 19 – Bushland in Urban Areas 1986</i> ▪ <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017</i> ▪ <i>State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008</i> ▪ <i>The Australian Standard for pruning of amenity trees (AS4373)</i> ▪ <i>The Australian Standard for the protection of trees on development sites (AS4970).</i>
Related policies and other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Willoughby Local Environmental Plan ▪ Willoughby Development Control Plan ▪ Volume 1: Urban Tree Management Policy ▪ Volume 2: Vegetation Management Guidelines ▪ Volume 3: Street Tree Masterplan ▪ Volume 4: Natural Heritage Register ▪ Urban Bushland Plan of Management ▪ Our Green City Plan 2028 ▪ Parks Plans of Management and Masterplans
Document History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Date adopted: 10 February 2020 ▪

Appendix

Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪
Policy	
Procedure	