

Works and Assets

Townsite Tree Planting and Maintenance

Objective

The policy provides guidance on how trees will be planted, maintained and cared for on any Shire of Koorda (“Shire”) managed land.

Policy

All trees irrespective of who planted them and which have at least 50% of their base located within Shire managed land will be maintained and cared for by the Shire.

Residents can also care for trees on the verge adjacent to their property in accordance with the conditions on this Policy.

Definitions

TERM	DEFINITION
Pensioner	A person who receives a full pension.
Shire-managed tree	Trees located in road reserves, reserves and on land vested in, or otherwise managed by the Shire.
Tree vandalism	Subjecting a tree to intentional harm, including unauthorised pruning, poisoning, removal, and physical or chemical damage.
Unauthorised pruning	Pruning activities conducted by any persons other than authorised Shire employees or authorised contractors; or pruning undertaken by residents contrary to the Shire’s Tree Pruning Guidelines.

Tree Planting

The Shire will undertake the planting of trees on Shire-managed land under its tree planting program, determined on an annual basis. This program includes new tree planting in areas such as parks, road verges, medians, roundabouts, reserves and natural areas. Residents are also able to order a verge tree for planting in front of their property. The Shire will determine the species and select the location of the tree in consideration of site conditions, infrastructure, utility services, sight lines and other constraints. Property owners will be given the opportunity to discuss the species selection and positioning of the tree on the verge. The Shire will undertake all activities required to establish new trees and provide ongoing maintenance.

Replacement Trees

The Shire will endeavour to plant a new tree for each tree that has been removed from residential verges under this policy in a suitable location.

Tree Pruning

Pruning may be undertaken to improve the form or health of a tree, and/or to remove or reduce an assessed risk.

Generally, pruning services will be provided on an annual basis by the Shire to:

- Maintain required clearance from power lines, streetlights, utilities and other infrastructure.
- Maintain appropriate clearances for sightlines, and accessibility for driveways, roads and footpaths.
- Maintain visibility of street name signage, directional signage, advanced warning and regulatory traffic signs.
- Remove or reduce risk of harm.
- Correct structural defects in natural growth or form (remedial pruning).

- Re-establish tree after damage (restoration pruning).
- Optimise form and branch structure in juvenile tree (formative pruning).
- Clear overhanging influence from private buildings.

Property owners may request pruning of trees abutting their private property. Unless the requested pruning is for the reasons listed above, authorisation of the request will be at the discretion of the CEO and Works Supervisor. If authorisation is given, the property owner requesting the pruning will be required to pay for the pruning costs incurred by the Shire.

Residents are authorised to undertake minor pruning of trees located on verge areas abutting their property. Pruning is not undertaken for the following reasons:

- To improve views.
- To discourage the presence of animals or insects.
- Clearance for advertising and business signage.

Tree Removal

Tree removal may only be undertaken when:

- A tree is dead.
- An unacceptable level of risk exists within the tree's structure that remedial techniques cannot rectify.
- The tree is suffering from a disease where remedial techniques will not prevent further spread of the disease, and the removal will be of benefit to other trees around it.
- The tree is causing significant damage to infrastructure, and medication to the infrastructure or tree is impractical, and suitable documented evidence to support this is provided by a qualified professional.
- There is an imminent safety risk to people, property and/or infrastructure.
- The removal is approved under a crossover approval granted by the Shire. Such removal may be subject to conditions of the crossover approval granted in accordance with the Shire's crossover policy.
- The removal is approved under a subdivision approval granted by the Western Australian Planning Commission. Such removal may be subject to conditions in accordance with those approvals.

Where a tree is removed, the Shire will plant a replacement tree of a suitable species as practicably close to the location of the removed tree as part of its tree planting program. Where a tree is approved for removal for a subdivision, development and/or for works undertaken by a utility provider or other authority, then the Shire will seek compensation for the cost of removing the existing tree, if Council is required to remove it.

Tree Vandalism

Where vandalism of trees occurs, the Shire after an investigation, may authorise the following actions:

- Issuing of an infringement notice with a penalty in accordance with the Shire's Local Laws to those who have been identified responsible for the damage.
- Where the vandalism involves the removal of a tree, or results in the need for tree removal as a consequence of vandalism, the Shire will plant a replacement tree plus an additional new tree on the same verge. The Shire will seek compensation for the cost of removing the existing tree, if required, and the cost of arranging provision of two trees and three years' maintenance.
- Write to affected residents in the vicinity of the tree(s) advising of the Shire's actions in response to the vandalism.

In addition to the above, if damage or vandalism has occurred as a direct result of development activities without prior approval, the Shire will seek from the person or company responsible

compensation for the cost of removing the existing tree if required, and the cost of arranging provision of a replacement tree(s) and three years' maintenance if required.

Related Documents (Legislation/Local Law/Policy/Procedure/Delegation)

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1995

Environmental Protections Act 1986

Thoroughfares Local Law 2020

Section 444 of Criminal Code WA

Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety - Guidelines for the management of vegetation near power lines.

Shire of Koorda Policy "W - Vandalism Rewards"

Shire of Koorda Policy "W - Crossovers"

Review History

Date	Council Resolution	Description of review/amendment
18/06/2025	RES: 040625	V1.0. Policy re-written.
Former Policy No: W11 Tree Planting and Removal		
19/09/2001		Adoption of Policy (W11)

