

POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy is designed to assist the Council to provide a consistent and considered approach to the management and maintenance of street trees and meet the following Community Strategic Plan objectives:

1.1 Pristine natural environment

5.1 Collaborative and engaged

SCOPE

This policy applies to all current and future trees and shrubs that are growing on road nature strips. The purpose of this policy is to formalise the Edward River Council's management of street trees including:

-Tree selection and location

-Tree removal

-Maintenance and preservation

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

NIL

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy seeks to provide a practical and balanced approach to tree management. Whilst the health, safety and welfare of Council staff and the community is paramount, Council is committed to preserving trees, improving aesthetic urban landscape and effectively managing the environment. Whilst these objectives can be conflicting, responsible risk management shall take precedence in any determination regarding existing and future planting.

Property owners must seek approval from council before any planting, pruning or removal of street trees or shrubs on nature strips.

Tree selection and location

Location of trees must allow for satisfactory location of public utilities, pedestrian movement, and safe line of sight for vehicles. Approved tree species for nature strips, including below power lines will be maintained and managed by Manager Operations.

Tree Removal

Whilst Tree Removal is the last resort management option, public safety always takes priority.

- Urban tree removal will not be considered in the following instances:
 - If there is a safe and practical means for tree retention
 - For solar access
 - For unjustified property or infrastructure damage claims
 - To reduce leaf, fruit and debris litter
 - If the tree provides an important biodiversity function such as high conservation road reserves

- For personal aesthetic preference
- Urban tree removal may be considered under the following circumstances:
 - All hazardous trees will be removed as soon as practical
 - Trees that are un-viable, structurally unsound and high probability of failure
 - Trees that are dead, dying or in severe decline
 - A tree with a defect that cannot be rectified
 - Trees proven to be causing unsafe damage to infrastructure
 - As part of a tree scape upgrade or capital works program

Removal of trees on nature strips will be at the approval of the General Manager.

Maintenance and Preservation

Our parks and gardens team manage and prioritise tree works and maintenance and clean up any tree hazards after storm events. Trees like all living things grow, age and eventually die. The parks and gardens teams manage and monitor public trees through their lifecycle and remove and replace when appropriate.

Essential Energy

Council acknowledge Essential Energy’s obligations under the Electricity Supply Act 1995 (NSW) and encourage them to engage with the local community as they enact those powers.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Electrical Supply Act 1995 (NSW)

POLICY VERSION CONTROL

Title	Tree Management Policy			
ECM Doc Set ID	226502			
Date Adopted	15 November 2022			
Council Minute No.				
Responsible Officer	Manager Engineering and Assets			
Version Number	Modified By	Modifications Made	Date modified and Approved by Council	Council Minute Number