

PURPOSE

This policy will guide decision making and assist in the development of specific procedures and tree related issues for the community and Council. This policy relates to street trees throughout the City of Glenorchy.

SCOPE

Street tree plantings encourage an elegant and cosmopolitan image for our streets, by transforming the local character of the environment as they grow.

Street trees encourage improvements in the image and identity of the city. They create high quality visual amenity, add colour, texture, shade and movement to the street scape. Street trees have been proven to reduce the urban heat island effect by reducing the temperature of hard surfaces adding liveability to the city. They can decrease the stress on storm water systems when combined with swales and rain gardens, while increasing the biodiversity and providing habitat for wildlife.

In support of principles of sustainability and liveable cities, Glenorchy City Council endeavours to increase community awareness as to the importance of street trees and the positive health and wellbeing effects they create.

Street trees can assist with traffic calming, be used as visual cues when navigating and highlighting major gateways into the City.

It is vital that Council protects its street trees. Council will demonstrate this to the community by providing an equitable and consistent rationale for its decision making. By minimising the potential conflicts with essential services and pedestrians, Council will increase the value that the community places on street tree assets.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Making Lives Better

Objective 1.1 Know our communities and what they value

Strategy 1.1.1 Guide decision making through continued community engagement based on our community plan

Leading Our Community

Objective 4.1 Govern in the best interests of our community

Strategy 4.1.1 Manage Council for maximum efficiency, accountability and transparency

Strategy 4.1.3 Maximise regulatory compliance in Council and the community through our systems and processes

Objective 4.2 Prioritise our resources to achieve our community's goals

Strategy 4.2.1 Deploy the Council's resources effectively to deliver value

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Glenorchy Interim Planning Scheme

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Acts	<i>Highways Act 1951</i>
Regulations	Not applicable
Australian/International Standards	AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites

DEFINITIONS

Not applicable.

POLICY STATEMENT

Council will continue the development of a street tree master plan that outlines opportunities for street tree avenues and enhancement of the individual landscape character of each suburb and arterial road.

Street trees will be managed to ensure community safety, whilst maintaining tree health and vigour where possible.

Council will endeavour to increase the number of street tree plantings within the City, creating a high-quality visual aesthetic, providing shade, with sound ecological and sustainability values.

Council will endeavour to create street tree avenues through promoting the opportunity to plant one tree in front of each property. This will be subject to the location of underground services, width of the road reserve and other restrictions. Where this is not possible, Council will work with community groups and organisations to optimise opportunity's to further green suburbs.

Tree species and planting locations will be selected depending on the suitability of a tree species to each site, aligned with site selection criteria. This will include available space in each location, underground services, habit and growth performance of each tree species. Accessibility, maintenance and the availability of water are some of the considerations to be assessed.

The conflicting requirements of trees and infrastructure will be minimised by taking into account the growth and habit of individual tree species. Root control barriers will be used as a minimum standard with preference given to new engineering solutions such as strata cell's that enable increased tree health and vigour while minimising future maintenance or re-work of other infrastructure.

Reference for this can be found at the LGAT standard drawings

- TSD-R36-v2 Tree/shrub planting
- TSD-R06-v2 Typical road cross-section

Glenorchy City Council staff, contractors, and other service providers will provide protection for existing trees within Glenorchy City Council property. By providing an adequate Tree protection zone (TPZ) as per AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites.

Any requirement for the pruning of trees within Glenorchy City Council property, that has been identified by Glenorchy City Council staff, contractors, and other service providers should first be inspected by a GCC Arborist prior to any works commencing.

New trees will be incorporated into Glenorchy City Council design scopes including road reconstruction and landscape projects. Council will assist private property owners and developers with knowledge in relation to species choice and plantings suitable to their location when possible.

Exotic trees are an important element of the street amenity and will be considered and utilised where appropriate.

Council will endeavour to plant a diverse range of exotic and native trees species which will be dependent on-site conditions and visual amenities. Whilst taking into account changes in climate, water availability and future maintenance.

Consideration will be given to the benefits of trees to the streetscape. Taking into account of the value of canopy cover, shade, beauty and the liveability/perception of the municipality.

Council will protect all significant street trees as described under the Glenorchy interim Planning Scheme 2015 via relevant codes: E10.0 Biodiversity Code, E13.0 Historic Code, E14.0 Scenic Landscape Code and E24.0 Significant Trees Code. Council will seek to identify significant trees during tree inspections and add these to the significant tree database.

All new plantings within the road reserve will be subject to consultation with the Operations & Maintenance Supervisor & Coordinator Urban Services.

Poor performing trees or inappropriate plantings will be removed and replaced with appropriate tree species where possible.

Trees valuation through Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) Procedure will be undertaken in terms of protection from sub-division development and other activities that may threaten their long-term health and vigour.

The community will be consulted and informed about all projects involving major landscaping changes and large street tree plantings. This engagement may be in several different formats including, but not exclusive too; the GCC website, social media and letterbox drops.

Existing building aesthetic and the landscape character of private property will be considered during the planning phase, prior to street tree planting.

Removal of existing trees will be considered on a case by case basis after assessment by the GCC Arborist Team Leader. Falling leaves, twigs, fruit and flowers are considered normal and expected tree behaviours and not a valid reason for removal. Similarly, removal of existing trees to facilitate residential views are not a valid reason for removal.

Council will maintain a street tree register within the GIS data base.

Council will identify the hazards associated with all council trees and evaluate the risks in relation to tree management. These valuations through the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) Procedure will guide the tree species selection.

Council will ascertain the current value of its street trees using the 'tree amenity valuation formula' (The Burnley Revised Method 2005) to assist in long-term asset management of street trees.

DOCUMENT CONTROL

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