



POLICY MANUAL

Policy title:	PUBLIC TREE POLICY
Policy number:	8.10.1
Objective:	Improve Council Assets - Trees
Link to community vision/service:	Transport and Infrastructure
Program Area:	Operations
Policy created: 8/4/08	Council reviewed: 8/1/14
Last reviewed by staff: 8/1/14	TRIM Ref: ED10/15882 & ED16/33016

The Public Tree Policy aims to highlight the aspects of tree management that have long-term impacts on maintenance budgets, the environment, the community's quality of life, public risk and Lismore's identity.

Annual Programs

Annual tree inspection and maintenance programs will be developed and implemented by Parks & Recreation Staff that will aim to improve landscape and environmental qualities and reduce Council's exposure to risk. Inspection and maintenance programs will be implemented to achieve these aims within budgetary constraints.

It is important that separate cost centres exist for both maintenance and tree planting (capital) in order to monitor appropriate resource allocations.

Public Tree Planting

Suitable tree species will be planted in both parks and road reserves. Tree species will be chosen for suitability in each chosen location considering:

- preferences given to natives, specifically indigenous or endemic species,
- heritage requirements,
- soils compatibility,
- aspect,
- underground and aboveground services,
- successful surrounding or existing species, and
- other local environment conditions such as rainfall, etc.

Street Trees - Planting

Street tree planting will be conducted using the guidelines and priorities set out within Lismore City Council's Street Tree Masterplan (March 2008).

A replacement of two trees for one tree removed should be adopted, but only where appropriate and where space is available. This is a preference, not a rule, as discussed in Council's Tree Preservation Order - February 2005 (Clause 10.4).

Park Trees - Planting

Park tree planting will occur as required and as budgets allow. A commitment of 50 planted trees per annum should be attempted, or as a minimum, replace any tree removed. Where appropriate, a replacement tree should be planted in the same park where a tree was removed.

A replacement of two trees for one tree removed should be adopted, but only where appropriate and where space is available. This is a preference, not a rule, as discussed in Council's Tree Preservation Order - February 2005 (Clause 10.4).

Public Tree Pro-active Inspection Program

Council will commit to a pro-active public tree inspection program aimed to reduce its exposure to avoidable risk and liability. Only staff members qualified and trained in Arboriculture will be permitted to provide hazard identification within these inspection programs.

A pro-active inspection program will be implemented for both street trees and park trees and is outlined in Council's document - Public Tree Risk Management Plan.

Public Tree Maintenance Program

Council will commit to appropriately funding maintenance programs aimed to maximise the health and quality of its trees and to reduce its exposure to risk and liability.

A pro-active and a reactive maintenance program will be implemented identifying works from Council's inspection program and from customer requests. Both programs are outlined in Council's Public Tree Risk Management Plan.

Tree Removal

Council will develop and implement a Public Tree Removal Procedure. This procedure will outline procedures for tree removal by particular Council Sections and will also include procedures for advertising tree removals and dealing with objections.

Consulting Arborist Requirements

Where required, it may be necessary to employ the services of a consulting Arborist to provide specialised advice or second opinions. The document 'Selecting a Consulting Arborist' is available from the Parks & Recreation Section.

Risk Management

Council will follow the risk management principles contained within the document 'Best Practice Manual – Trees & Tree Roots', developed by Statewide Mutual in May 2003. Council will develop and implement a Public Tree Risk Management Plan to address the principles within the manual.

Complaints Procedure

Council will maintain its current corporate system complaints register (eServices) with each complaint being registered and placed on the appropriate property, road or subject file.

See Council's Public Tree Risk Management Plan for the procedure in dealing with complaints.

Best Practice

Council recognises that the Lismore City Council's Street Tree Masterplan, Tree Management Policy, Public Tree Risk Management Plan and Public Tree Removal Procedure are best practice, and that further support will be provided for ongoing reviews and future development of management documents and maintenance programs.

Related Documents

Public Tree Removal Procedure (2008) – Lismore City Council
Public Tree Risk Management Plan (2008) – Lismore City Council
Street Tree Masterplan (2008) – Lismore City Council
Plans of Management (various parks and public lands) – Lismore City Council
Selecting a Consulting Arborist (2008) – Lismore City Council

Reference Documents

Amenity Tree Industry Code of Practice (1998) – WorkCover
Trees & Tree Roots Best practice Manual (2003) – Statewide Mutual Insurance
Pruning of Amenity trees AS 4373-1996 (1996) – Standards Australia
Specifying Trees NATSPEC 2nd Edition (2003) – Ross Clarke

