



Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Street Tree Policy

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1 GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

The Macedon Ranges enjoys an excellent reputation for its tree lined streets and avenues, which form an integral part of the shire's appeal.

The Shire enjoys many unique microclimates within its boundaries and with this varying degrees of rainfall and temperature. This allows for a very diverse range of trees to be grown within the Shire and offers the opportunity to imprint selected species in specific areas which can help to give a sense of identity to a given location.

The trees of the Macedon Ranges Shire are often in high profile locations which can generate much public debate and many residents are very concerned with general street tree health and maintenance. It is very important that Council recognises this and protects its trees to demonstrate to the community it is fulfilling its obligations and is able to provide evidence and reasoning for its decisions.

There are approximately 15,000 street trees in the shire's townships with an approximate tree amenity value of \$150,000,000 using the Burnley Tree Amenity Valuation formula. The asset is irreplaceable in the short term and the trees require good management to ensure their wellbeing. As a result a Street Tree Policy has been developed to ensure the consistent management of these assets.

It is worthy to note that within the shire many areas and trees have been classified with heritage and conservation values. Therefore it is imperative that the Street Tree Policy recognises this and works within those given processes.

If Council is to ensure that its street tree heritage is to continue into the future it must plan and commit progressively to tree planting programs.

1.2 Purpose of policy

- 1.2.1 The Street Tree Policy and the guidelines within aim to ensure that a cost effective management program and maintenance guide is balanced with environmental sensitivity. Consideration must be given by Council to the number of street trees planted and Council's ability to maintain the asset.
- 1.2.2 The aim of this policy is to strengthen the streetscapes within the shire by preserving and enhancing the streetscape amenity.
This is to be achieved by:
 - the use of appropriate species
 - unification of the streetscape.

1.2.3 The policy will ensure that acceptable tree management standards and maintenance are undertaken at all times and that Council will aim to provide adequate resources for tree management including:

- The development and maintenance of an acceptable tree audit system.
- The use of annual audit inspections to ensure standards are maintained.

1.2.4 The policy will develop a tree replacement strategy and commence a tree replacement program with set goals.

1.3 Scope of the Policy

1.3.1 This policy shall apply to all street tree plantings within the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

1.3.2 Any vegetation which is growing on Council owned and managed land becomes the property of Council and therefore Council has a duty of care to their maintenance requirements and standards.

1.3.3 This policy shall also encompass Council's parks assets but shall not be confined or limited to the recommended tree species list.

2 MANAGEMENT OF THE TREE ASSET

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The maintenance and standards of Council's tree assets shall in the first instance be directed towards maintaining public safety.
- 2.1.2 Council will continue to seek from time to time to nominate tree assets with the various authorities to ensure their protection.
- 2.1.3 Council acknowledges that street trees can in some circumstances conflict with other landscape and infrastructure elements but also recognises that the streetscape is an essential part of a pleasant functional environment.
- 2.1.4 Council's estimating of the amenity tree value will be in accordance with the Draft Australian Standard (Trees Amenity Valuation – refer to attached).
- 2.1.5 All new planting undertaken will be in accordance with Council's street tree planting program and tree planting policy. Planting will take place as customer requests or from Parks Officer recommendations. These must involve consultation with affected residents.
- 2.1.6 Council will not generally permit residents to plant trees and shrubs within Council controlled land and these may be regarded as unauthorised. These plantings may be removed by Council at any time. In circumstances where Council approves planting by residents the elements of the Street Tree Policy must be observed.
- 2.1.7 All works associated with the Macedon Ranges Street Tree Policy must be undertaken in respect of all Occupational Health and Safety obligations and relevant legislative criteria.

2.2 Type and Species Selection

- 2.2.1 Tree species selection - Species selection must take in consideration their suitability and appropriateness for the given area, but must also take into consideration trends in climatic conditions.
- 2.2.2 Appropriateness is measured by size, scale and form etc. For example the right tree for the right situation.
- 2.2.3 The multitude of climatic zones and resident expectation will mean flexibility with chosen species. Both exotic and native species endemic and imported can be used to compliment a given landscape. A species list for given townships will be incorporated into this policy.

- 2.2.4 Council or its nominated representatives in conjunction with residents will select the species of tree to be planted.
- 2.2.5 An onsite report will be made to ensure the specie or species selected will fulfil the desired outcomes of the plantings. If there is a significant or dominant stand of trees already present and the trees are suitable then the theme will be continued. Where appropriate a new selection will be made.
- 2.2.6 The following are considered desirable features of street tree plantings:
- a) Unification of the streetscape (do not use more than 2 species).
 - b) Enhancement of the houses and premises of the street by the plantings.
 - c) Trees of a size which are dominant in the streetscape.
 - d) Must be easily and economically maintainable.
 - e) Root systems must be manageable.
 - f) If a multitude of species are used in a given street the most dominant and appropriate species will be used.
 - g) If an unusual site condition restricts the use of the normal species a more appropriate species for this site may be chosen. The alternative will still exhibit the qualities necessary for street tree planting.
 - h) Species used shall have a clear trunk to facilitate unrestricted parking and pedestrian flow and to encourage public safety. Clear vision at crossings for pedestrians and motorists.
 - i) Provide shade in summer if required.
 - j) Species must exhibit good growth characteristics and growth stability.
 - k) Species known to be of risk must not be used.
- 2.2.7 The following street characteristics must be considered prior to the selection of the tree species:
- a) The naturestrip, its width and type in relation to growth and ultimate size.
 - b) Specific soil conditions or microclimates.
 - c) Housing styles and relation of buildings to tree sites.
 - d) The existing streetscape and any shade requirements.
 - e) Service locations within the street.
 - f) Private plantings and their impact upon the street.
 - g) Street maintenance and the overall scale of the streetscape in relation to the length and width of the pavement.

2.3 Streetscape Design and Continuity

- 2.3.1 The correct understanding of residential and industrial areas must be appreciated. A good streetscape does not necessarily mean the infusion of trees into a given area. In some cases trees may not be warranted. Consultation with the affected stakeholders is desirable
- 2.3.2 Through an understanding of the street space an appropriate selection can be made. This includes the visual, physical and functional components and its interrelationship with surrounding areas.
- 2.3.3 Streetscape design objectives must be considered
 - a) Formality - This will unify a given area.
 - b) Character - To enhance the characteristics of the streetscape which contribute to the character already in place. The selection of species should also enhance the history of the built environment.
 - c) Scale - Avoid variations of size and try and achieve a balanced scale between the trees and the streetscape
- 2.3.4 The role of street trees is often quite subjective and planning must look beyond simply that it will grow but ensure that it will enhance that particular space.

Street Trees should aim to:

- a) Disguise power lines or service cables.
- b) Identify a particular precinct or town.
- c) Act as conservation tool for local fauna survival.
- d) Provide scale to the streetscape.
- e) Add the natural component to the streetscape.
- f) Soften the impact of the hard landscape.
- g) Give contrasts of shape- color- form etc.
- h) Relate buildings to each other or to the landscape site.
- i) Give protection from the natural elements.
- j) Provide a visual barrier against the hard landscape and environmental pollutants.
- k) Aid in the directing of traffic or pedestrians
- l) Be climatically suitable for their location

Street Trees should not:

- a) Obstruct sight clearances at intersections or crossings.
- b) Have frequent abscission characteristics.
- c) Be prone to substantial pests and diseases.
- d) Have inappropriate fruits berries, and poisonous qualities or have major asthma causing characteristics. These must be thoroughly researched for appropriateness before use. Always assess the street tree's role in a particular street before it is planted.

- 2.3.5 To achieve the aim of Council in enhancing the streetscape to strengthen both the individual and the community amenity.

The streetscape must be developed and designed in consultation with residents and it should always assess the street and all its features.

- 2.3.6 Council's Street Tree Policy must take into consideration all other relevant studies and policies

- 2.3.7 Where road or infrastructure works of any nature are to be carried out by Council or other parties all affected trees must be inspected by a Council Parks Officer before any works commence. If any tree works are to be carried out notification of at least two (2) weeks must occur to residents for removal or Council's representative for pruning or general maintenance. The costs involved in this process must be factored into the real cost of the infrastructure works so as to ensure the needs of the trees are taken into account.

- 2.3.8 An awareness of the life span of most trees and an effective maintenance programs/audits systems can ensure proper planning for tree replacement and this can take place before actual removal of entire landscapes.

- 2.3.9 Tree regeneration can be accomplished also by removing selected trees in a streetscape or avenue and replacing them with advanced specimens. Selective removals must be considered of mature populations on order to regenerate the streetscape.

- 2.3.10 In some circumstances trees will lose their vigour due to old age or poor management practices.

- 2.3.11 A report will be prepared for Council outlining what work is required and reasons for this work.

- 2.3.12 Trees are not permanent in the landscape and decline can be present long before the death of the tree.

2.4 Tree planting

2.4.1 Residents can be divided on street tree planting but in general the majority will expect trees to be planted by Council.

2.4.2 Replacement planting:

- a) All trees removed from the streetscape are to be replaced as quickly as possible depending on the season. Trees should not generally be planted in the summer months or during periods of prolonged drought. These plantings are to take priority over new plantings
- b) Individual tree requests by residents must be fully assessed for suitability. If deemed appropriate the request will be placed on the street tree planting list for action when appropriate. If a request is received before and deemed appropriate planting will take place between May and September of that year. After September and planting will take place the follow season May - September.

2.4.3 Whole street plantings or landscaping will be made in conjunction with Council's Capital Works Budget and Tree Planting Budget.

2.4.4 Elm Tree Maintenance:

- a) Macedon Ranges excellent Elm avenues should remain intact and be protected. Elm Leaf Beetle has had a disastrous effect on the Elms throughout Victoria and the cost of maintenance is very high and with the use of insecticidal controls often very undesirable.
- b) Dutch Elm disease has decimated Elms in the Northern Hemisphere and New Zealand and if it arrives here has the potential of the same outcome.

It is therefore unwise to plan major new plantings with susceptible species.

2.4.5 Action:

- Replace only those individual trees to maintain Avenue integrity.
- Use alternative genera and species with the same aesthetic characteristics.
- Continue to implement Elm Leaf Beetle control.

2.5 Tree Planting Guidelines

- 2.5.1 All tree planting is to be carried out between May and September.
- 2.5.2 The selection of an appropriate planting site is crucial in the long term visual and maintenance of the tree. A poorly positioned tree can cause property and infrastructure damage and diminish the streetscapes visual appeal.
- 2.5.3 Planting sites should be selected to allow for functional limitations imposed by the street environment while complying with the existing streetscape.
- 2.5.4 Trees and shrubs approved by Council shall be planted as follows:
 - a) Where practical plant one tree in front of every property, spaced approximately 12 metres apart [This is intended to be the maximum default spacing] and as near as possible to the centre of the property
 - b) Locate no closer than 3 metres from sewer pit or fire hydrant.
 - c) Offset from power wires no closer than 3 metres.
 - d) Do not plant less than 1 metre from a gate.
 - d) Clear vision must be maintained at intersections (keep in mind eventual tree size at maturity).
 - e) Keep away from trees already planted on private property which may interfere with the streetscape.
 - f) Do not plant directly over service lead ins.
 - g) Placement of trees must not cause sight problems from driveways
- 2.5.5 Standardising of street tree spacing shall be undertaken when practical so as to bring the general street tree planting into line with the current spacing guideline.
- 2.5.6 Plantings should not be undertaken in streets with full width footpaths and less than 2 metres.
- 2.5.7 Council will utilise various size trees in its planting program. Advanced and semi-advanced stock for street tree planting and tube stock for revegetation plantings. Early maintenance of any tree is paramount for its cost effective future maintenance.

3 MAINTENANCE

3.1 General Care

- 3.1.1 Every endeavour shall be made to maintain all trees in a healthy and safe condition.
- 3.1.2 Clearances between the tree foliage and the power lines will be maintained according to the Code of Practice for Power Line Clearance 1999.
- 3.1.3 Safety for vehicles and pedestrians of the following clearances:
 - a) 4.2 metres over road – carriageways
 - b) 4 metres over driveways
 - c) 3 metres over footpaths and walkways
- 3.1.4 The clearances above will apply to established trees only. Young trees could be damaged by pruning to the above guidelines.
- 3.1.5 Property owners have a legal right to prune back any vegetation that overhangs their property boundary. This right is for both private and public trees. No property owner will be allowed to prune any tree outside of their boundary without permission from an authorised Council Officer
- 3.1.6 While upholding the rights of property owners to remove vegetation overhanging their property, Council would prefer to remove the vegetation itself as it has the expertise to carry out this work. Therefore foliage removal should be assessed and remedied as a priority.
- 3.1.7 Every attempt must be made to protect all established trees against damage through any works associated with underground or construction services.

3.2 Pruning

- 3.2.1 Once a street tree is established the major ongoing requirement of the tree is pruning.
- 3.2.2 Pruning of all trees should be as minor as possible.
- 3.2.3 Trees will be pruned to achieve specific goals and requirements:
 - a) Maintain public safety
 - b) Maintain tree health.
- 3.2.4 Qualified arboricultural practices shall be used in all pruning works and only qualified persons shall do this work.

3.3 Crown Lifting – Visibility - clearance

3.3.1 Trees shall be maintained to the following clearances:

- a) Street names to be visible 50m in either direction
- b) Sight visibility from driveways or intersections.

<u>Speed Limit</u>	<u>Distance</u>
40 km	40 m
50 km	60 m
60 km	80 m
80 km	120 m
100 km	180 m

Road signs must be visible from the distance above.

3.3.2 The above works will only be carried out where clearance from the trees is necessary or where growth is likely to impede clearance requirements.

3.4 Overhead Service and Structure Clearance

3.4.1 This procedure shall consist of reducing height or spread or both of a street tree by not more than 25% and shall only be applied to trees when such work is necessary to ensure safety of overhead wires-lights etc.

Pressure for alternatives to tree pruning under powerlines in the short term by pursuing a variation to the Code where possible.

Work with supply companies to pursue aerial bundling or undergrounding of lines.

Have input with planning bodies to minimise impact on trees.

Protect by stringent guidelines all trees in the event of any close development.

Refer also to Trees Powerline Clearance Code and Annual Plan.

3.4.2 All the above works are to be carried out by qualified staff.

3.5 Pests and Disease.

3.5.1 All major pests and diseases are to be reported to Council's Parks Officers for appropriate action.

3.5.2 Council must provide all affected persons with no less than two (2) days notification if any chemical pest control is to be used.

3.5.3 A pest control inventory is to be kept and all pest and disease control recorded.

- 3.5.4 Any works carried out must be done so with regard to public and user safety.
- 3.5.5 Chemical treatments are only undertaken where no other alternative exists.
- 3.5.6 If a severe pest or disease outbreak eg. Dutch Elm disease occurs and due to the very virulent nature of the disease, public consultation may not be possible affected residents are to be advised as soon as possible. Diseases such as Elm leaf beetle are controlled in co-operation with other surrounding municipalities and authorities.

3.6 Tree surgery

- 3.6.1 Tree pruning in general is not covered by this terminology and the term "Tree Surgery" will cover only "corrective and repair treatments" to trees. This work is very expensive and for this reason the cost of the work must be balanced up with the cost of the amenity value of the tree. Decisions need to be made in the case of badly damaged trees if they are to remain or removed.
- 3.6.2 **CABLING AND BRACING** - This treatment is used to reinforce a branch artificially. This work should be only carried out in the event that the tree needs to be artificially supported for safety reasons. It will not support a tree which is in decline. Annual inspections of this work are needed to ensure its ongoing viability. This work must be incorporated into the Maintenance Management system for trees.

4 TREE ROOT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

4.1 General

- 4.1.1 There is ongoing potential for problems to arise from all tree plantings. Problems can be with structures, houses, pavements etc. Tree root growth and problems are unpredictable and often cannot be recognised until it has occurred. Therefore very little can be done in the way of proactive maintenance. The requirements of public safety must always override those of the tree.
- 4.1.2 All claims for damage from alleged tree roots must be made to the Risk Management department of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council and any claims made for alleged damage will be in consultation with Council's insurer.

4.2 Tree Root Damage Claims.

- 4.2.1 Any claim received by Council for tree root damage must follow the procedure below.

When a claim is brought to Council's attention the matter is to be fully investigated and a report prepared for Council's Risk Management Officer. Under no circumstances will the report admit to any liability on Council's behalf.

Reports should where possible contain full details of site, photographs and recommendations for remedial works. If the claim involves private property an independent arborist is to be consulted for a detailed report.

The report is to be forwarded to Council's Risk Management Officer and a copy sent to the Insurance company. A copy must also be kept by the Parks and Gardens department for any future reference.

Expertise should be sought from various specialists for large dollar claims, such as engineers, C.S.I.R.O, Agriculture Victoria etc.
- 4.2.2 Remedial work on trees allegedly causing root damage may include:
 - a) The installation of a tree root barrier. The type and depth will depend on the severity of the problem and the species of tree being dealt with
 - b) Removal of tree, if the tree is an inappropriate species or in an inappropriate location (Refer to removal criteria clause 5.3).

- 4.2.3 Only in cases where appropriate should lineal root barriers be used. The roots will be pruned if practical to property lines. This will only be done where the trees health and stability are not compromised. These works are only undertaken where circumstances have caused problems with property. Trees of historical value will be considered for this type of work.

4.3 Installation of a Root Barrier

- 4.3.1 Any installation of a Tree Root Barrier will not be construed as an admission of liability. The purpose of the installation is to remove the potential for damage from public owned trees. The type and depth of the root barrier installation will be determined by consultation between an arborist and a Council Officer
- 4.3.2 Root barriers used will be between 600mm - 1200mm and this is determined by site inspections with the appropriate Officers and will be dependent on actual site conditions and the tree species involved.
- 4.3.3 The checking of all underground services is a pre-requisite to any commencement of works
- 4.3.4 The critical root zone of any tree must be taken into consideration with a minimum requirement of 3.5m from the trunk to any trench.
- 4.3.5 Root inhibitor may be considered where it is felt appropriate. Root inhibitor Casaron is to be incorporated into the trenches upon backfilling

4.4 Tree Root Removal

- 4.4.1 Tree root removal should only be done by qualified persons and great care must be taken whenever this is done. If roots are severed or removed the following step must be taken:
 - a) Remove the root with as little damage as possible and in accordance with arboricultural procedures
 - b) Only remove the amount of root that is really necessary. Remove as little as possible
- 4.4.2 Any root pruning or root barrier procedure must be recorded to ensure adequate follow up treatments are carried out eg. fertilising and top pruning.

5 TREE REMOVAL

5.1 General

- 5.1.1 Trees in the urban landscape can create a great deal of emotion especially their removal for whatever reason. However, it will from time to time be necessary due to a variety of reasons to remove trees from the landscape. It must be remembered that trees are living organisms with a finite lifespan.
- 5.1.2 The present policies regarding tree removal will continue and no tree will be removed without notifying the appropriate Parks Officer
- 5.1.3 Excepting for safety reasons Council will notify residents, two (2) weeks prior to the removal of any tree from the streetscape.
- 5.1.4 If Council has agreed to the removal of a tree on grounds other than safety all residents within the immediate vicinity of the tree will be notified. All objections will be dealt with by a nominated Council Officer.
- 5.1.5 If trees are removed due to infrastructure works by any authorities provision will be made to ensure this is done without cost to Council and in line with this policy.
- 5.1.6 If a street tree is removed by any person without authorisation from Council, that person or person will be required to meet the full cost of replacement.
- 5.1.7 If Council is considering the removal of multiple street plantings for any reason the following factors must be considered:
 - a) The contribution of the plantings to the overall streetscape
 - b) Maintenance facts of the trees in question
 - c) Potential damage from roots to services above and below ground.
 - d) The overall conditions of the trees.
 - e) The number of residents for or opposed to the removals .
 - f) The replacement species.
 - g) What is the significance of the existing trees?

5.1.8 The removal of trees by an authorised Council Officer must be in accordance with the following guidelines:

- a) That Council has advised residents in the vicinity of the removal or members are notified and consulted.
- b) Resident will be given 10 days to seek clarification and to make objection or comment.
- c) That removal of the trees is in compliance with the Tree Removal criteria set out in clause 5.2
- d) If an objection is received, the matter will be re-evaluated and objectors consulted before any action is taken

5.2 Tree removal criteria

5.2.1 Tree removal will only occur if one or more of the criteria listed below are met:

- a) The tree is dead, dying or diseased.
- b) The tree is infested with a disease or insect for which the control is inappropriate.
- c) The tree poses public nuisance due to species, condition, location or size.
- d) The tree in question is interfering with the growth and development of new plantings or a more desirable species.
- e) The aesthetic value of the tree within the given streetscape is very poor or distracting.
- f) Any works in the close vicinity of the tree will make the tree sick or unsafe.
- g) Preservation of the tree in view of development is not cost effective. The value of the tree shall be compared to the requirements necessary to preserve the tree.
- h) Removal may be necessary to allow the construction of access to property where no other alternative exists.
- i) The tree is not a significant specimen
- j) The tree is allegedly responsible for damage occurring to private property or public infrastructure and no alternative exists for its retention eg. Root barrier, pruning. The age and condition of the infrastructure must also be taken into consideration.
- k) Where it is thought that repeated claims for repairs were likely to be more than the tree is worth.

5.3 Applications for Tree Removal

- 5.3.1 Where requests are received from residents for trees to be removed from outside their properties the following will apply.

Except in the case of an emergency – safety situation all requests must be in writing, stating the problems that the resident feels the tree is causing. When the formal request is received a Council Officer will investigate the problem and prepare a report. If the Council Officer is of the opinion that the tree does not need removing then the person making the request will be informed. If the person making the request is not satisfied with the response a detailed report will be prepared for consideration.

- 5.3.2 Tree Removal Process.

A written request is required.

Investigation carried out by Council Officer and action decided in the context of Tree Removal criteria (Clause 5.2). A tree report will be prepared by Council's arboricultural representative who will have authority to approve or reject the recommendation contained in the report and make suggestions as appropriate.

- a) If recommendation is approved, affected residents are notified and reasons for removal given.
- b) If objections are received or a Councillor requires any information on tree removal Council's arboricultural representative will re-evaluate the report and respond to the objector/s. If the objector/s is still not satisfied the matter will be referred to the Council's Management Executive.
- c) If no objections are received, the tree will be removed.
- d) When a tree is recommended for removal on the basis of safety then the normal notification process shall not be followed. Documented evidence of the tree problem will be kept in all such cases.

5.4 Process for Tree Removal Assessment

- 5.4.1 Written request received from stakeholder.
- 5.4.2 Upon inspection tree is found to fulfil one or more of the Removal Criteria (clause 5.2)
- 5.4.3 If the tree is recommended for removal and it does not pose a safety concern, it is not dead, affected residents will be notified.
- 5.4.4 Written objections to be received within ten (10) business days prior to works commencing.

- 5.4.5 If no objections tree will be removed at specified time.
- 5.4.6 Tree removals will be performed in groups where practicable.

5.5 Method of Removal

- 5.5.1 Trees being removed are to be cut to ground level. The removal process must be undertaken in a safe and competent manner in compliance with all relevant standards and codes.
- 5.5.2 In all cases where the public may access the area, the stump must be removed to below ground level and the area made safe. This may require a stump grinder.
- 5.5.3 All stumps awaiting removal must be fenced off with appropriate safety fencing to alert the public of the tripping danger.

5.6 Dead Trees

- 5.6.1 Dead trees can soon become brittle and quite dangerous and are to be removed as soon as possible. The cause of death should be ascertained where there is suspected disease problems. No report need be submitted to Council for the removal of dead trees.

5.7 Dangerous Trees

- 5.7.1 Trees can become dangerous through a variety of reasons – Borer damage, root problems, storm damage, etc. Where an inspection reveals that a tree is dangerous its removal must be prompt. Immediate removal is needed to minimise any risk. Details and records of the removal should be kept.

5.8 Trees Allegedly causing Structural Damage

- 5.8.1 In the event of a tree allegedly causing damage to Council or private property by tree roots, every effort must be made to repair the problem without causing damage to the tree. Tree removal for this reason must be regarded as a final option.

5.9 Removal for Infrastructure Development

- 5.9.1 When an application is made for a tree removal from Infrastructure development the guidelines for removal shall be the same as in Clause 5.2 except where a tree in good condition and suited to its location may be removed provided that:
 - No other site available for cross over.
 - a) Affected residents have been notified and have had the appropriate opportunity to lodge an objection.

- b) A suitable replacement tree is to be provided and maintained at cost by the property owner.
- c) The cost of the removal and any other works which may be associated with it is to be borne by the owner/developer.

5.9.2 Procedures for tree removal (vehicle crossings)

Driveway application to be lodged with Council's Planning department.

- a) If the tree is affected by the crossover and requires removal and all other avenues have been explored Council will organise removal.
- b) The tree must be assessed by a designated representative of Council. The proposed removal is to be documented in a report and held by Council.
- c) All costings and conditions for the removal are sent to the developer before removal.
- d) The proposed removal is recorded and held by Council's designated representative. Residents will then be notified by the following process.
- e) A letter is circulated with the proposal and a response time of ten (10) days is given for objections. If objections occur a report is prepared for Council to consider and give a resolution.
- f) Residents notified of removal.
- g) Applicant is notified of removal with accompanying account for works.
- h) Account paid.
- i) Tree removed.
- j) Stump removed.
- k) Replacement tree listed for planting at appropriate time.

5.9.3 Required distances. The following minimum distances are required for works near trees.

Trenching - 150mm for each 25mm of diameter of trunk at breast height. e.g. 1.8m for a tree with a (DBH) of 300mm

A distance of 2.5m from the trunk for any proposed development.

- a) If a tree has a DBH of >300mm an inspection by an arborist is required to ascertain the protection zone.

5.10 Disputes

- 5.10.1 When an objection is received the removal will be suspended until an appropriate Officer examines the objections and a final decision is reached. In no resolution can be reached the matter will be referred to Council's Management Executive for resolution. The designated Council Officer will advise the objector in writing of the final decision.