

Warringah Council Policy

Policy No. Number PL 416

Street Tree Planting Policy

1 Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework to guide the systematic and planned planting of street trees to enhance the streetscapes and environment of the Warringah Council local government area while providing for the most cost effective management of street trees over the longer term.

2 Policy statement

Council will manage street tree planting in Warringah in accordance with this Policy and the associated plans, policies and strategies.

2.1 Aims

The Street Tree Planting Policy aims to;

- Provide guiding principles for new street tree planting across Warringah;
- Enhance the natural environment through street tree plantings
- Provide consistency in the management of street tree planting;
- Preserve and enhance the existing character of Warringah streets through a rigorous approach to tree selection and planting techniques;

2.2 Desired outcomes

- Create a distinctive and aesthetically pleasing street environment through tree planting.
- Provide a realistic future street tree planting program;
- Provide a list of appropriate trees for planting as well as a breakdown based on location;
- Install and maintain street trees to an agreed standard using best practice.
- Recognise and enhance the role that street trees have in habitat connectivity, particularly in key wildlife corridors.

3 Principles

This policy is intended to provide high level information and guidance for Council staff, contractors, developers and members of the community on the planting of street trees.

3.1 This policy will consider and inform the current broader guidelines “Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Spaces (STR-PR-350)”.

3.2 Tree Specification, Selection and Planting



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The current Street Tree Planting Guidelines (part of the “Warringah Design Guidelines”) will be reviewed and updated to provide a consistent approach to future street tree planting. These guidelines include a list of preferred species based on specific individual location constraints.

The following principles apply to the selection and planting of street trees;

- Street tree planting will be carried out in a planned and integrated manner taking care to consider broader social and environmental issues, ensuring the most suitable species for a location while preserving and enhancing the existing character of Warringah Streets (refer - Street Tree Planting Guidelines);
- Council will avoid the use of unacceptable and high risk species, including;
 - Some Fruit Trees (refer to definition below)
 - Trees listed as Warringah Council environmental or noxious weeds
 - Trees linked to a known health issue
 - Poor performers (refer to definition below)
 - Trees that can likely cause damage to infrastructure
- Council will utilise Indigenous species where appropriate. These species may not be appropriate in some locations i.e. in circumstances where altered nature strip soils are known to influence the successful establishment of particular species or species known to be commonly affected by summer branch drop in high risk zones.
- Council will implement procedures for protection of existing and future tree stock by;
 - using quality nursery stock and proven installation techniques
- Council will use published risk management procedures and practices as part of its tree planting (location) assessments, including;
 - Assessing risk zones, involving
 - Risk to services (all underground and overhead services)
 - Risk to infrastructure (e.g. footpaths, kerbs, road pavements and driveways)
 - Risk to traffic and potential targets

Refer to the “Trees and Tree Root Management Best Practice Manual” (reference below).

The revised Street Tree Planting Guidelines will specify the stakeholders who will be consulted as part of the above assessments.

- Development application assessments will ensure that proposed tree selection for replacement is compatible with Street Tree Planting Guidelines and the existing streetscape.



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- Council will ensure that appropriate species diversity is obtained in its street tree replanting programs to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic loss of trees in Warringah.
- Council will inform and consult with the community about new planting proposals.
- Council will consider and assess resident requests for street tree planting. However, Council can remove trees that have been planted without Council consent.
- Council will prioritise the sequence of its planting across Warringah based on its budget allocations and the requirements to renew or increase canopy cover.
- Council will consider the use of volunteer groups undertaking street tree planting only where it can ensure a safe and efficient service and where Council can fulfil its legal obligations.

3.3 Conflicting Policies

The “Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Spaces” (reference below) will be informed by and include reference to this Street Tree Planting Policy and Guidelines.

3.4 Rescinding Policies

A policy can only be rescinded by a formal resolution of Council.

3.5 Owners and Responsible Officers

A policy owner is the General Manager.

The person responsible for implementing this policy is the Manager, Asset Management Parks Reserves and Foreshores.

3.6 Timing of Review

This policy is not driven by specific legislative requirements and thus will be reviewed within four (4) years of the adoption of this latest amendment.

4. Who is responsible for implementing this policy?

This policy will be implemented by the Parks Reserves and Foreshores (‘PRF’).

5. Document owner

Deputy General Manager, Environment.

6. References

Definitions

The Warringah Public Tree Management Plan is being developed by PRF to control the life cycle management of all public trees in the Warringah local government area, including street trees.



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Street Tree Planting Guidelines (including nominated species to be used for replacement) are currently available on the web site but will be reviewed and enhanced to document Warringah best practice for future tree planting.

Fruit Trees refer to trees that can bear fruit. This includes fruits for human consumption e.g. apple, pear, stone fruits including mangoes, avocados, loquat and any tree whose fruit drop could present a significant health and safety risk.

Poor performers are trees with significant pest and disease susceptibility or trees that have a record of responding poorly to local conditions.

Summer Branch Drop: An unpredictable phenomenon involving the failure of apparently sound branches during calm summer or autumn weather.

Legislation

There is no specific legislation that addresses the issue of Street Tree Planting. The Roads Act (1993) and the NSW Electricity Supply Act (1995) permit the removal or trimming of trees on roads to protect infrastructure. These Acts will be referenced in the Tree Management Policy.

Council

This policy supports Good Governance and Asset Management Practices under Council's Strategic Community Plan and the relevant Tree Management Plan.

Other

Warringah Design Guidelines – Public Space (STR-PR-350, May 2003)

Trees and Tree Root Management Best Practice Manual – Version 2, May 1993 (last edited July 2011) - Statewide

Noxious Weeds Act (1993) and the Noxious Weeds Amendment Act (2005)
Warringah Council environmental weed list -

<http://www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/environment/documents/EnvironmentalWeedList.pdf>

Street Openings Conference

(http://www.streetsopening.com.au/SOC_Guide_2009.pdf) Section 6.7 refers to impact of street trees on public utility services.

7. Review

This policy is to be reviewed within four (4) years of its last amendment.

8. Document History

1.0: ENV-PL 416
November 2006