

# TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

## STRATEGIC POLICY

**Responsible Department:** Cabonne Infrastructure

**Responsible Section:** Transport Infrastructure

**Responsible Officer:** Department Leader - Transport Infrastructure

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### Objective

Details Council's policy on trees and tree management in conjunction with electricity network authorities and Cabonne Local Environment Plan 2012.

### Introduction

Establishes an intent for the management of trees on Council managed public space, property and reserves and to advise conditions of maintenance and replacement of trees, and to avoid interference with power lines.

### Policy

Cabonne Council has a duty of care to take reasonable measures within budgeted resources to manage risks arising from trees under Council control.

This tree management policy provides direction to ensure a balance between managing the risks to the community's safety and infrastructure, and acknowledgement of the significant benefit trees have within the landscape to the social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community.

### Tree Management

Council will seek to retain and preserve trees that add value to the communities' amenity and identity.

Priority will be given to public safety over amenity and environmental issues.

Council will respond to customer requests through assessment of tree health and prioritisation on a risk basis.

Areas of high public visitation such as footpaths, parks and reserves council will carry out tree maintenance works to ensure the health of trees and reduce public risk, these works will be carried out by qualified arborists works will involve:

- Pruning minor
- Limb removal
- Total removal if deemed dangerous or lifeless, by qualified arborists and council's designated officer

Regional and local roadworks are duty bound to comply with an Australian Standard in relation to risk which involves tree works under the Roads Act 1993 Council carries out Review of Environmental Factors for these works to ensure compliance with various statutory requirements.

Trees located beneath power lines shall be pruned by the electricity network authority in order to maintain statutory clearances. Cabonne Council shall determine if any action should be taken with regard to replacing an existing tree if it is deemed unsuitable to be beneath power lines.

### **Community Consultation and Notification**

Notification of tree removal will be provided to neighbouring properties notifying of removal of street trees a minimum of one month prior to scheduled tree removal.

Council will display tree removal notification for trees in parks and public places one month prior to scheduled tree removal on Council website and Social Media.

Notwithstanding, where tree removal is considered emergency works, consultation will be limited to direct engagement with neighbouring properties immediately prior to removal.

### **New Trees**

Planting of new trees Council will consider appropriateness of the species to protect the wellbeing of the community as well as protection of property infrastructure.

No planting of new trees within Council public space is permitted without consent of Council.

Council has a tree management strategy outlining approved species suitable for the area.

### **Responsibilities**

**General Manager:** responsible for the overall control and implementation of the policy.

**Deputy General Manager & Department Leaders:** are responsible for the control of the policy and procedures within their area of responsibility.

## Definitions

**NSWRFS:** New South Wales Rural Fire Service

## References

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 Part 5

Cabonne Local Environment Plan 2012

Local Government Act 1993

Roads Act 1993

Civil Liability Act 2002

In accordance with Energy Network Authority

Planning for Bushfires guidelines (NSWRFS)

Cabonne Local Environmental Plan 2012 – located on Council's website

Review of Environmental Factors regional and local road works – located in council's Electronic Records Management System

## History

| Minute No. | Summary of Changes   | New Version Date |
|------------|--|------------------|
| 18/05/20   | Readopted as per s165(4) 22.5.18   |                  |
| 20/02/10   | Policy accepted for public exhibition  | 25/02/2020       |
| 20/04/10   | Policy Adopted   | 28/04/2020       |
| 22/11/15   | Transferred onto new strategic policy template and updated to reflect changes to the organisational structure and position titles.<br><br>Readopted as per s165(4) | 22 November 2022 |