

POLICY



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Policy title: TREE MANAGEMENT

Directorate: COMMUNITY SERVICES

Branch: PARKS

Policy objective: To guide the operational management of trees on Council managed land which contributes to the environmental quality and amenity of Logan by planning, providing and managing a sustainable, healthy and safe tree canopy.

Policy scope:

This policy applies to trees managed by Council, including but not limited to trees located on road reserve (made, unmade, urban and rural), cemeteries and within parks. Tree management is undertaken within the relevant acts of legislation and Australian standards which are supported by documents as detailed in the related documents register.

Definitions:

TERM	DEFINITION
Tree	A highly compartmentalised, perennial, woody, shedding plant that is usually tall, single stemmed and long lived. (Shigo, AL - <u>A New Tree Biology Dictionary</u> , Tenth Printing - 1986, New Hampshire.)
Arboriculture	The selection, planting, care, and (when all other options are exhausted) safe removal of trees, and the study of how they grow and respond to cultural practices and the environment (http://www.qaa.net.au/page/faqs.html).
AQF	Australian Quality Framework: A national framework for all educational and training purposes in Australia. Purpose is to achieve consistent competency and ability amongst course graduates.
Australian Standard AS 4373-2007	Amenity Tree Pruning - the intention of this standard is to encourage pruning practices and procedures that reduce the risk of hazard development, branch failure, pathogen infection and premature tree death.
Australian Standard AS 4970-2009	Tree Protection on Development Sites – this standard provides guidance for arborists, architects, builders, engineers, land managers, landscape architects and contractors, planners, building surveyors, those concerned with the care and protection of trees on land subject to development. It identifies ways to manage construction tasks near to trees using industry best practice and methodologies to minimise tree damage and maximise tree potential.

Policy statement:

1. Environmental, economic and cultural value
 - (a) Trees are an important and valuable asset to the community that provide a range of benefits. The benefits include environmental quality, habitat, amenity, shade, increased property value and the reduction of carbon in our atmosphere.
 - (b) Tree management will be undertaken according to relevant Federal and State legislation, Australian Standards and local laws including but not limited to those detailed in the related documents register. Council may enter agreements, memorandums of understanding and collaborative relationships with external authorities where benefit is gained for the tree assets of the city.

2. Management of existing trees
 - (a) Logan City Council values trees as green assets and healthy trees that do not meet tree removal criteria will be retained in the first instance.
 - (b) Parks branch is to be consulted regarding possible impacts to trees as a result of proposed works prior to works commencing. In the event of tree loss or failure, the cost of the cleanup and/or replacement planting and establishment is borne by the party/s undertaking the works.
 - (c) Council will maintain a tree register to recognise the value of, encourage the protection of and manage trees of significance and/or of concern. The register for trees of concern is to be maintained detailing trees requiring regular inspections and ongoing maintenance where there is a perception of unacceptable risk such as large trees located in close proximity to private property.
 - (d) Requests for tree removal works resulting from the installation of solar panels/billboards/signage will not be supported in the first instance. If the requestor in this scenario is willing to meet the vegetation offset cost then removal will be considered. Determining vegetation offset costs will be calculated using the tree canopy loss calculator. Pruning works will be considered and programmed if appropriate for the specimen tree species and tree condition.

3. Requests for tree works

Requests for pruning and/or removal are to be assessed by a qualified arborist utilising specialised skills and knowledge. A response within specified levels of service will be provided to all stakeholders regarding the outcome of the inspection.

 - (a) Request for tree works supported by Parks branch

Where there is agreement from Council's Trees Team that the tree should be removed, this work will be programmed and relevant stakeholders will be notified via street tree service notice or email of the removal pending the outcome of a ten working day objection period. A record of the decision will be recorded in Parks official records.
 - (b) Request for tree works is not supported by Parks branch

Where there is agreement from Council's Trees Team that the tree should not be removed, regular monitoring and ongoing management will be undertaken and relevant stakeholders will be notified of the reasons why removal is not supported. A record of the decision should be recorded in Parks official records.

4. Tree planting
Requests for tree planting are to be investigated to ensure the most appropriate species is chosen when considering the specific location. Planting works will be undertaken in accordance with all relevant legislative requirements.
5. Tree replacement
In the event of a tree removal, a suitable replacement will be undertaken where practical. Replacement may consist of an individual specimen of a reasonable size or where more appropriate, multiple specimens within the vicinity of removal. The city's tree asset will not diminish in volume and Council will progress with increasing its mass and viability.
6. Objections to decisions
If a customer does not accept the reasons why tree removal is or is not supported, and cannot be addressed through education, the most affected property owner/s should be invited to provide a written request outlining the basis of their objection to the Parks Manager who will proceed with the objections process.
7. Community engagement, consultation and education
Council will promote and facilitate the communication and education of the community including schools, developers, contractors, public utilities, non-government organisations and residents in the value and significance of Councils tree assets that contribute to the liveability of Logan.

Related policies/legislation/other documents:

DOC ID	DOCUMENT TYPE	DOCUMENT NAME
5997844	Policy	Free Tree Distribution Scheme
5999377	Policy	Tree Damage Management
Refer to DM 'Local Laws' quick search	Local Law	Local Law No. 5 (Parks, Jetties and Boat Ramps) 2011
-	Internal	Logan City Council Bushland Parks Fire Management Plans and Guidelines
8794110	Internal	Tree Canopy Loss Calculator
3590212	Administrative	Procurement Policies Manual
6170228	Administrative	Significant Tree Register
8435284	Administrative	Guideline for Tree Operations
	Standard	Australian Standard - 4373 Pruning of amenity trees 2007
	Standard	Australian Standard - 4970 Protection of trees on development sites 2009
	Regulation	Draft South East Queensland Koala State Planning Regulatory Provisions - November 2009
	Legislation	<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>
	Legislation	<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>