

## 1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	13 Aug 1996	499	13 Aug 1996
2	14 Jan 2003	25	14 Jan 2003
3	11 May 2010	0142	11 May 2010
4	13 Aug 2013	0255	13 Aug 2013
5	22 Aug 2017	17/205	22 Aug 2017
6	23 Aug 2022	22/209	23 Aug 2022

## 2 Policy Objective

- The protection and conservation of trees
- The conservation of the natural heritage
- The promotion of a shady and comfortable living environment
- The provision of environmental corridors for native fauna and flora

## 3 Policy Statement

### 3.1 What actions require Council approval?

The ringbarking, cutting down, lopping, topping, removing, injuring or wilful destruction of any tree or trees within urban areas, including villages.

### 3.2 What is meant by 'tree'?

A 'tree' means a perennial plant more than one metre in height, having a permanent woody self-supporting main stem or trunk. For the purposes of this plan those trees requiring approval will have attained:

- height of 3.5 m, or
- canopy diameter of 1 m, or
- trunk diameter of 200 mm.

### 3.3 What is meant by lopping?

Reducing the height or branch spread of the tree by more than 10%.

### 3.4 What is excluded in this order?

- Removal or pruning of any fruit tree or pruning of any tree for regeneration.
- Any tree which is dying or dead or which has become dangerous to human life or could cause significant property loss.

### **3.5 If the tree/vegetation is a bushfire hazard can I remove it?**

You are able to remove/interfere with a tree or vegetation on land when:

- (a) it is located within a recognised asset protection zone or fire trail and is a bushfire hazard, and
- (b) you have advised the council in writing at least 14 days prior to your action to remove/interfere with the tree(s)/vegetation and council had previously advised you that
  - (i) the tree/vegetation was located within a asset protection zone or fire trail, and
  - (ii) the tree/vegetation was of a type that was likely to present a fire hazard

OR

- (c) such action would protect human life, buildings or other property from imminent danger from a bushfire burning in the vicinity.

### **3.6 Approval**

Approval is obtained by completing the Tree Preservation Order (PG-FO-401) form at Council's Customer Service Centre, 1 Benerembah Street, Griffith. You should make sure that you include a diagram showing where the tree you want to remove or lop is located and list reasons for the lopping/removal. This will assist the inspector in deciding whether to approve the request.

### **3.7 Development Applications**

Approval to remove trees as defined by this policy is granted whereby a Development Application has been approved, and the tree in question is located directly within the footprint of the proposed building. Other trees may also be removed where they have been indicated on the approved plans and not otherwise conditioned to be retained on the Notice of Determination.

### **3.8 Trees on Public Land**

If you have issues with trees on public land phone Griffith City Council's Customer Service on 1300 176 077.

### **3.9 Trees on Neighbours Property**

If you have issues with trees on your neighbour's property, contact the Community Justice Centre ([www.cjc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.cjc.nsw.gov.au)) on 1800 990 777 or via email [cjc-info@agd.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cjc-info@agd.nsw.gov.au).

If all mediation attempts between neighbours fail, contact NSW Land and Environment Court ([www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lec](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lec)) on 02 9113 8200.

## 4 Definitions

None

## 5 Exceptions

None

## 6 Legislation

None

## 7 Related Documents

None

## 8 Directorate

Sustainable Development