

ITEM 1 PUBLIC TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Council has a leadership role in protecting, maintaining and enhancing public tree assets as part of the overall 'urban forest'. This means purposefully planning for a greener, shadier city and providing the right trees in the right location. We will invest in and deliver quality streetscapes and open space, improved public amenity, and increased shade for the whole community.

The need for a Public Tree Management Policy was identified through the development of the draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037. 'Urban Greening' aims to strategically increase the quality and quantity of all vegetation in an urban setting. The Strategy identifies opportunities for our City to harness the benefits of trees and vegetation and describes a set of principles, a vision, and four goals for urban greening in Wollongong.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The draft Public Tree Management Policy be endorsed for public exhibition in early 2018 for a minimum period of 28 days.
- 2 Following the public exhibition period, a further report be provided to Council recommending adoption of the draft Public Tree Management Policy which includes a summary of submissions received and amendments proposed.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Jason Brown, Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning (Acting)
Authorised by: Mark Riordan, Director Planning and Environment – Future City and Neighbourhoods (Acting)

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Draft Public Tree Management Policy

BACKGROUND

Public trees, on streets and in parks, largely fall within the care and control of Council who bears the risk, responsibility and cost of caring for these resources on behalf on the community.

The draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37 identifies some limitations in Council's current approach, including the need to clarify Council's position on a number of important areas of public tree management.

While the management of trees on private land is governed by the Tree Management Permit 2013 and associated Tree Management Permit application, no such policy and/or associated framework exists for trees on public lands. Wollongong City Council does not currently have an overarching policy governing the management of trees and vegetation on public land.

The draft Public Tree Management Policy (the Policy) is required to provide clarity for our community, Council staff, contractors, consultants, the general public and ratepayers on Council's objectives and policy positions in relation to public trees and vegetation.

PROPOSAL

The draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37 identified a number of limitations to public tree management within the LGA, which are addressed by this Policy.

The Policy provides the principles, procedural frameworks and requirements governing decision-making and management of issues for those trees located 'wholly or principally' on public land.

It specifically:

- 1 Establishes Council’s commitment and future strategic direction for the enhancement, protection, management and maintenance of public trees and vegetation.
- 2 Provides clear policy approaches for all public tree issues.
- 3 Applies to all Council activities undertaken by Council’s staff, contractors, consultants, volunteers, the general public and ratepayers.

Council also lacks a range of technical and programming documents and processes to enable a proactive and strategic approach to public tree management and urban greening, which are required to support the objectives of the Policy. These are listed in Section 7 of the Policy and include development of a Significant Tree Register, Urban Greening Technical Manual (includes species palettes, specifications for planting, maintenance, pruning, risk assessment, removal, protection, infrastructure conflict management, site selection and ground preparation), Street and Park Tree Masterplans, Tree Asset Management System and a Street Tree Inventory. Several of these items require development to enable the full objectives of this Policy.

A number of options for meeting the need for greater policy and procedural clarity were considered. Following consultation and a review of other NSW Councils’ policy and processes in relation to public tree management, the need for a single, clear policy is recommended.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The need for a Public Tree Management Policy was clearly identified through the development of the draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037. Strategy development has included collaboration and input from key internal and external stakeholders, and a public exhibition process which received 104 detailed submissions. The work has been externally reviewed and supported by an urban forest consultant. The cross-disciplinary Urban Greening Strategy Advisory Group (consisting of staff from all relevant areas of Council) has collaborated to identify the issues, processes and documents required for future public tree management, and these are reflected in the draft Policy.

A review of other local government practice revealed a range of options to address gaps in public tree and vegetation management policy. Many have a Public Tree Management Policy or a Tree Management Plan to clarify their Council’s position, whilst a small percentage have sections in their Development Control Plan for controls relating to tree preservation and management on Council lands. Given Council’s current position, the review highlighted the benefit to Council of adopting and promoting a clear set of objectives and policy statements in the form of a single policy.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

This policy contributes to the delivery of Wollongong 2022 goal “*We value and protect our environment*”. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2017-18
Strategy	5 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
0.33 Our community is proactively engaged in a range of initiatives that improve the sustainability of our environments	1.3.3.1 Develop and implement an Environmental Sustainability Policy and Strategy	Coordinate the Urban Greening Strategy

Ecological Sustainability

The *Environmental Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan 2013* identified the need for an Urban Greening Strategy. The draft Policy is the first step in providing a comprehensive, clear and consistent approach and methodology to managing one of Council’s most valued ecological assets.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Policy proposes a risk-averse approach to delivering core Council services in tree and vegetation management through better policy, planning and coordination. Risk, in the context of public tree management, includes: immediate hazards (such as tree safety, trip hazards), perceptions (views, safety, amenity, responses to illegal vegetation removal, development assessment), environmental risks (climate change adaptation and mitigation, ecosystem services), and capital asset management (species selection and location, reducing the conflict between trees and infrastructure, efficient use of Council resources).

In moving towards an evidence-based, proactive public tree program, and reviewing the overall approach to technical management of public trees and vegetation, Council will achieve improved services and more efficient outcomes for the community.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-2037 provides a vision for the future of urban greening in the region and sets direction for future planning and immediate and long-term priorities. The opportunity exists to use existing operational and capital budget to complete targeted actions.

Currently the draft Policy identifies and requires development of an additional suite of documents and processes, which must be resourced in order to put in place a robust public tree management program. This work has been prioritised, and the draft Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan 2017 will provide more detail on actions, including staging, targeted delivery dates and estimated costs.

CONCLUSION

The draft Public Tree Management Policy seeks to clarify Wollongong City Council's objectives of managing trees and vegetation on public land and to provide the overarching set of policy statements which govern our approach. It is recommended the draft Public Tree Management Policy be endorsed for public exhibition in early 2018 for a minimum period of 28 days.



ADOPTED BY COUNCIL: [TO BE COMPLETED BY CORP SUPPORT]

BACKGROUND

Carefully planned and well-managed public trees are valuable assets delivering significant long-term benefits to our City. Trees provide a sense of place and local identity, and encourage people to be active outdoors. Trees are critical in maintaining a healthy urban environment as they release oxygen, trap airborne pollutants and absorb carbon dioxide. They improve wellbeing and reduce people's exposure to the sun and harmful radiation. Our City's liveability and amenity is a key factor driving business, development and investment. Other economic benefits include improved asset longevity, reduced energy consumption and costs, and higher residential property values.

Council's public tree assets include a diverse range of trees of different species, ages, size and significance growing within an increasingly urbanised environment. These include both old and new plantings alongside footpaths, street trees on busy highways and quiet suburban streets and lanes, vegetation in our parks and natural areas, remnant locally indigenous trees, individual specimens with heritage or ecological significance, trees and other vegetation growing within our town and city centres, and other public spaces.

While trees play an important role in the urban landscape, it is also recognised that trees of the wrong type, growing in the wrong place, in an unhealthy condition or in conflict with surrounding assets and infrastructure can create unreasonable problems, conflict and risks. Local Government Authorities have certain obligations with respect to the protection of trees, and for any injury and damage caused directly by trees for which they are responsible. Council recognises the necessity and importance of appropriate tree selection and risk controls to effectively manage existing and potential threats to public safety, private property and council assets and infrastructure.

Managing the risks associated with public trees, whilst maximising the benefits that they can provide, requires a robust planning and decision making framework. Council is committed to managing these important assets within the constraints and challenges associated with urban environments and Council's limited resources.

This Policy is consistent with Council's *Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37* and will contribute towards a coordinated approach to managing urban vegetation within the City of Wollongong as a whole.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Public Tree Management Policy are to:

- Grow the City's canopy cover through a targeted, evidence-based tree planting program to harness the economic, social and natural benefits of trees and urban vegetation.
- Prioritise the protection, maintenance and management of the existing public tree assets through a coordinated regulatory, planning, design and maintenance program to deliver a quality, world class urban landscape.
- Improve the ecological function of urban areas by increasing the quality and quantity of tree canopy cover, including increasing the species diversity and improving the age spread of the urban forest.
- Recognise and protect public trees considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social and ecological criteria.
- Increase awareness of the value of public trees in the urban landscape, and work in partnership with the community, business and agencies to encourage stewardship of the 'urban forest' in its entirety.
- Effectively manage existing and potential threats to public safety, private property and Council assets and infrastructure.

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POLICY STATEMENT

Council has a leadership role in protecting, maintaining and enhancing public tree assets as part of the overall 'urban forest'. This means purposefully planning for a greener, shadier city and providing the right trees in the right location. We will invest in and deliver quality streetscapes and open space, improved public amenity, and increased shade for the whole community.

POLICY REVIEW AND VARIATION

- 1 Council is to have opportunity to review and adopt, at least once during its Term, each Council policy.
- 2 A resolution of Council is required to adopt any variations to this policy, with the exception of minor administrative changes, such as updates to legislative references, which may be endorsed by the Executive Management Committee (EMC). Endorsement of administrative changes made to this policy by EMC does not alter the requirement for it to be reviewed and adopted by each Term of Council.

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STATEMENT OF PROCEDURES

The Policy specifically:

- 1 Establishes Council's commitment and future strategic direction for the enhancement, protection, management and maintenance of public trees and vegetation.
- 2 Provides clear policy approaches for all public tree issues.
- 3 Applies to all Council activities undertaken by Council's staff, contractors, consultants, volunteers, the general public and ratepayers.

This Policy is designed to be read in conjunction with a suite of documents and processes, illustrated in Section 7. Several of these items still require development to enable the full objectives of this Policy. Processes relating to trees on private land are also included in this section for reference.

The Public Tree Management Policy is divided into the following areas:

1. Tree Protection
2. Tree Planting and Selection
3. Tree Replacement, Removal and Pruning
4. Tree Asset Management
5. Community Consultation and Engagement
6. Review
7. Related Legislation, Documentation and Policies

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1. TREE PROTECTION

Council recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits that well-managed trees provide. Council aims to achieve a quality, world-class urban landscape which balances the impacts of urban development by managing and protecting existing vegetation through a coordinated regulatory, planning, design and maintenance program.

The following policy principles will apply to tree and vegetation protection:

a. Regulatory controls

Council will regulate and assess all applications to prune or remove trees on all land and for all types of new development in the Wollongong local government area in accordance with the *Environment, Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, *State Environmental Planning Policy (Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas) 2017*, *Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP)*, and *Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 (WDCP)*. Pruning or removal of public trees will only occur after assessment by Council technical staff to ensure a consistent approach to tree and vegetation protection on Council managed land.

b. Significant Tree Register

Council will develop a Significant Tree Register to recognise those special trees which contribute to the environmental, cultural and social character of the area. Council will prioritise the retention and protection of these significant trees, and will only prune or remove a significant tree under advice by a qualified arborist, and with consideration of existing and potential threats to public safety, private property and Council assets and infrastructure.

c. Development applications

Development applications must address the protection of existing public trees on, and adjacent to, development sites. Development applications will need to demonstrate the potential impacts on existing trees and protection measures required to be implemented to ensure the protection of the trees are maintained throughout the development period. Protection measures will be required to be in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites. The removal of public trees to enable private development will be reviewed by a Council qualified arborist with a minimum level AQF level 5, Diploma of Arboriculture, as part of the development assessment process. Replacement tree planting to agreed technical standards, which include appropriate risk controls where required, will be included as a condition of consent. Additional survey and arboriculture reports will be required by Council where tree or other vegetation items have been identified as having state, regional or local heritage significance or ecological significance.

d. Development activities, events and infrastructure works

Trees will be protected from construction works and other activities/ events that threaten tree health and stability. The Australian Standard for the Protection of trees on development sites AS4970-2009 will be used to achieve consistency in tree protection requirements. Safeguards to protect tree trunks, root systems and soil build up at the tree base must be outlined and implemented through a Review of Environmental Factors (REF). Council will consider technical options to relocate infrastructure away from trees, to reduce the need for excessive canopy pruning, reduce root damage or to increase new opportunities for planting.

Trees subject to construction works and other activities/ events that may impact on the trees health and structure must be subject to a development impact report. A qualified arborist with a minimum level AQF level 5, Diploma of Arboriculture must conduct the assessment and develop the report prior to works being undertaken and detail protection measure required in accordance with AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites.

e. Overhead powerlines / utilities

Council may pursue measures to relocate infrastructure away from trees, to reduce the need for excessive canopy pruning, reduce root damage, or to increase new opportunities for tree planting where it is practical and feasible. Council recognises the requirement for buffer zones in and around new infrastructure, and will attempt to seek alternative methods to clearing vegetation zones in the first instance. The removal of trees growing in proximity to power lines will only be considered where alternative methods, as defined in the Endeavour Energy Tree Management Plan 2014, are not feasible.

f. Vandalism and unauthorised works

Public trees that have been subject to malicious damage from vandalism or unauthorised works including pruning, poisoning and removal will be investigated. Response measures will be pursued, and enforcement and/or remedial action taken where appropriate in accordance with the draft *Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Policy 2017*.

g. Management of bushfire risk

Wollongong City Council's Bushfire Management Program manages Council's hazard reduction program in accordance with the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BFRMP) 2015-2020. The BFRMP is a strategic document that covers both public and private land. It identifies community assets at risk and sets out a five-year program of

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coordinated multi-agency treatments to reduce the risk of bush fire to the assets. Tree works performed for bush fire hazard reduction purposes will be subject to the Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code or another suitable form of environmental assessment.

2. TREE PLANTING AND SPECIES SELECTION

Council is committed to strategic and targeted public tree management which, over time, increases canopy cover and provides improved diversity in species and form across priority areas of the Wollongong local government area (LGA). A proactive public planting program will be developed, supported by evidence-based decision making and programming, ensuring "the right tree in the right location". Implementation of a planting program will follow best practice to ensure consistency and excellence in stock quality, installation, and tree species selection criteria and species diversity.

The following policy principles apply to tree planting and species selection:

a. Street and Park Tree Master Plans

Council will develop Street and Park Tree Master Plans to coordinate the design of priority streetscapes, precincts and open spaces across the LGA. These comprehensive, living documents will be developed in collaboration with the community, and draw on data collected through the tree inventory project. They will outline the proposed character, design principles, species palette and planting practices for future trees and vegetation in particular locations.

b. Tree selection criteria

A list of species suitable for planting will be developed and be part of the Urban Greening Technical Manual which will include a species selection criteria and matrix, and a species list for the diverse types of suburbs, streets and parks within the Wollongong LGA. The City Centre Public Domain Technical Manual 2017 details a list of species suitable for the City Centre. Council will plant the most appropriate tree species based on compatibility with topography and geology, analysis of individual site conditions and design constraints, functional and biological attributes, as well as considering future predicted climate change conditions. This integrated approach ensures that planting carried out on public land is consistent with best environmental practice, helping to preserve and enhance the unique local landscape character of suburbs within the Wollongong LGA and build on local biodiversity.

c. New tree planting

The long term success of urban tree plantings is the end result of a detailed process involving many stakeholders, and requires knowledge of individual site conditions and suitable species. Council will target and prioritise new tree planting opportunities in appropriate locations to maximise canopy cover and deliver ongoing environmental, economic and social benefits through a 10 Year Planting Program. The planting of trees within road reserves, public reserves or on verges needs to comply with the objectives of this Policy, and Council will use only quality nursery stock according to the latest best practice and standards. All trees supplied will conform to the Australian Standard for Tree stock for landscape use (AS2303). Connectivity between urban and natural areas can be achieved by promoting appropriate local native species and avoiding weedy species across all land types – particularly those spatially identified as biodiversity corridors.

(i) Street and Park Tree Planting

The Street and Park Tree Master Plans will guide the planting of street trees within individual suburbs. All new street tree plantings will need to comply with the specifications detailed in the Urban Greening Technical Manual. As most trees in the streets and parks of the Wollongong LGA will occupy their planting sites for a significant length of time, a carefully considered selection of site and appropriate tree species is vital. Trees which perform poorly or are particularly damaging to pavements, kerbs, gutters, or underground services are more likely and eligible to be replaced, taking the opportunity to replant more suitable species.

(ii) Verges

Council will develop Verge Garden Guidelines which will provide guidelines for verge tree planting and gardens, including edible gardens. Any new planting of street trees or garden verges by residents must be consistent with the Council guidelines taking into account the suitability of species, location of the proposed garden beds with respect to neighbouring properties, pedestrians, traffic and infrastructure, Work Health and Safety of the volunteer and potential future maintenance issues.

(iii) Natural Areas

In partnership with our community, Council invests significant resources into restoration of our natural areas. Bushland corridors are important to our natural areas. These linkages can be existing natural

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corridors or via streets or private open space where an owner's agreement can be obtained. Council will endeavour to continue to create corridors to support biodiversity through its street and park tree planting programs, as well as by seeking private agreement to enhance corridor linkages throughout the Wollongong LGA.

(iv) New subdivisions and developments

Street trees installed as part of new subdivisions and development will reflect the intent of this Policy, and comply with the specifications detailed in the Urban Greening Technical Manual and relevant consent conditions and landscape plans. Particular care must be taken to ensure suitable species are selected where development adjoins natural areas. Prior to issuing an occupancy certificate, Council technical staff must be satisfied that street trees installed are well-established and installed in accordance with conditions of consent.

3. TREE REPLACEMENT AND REMOVAL

Wollongong's public trees are a living asset. As Council works to better understand the condition of all our public trees, they will be managed over time to ensure the benefits they provide are sustained for future generations. Public safety is a priority. Selective tree removal, renewal and replacement will be required to ensure the long term health of individual trees and the urban forest, and their ability to adapt to changing climatic conditions, to support ecological systems and biodiversity, and to renew urban places to meet the changing needs of our community.

The following policy principles apply to public tree replacement and removal:

a. Assessment of trees

To ensure consistency in tree removal or pruning related to the potential for injury to any person or damage to property, Council will continue to assess tree applications in accordance with established criteria and procedures by qualified arborists and technical staff.

b. Tree removal

Public trees may need to be removed or pruned for emergency purposes, as a result to risk to public safety or private property, as part of a renewal program, or to address conflicts with infrastructure which cannot be resolved through other means. If concerned, the community may contact Council to initiate an inspection of a public tree. Pruning or removal of public trees will only occur after assessment by Council technical staff to ensure a consistent approach to tree and vegetation protection on Council managed land. Notification to the community of tree removal will follow appropriate Council guidelines and policies.

Unauthorised removal, damage and poisoning of public trees and vegetation are prohibited acts and penalties are in place for breaches.

Council will not consider leaf drop or bark shedding; street lighting (except in circumstances where inadequate street lighting adversely impacts crime prevention and/or public safety such as obscuring pedestrian paths of travel); maintaining or creating of private views; solar access; fruit, resin, bat or bird droppings; improved communication signals; noise from bats and birds; facilitation of off-street parking or minor lifting of driveways and paths by tree roots as valid reasons for the removal or pruning of public trees or vegetation.

c. Tree replacement

The removal of trees from public land is sometimes necessary. Council will assess all trees proposed for removal on public lands and implement tree removal and replacement programs as required. The Urban Greening Technical Manual will provide the detail on a tree replacement methodology and associated compensatory planting rates. This replacement mechanism is necessary to ensure that tree canopy loss is compensated wherever possible by appropriate, planned replacement plantings.

d. Tree and root pruning

The pruning of trees and/or tree roots is sometimes necessary to maintain tree health, public safety and/or protect private property and council assets and infrastructure. Council will assess all trees proposed for pruning and implement pruning as required.

e. Management of trees and vegetation for public benefit

Trees play a vital role in enhancing the liveability, amenity and performance of our Council area for the whole community. They serve important environmental services and provide habitat for wildlife. As noted in Section 3.b of this Policy, trees and vegetation will not be pruned or removed for the sole purpose of maintaining or creating views for private benefit. However, Council acknowledges that views for public benefit are a consideration in the management of urban trees and vegetation. Council has managed vegetation for views for

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public benefit at key vantage points such as lookouts and these areas will be continued to be monitored and managed.

Species selection, pruning and maintenance of identified areas of public view benefit will be undertaken in accordance with relevant Plans of Management and Vegetation Management Plans.

4. TREE ASSET MANAGEMENT

Council recognises that trees are valuable assets, requiring specialised care and management to ensure the health, integrity and diversity of the public 'urban forest'. Council bears the risk, responsibility and cost of caring for public tree assets on behalf of the community, and they will be managed with financial rigor and commitment. Council will collect and use high quality asset data to inform decision making. Tree data will link to Council's asset register, and can be used to inform budget and resourcing requirements for an ongoing public tree program.

a. Street Tree Inventory and asset management

Council will utilise an asset based approach to managing public trees. A Street Tree Inventory will be developed by qualified arborists to yield information required to make decisions that ensure appropriate tree species are planted in the right places, and there is a plan for their maintenance, pruning, removal and replacement over time.

b. Tree asset lifecycle management

A plan for street tree maintenance, pruning, removal and replacement over time will better inform the financial and resourcing implications of implementing the Urban Greening Strategy and to evaluate longer term levels of service to be provided in consultation with the community.

c. Tree maintenance

Council will develop and implement an on-going, scheduled program of public tree maintenance, including a new tree maintenance program that identifies how Council will establish and manage new trees and their requirements. This will ensure that best practice tree management is applied across all streets and trees, and will be directly supported by Urban Greening Technical Manual.

d. Risk management

Council will move towards a proactive public tree management program which will manage tree risk management issues. This includes using the Tree Asset Management System to record and limit risk management issues. Council has a legal duty of care to prevent ongoing and/or potential injury or damage being suffered by other parties. This duty of care applies to current threats and future threats and relates to injury or damage which can be reasonably expected to continue where the tree owner is already aware of the risk. Tree risk management issues can include but are not limited to falling limbs, root intrusion, displacement of assets and infrastructure, and encroachment on pedestrian paths of travel. Council will determine if a tree presents an unacceptable risk of future injury, or damage to private property and whether appropriate risk mitigation controls as part of a tree management plan are available in order to reduce that risk to an acceptable level.

e. Pest and diseases

Pest and disease issues will be monitored and treated using best practice control techniques, and will be directly linked to the tree maintenance program.

f. Emergency situations

Risks to public safety and property will take priority in public tree pruning and removal decisions in emergency situations.

g. Tree information systems

Councils will keep abreast of new technology in the field of arboriculture and urban forestry and incorporate technical tools into management and maintenance techniques where appropriate.

5. COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Council values our community's opinion and will undertake appropriate levels of collaboration, consultation and communication about public tree management and the urban forest. Council aims to engage the community, business, agencies and private landholders to inspire stewardship and partnership in the care and growth of the urban forest within the LGA. Genuine engagement ensures the community is actively involved in planning for public

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green spaces, the awareness about the value of the urban forest is increased and that there are opportunities for the community to actively participate in urban greening.

The following principles apply to community engagement and consultation:

a. Facilitating community awareness and appreciation of the benefit of trees

Council will continue to provide strong leadership and to guide a participatory approach to community engagement in regards to urban greening and public tree management. Council will develop programs to expand community knowledge, skills and opportunities to actively engage in programs to enhance urban greening.

Council aims to inspire community participation, flexibility in delivery of programs, adaptive learning, transparency in process and opportunities for reflection and celebration of milestones. Council will continue to provide a broad range of community programs with opportunities for involvement in tree planting and broader environmental and social sustainability. This includes the continual growth and support of community groups working in our natural areas, along with support for appropriate verge plantings, school and community gardens.

b. Street and park tree selection and management

Council will promote awareness in the community of these Policy objectives and the need for a consistent approach to selection and management of trees, involving the community in planning wherever possible.

c. Managing change: Tree planting and renewal programs

Tree removal, replacement and planting programs involve considerable change for a community. Whilst it may not be possible for Council to consult on every public tree removal or planting, Council will clearly articulate the issues and the rationale for tree removal/replacement programs.

Council will provide strong leadership whilst ensuring flexibility, transparency and opportunities for community response and engagement. This process aims to build a capacity for change through broader ownership of the actions, decisions and shared responsibility.

d. Resident requests

Council will develop a street tree planting program and consider and assess resident requests for tree planting in streets, parks and open spaces. Any planting undertaken will be in accordance with future Street Tree Master Plans, Vegetation Management Plans or other relevant Council documentation.

6. REVIEW

Council is to have opportunity to review and adopt, at least once during its Term. Review of this Policy will align with the implementation of identified priority actions in Council's Draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37.

7. RELATED LEGISLATION, DOCUMENTATION AND POLICIES

Related legislation:

Wollongong Local Environmental Plan 2009
Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009
Local Government Act 1993
Environment Planning and Assessment Act 1979
Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth)
Biosecurity Act 2015
Fisheries Management Act 1994
Crown Land Management Act 2016
State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989
National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
Heritage Act 1977
Rural Fires Act 1997
Roads Act 1993
Electricity Supply Act 1995
Relevant SEPPs (eg., Vegetation SEPP in Non-Rural Areas, SEPP Infrastructure, SEPP 14 Coastal Wetlands, SEPP 26 Littoral Rainforests, SEPP 71 Coastal Protection)

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Civil Liability Act 2002

10/50 Vegetation Clearing Code of Practice for New South Wales

Existing related documents and policies:

Wollongong City Council Tree Management Permit Council Policy (2013) – allows for a proper assessment to be made of the environmental importance and viability of trees on private land before they are pruned, removed, or wilfully damaged in any way.

Draft Tree and Vegetation Vandalism Policy 2017

Wollongong City Council City Centre Public Domain Technical Manual 2017

Wollongong City Council Civil Works Notification Policy 2014

Bush Fire Risk Management Plan 2015-2020 (Prepared by the Illawarra District Bush Fire Management Committee)

Bush Fire Environmental Assessment Code (Rural Fire Service 2006)

Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees (AS4373)

Australian Standard for Protection of trees on development sites (AS4970)

Australian Standard for Tree stock for landscape use (AS2303)

Endeavour Energy Tree Management Plan 2014

Proposed new documents or processes referred to in this policy:

The following documents and processes have been identified as necessary to support this Policy, and are short term priority actions in the *Draft Urban Greening Strategy 2017-37*. Several are included as funded items in the *Draft Urban Greening Strategy Implementation Plan 2017-21*:

- Significant Tree Register.
- Urban Greening Technical Manual (includes species palettes, verge garden guidelines and specifications for planting, maintenance, pruning, risk assessment, removal, protection, infrastructure conflict management, site selection and ground preparation).
- Street and Park Tree Masterplans.
- Tree Asset Management System.
- Street Tree Inventory.

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SUMMARY SHEET	
Responsible Division	Environmental Strategy and Planning
Date adopted by Council	[To be inserted by Corporate Governance]
Date of previous adoptions	[List previous adoption dates]
Date of next review	[List date - Not more than 4 years from adoption]
Legislative or other requirement for review DELETE THIS WHOLE ROW IF NOT APPLICABLE	[List review timeframe and Act, policy or review requirement]
Responsible Manager	Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning
Authorised by	Director Planning and Environment

DRAFT