



# LITHGOW CITY COUNCIL

## 10. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Policy 10.15

REMOVAL OF TREES FROM PUBLIC LAND

Version 2

# 10. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

## 10.15 REMOVAL OF TREES FROM PUBLIC LAND

**OBJECTIVE:** This policy provides a consistent approach to proposals to remove trees on public land through standard inspection and maintenance regimes and customer requests. It includes street trees, parks and reserves and any land in the ownership of Council.

**POLICY:**

1. The tree(s) proposed for removal shall be inspected by Council's Recreation Supervisor to determine the health, significance and whether part of a theme.
2. The Recreation Supervisor may engage a qualified Arborist to provide an opinion on the health of the tree particularly if there is a suspicion that if no action is taken then a health and safety issue may arise. *(NB: Health and Safety in this sense does not include alleged health impacts of certain species in relation to issues such as allergies and respiratory illness.)*
3. If the tree is part of a theme, and no imminent issues of health and safety are identified, residents that benefit from the theme shall be consulted prior to removal.
4. If the tree is determined to be a significant tree, and no imminent issues of health and safety are identified, the matter will be reported to Council for determination if the Recreation Supervisor is of the opinion that there is no reason to remove the tree or representations have been made to retain the tree(s).
5. In all instances, unless practical reasons dictate otherwise, any tree removed will be replaced by one of a more appropriate species.
6. In instances where it is alleged that the tree(s) have an impact on a person's health in terms of an allergy or respiratory condition then this must be supported by a letter from a qualified medical practitioner. Removal of the tree(s) will still not be supported if the trees are significant. If removal is contemplated wholly for the reason of impact on a person by way of allergy or respiratory condition then any cost of removal and replacement shall be borne by the person(s) requesting the removal with a discount of 20% applying to persons holding a valid pension or health care benefit card.
7. In instances where it is alleged that the tree has damaged a persons property and the Recreation Supervisor, with no admission of liability, believes this has merit, then Council may take actions (eg installation of root barriers) to ameliorate that impact. If removal is contemplated, then the procedures outlined in this Policy shall apply.

8. Council shall not pay any claim for compensation for any damage to private property alleged to be caused by a tree on public land.

<b>Maintained by Department:</b>	Operations	<b>Approved by:</b>	Council		
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