

## **STREET TREES**

### **(1) OBJECTIVE**

To recognise the environmental and aesthetic contribution that street trees make to the continuing development and presentation of streetscapes, by:

- selecting, planting and maintaining street trees, which enhance both existing and future streetscapes;
- creating a setting in sympathy with the function and appearance of the adjacent land uses, a safe and comfortable pedestrian environment, and cater for vehicular traffic;
- promoting the use of indigenous vegetation, including trees, on road reserves, to extend the habitat of native birds and animals in urban areas.
- to be read in conjunction with the Natural Areas Management Plan.

### **(2) PRINCIPLE**

The Town of Cottesloe is vested with the control of street and road verges. Street trees should be established on every street and road in the Town of Cottesloe, with one tree fronting every property, supported by proper systems of protection, watering, pruning and processes for species selection.

### **(3) ISSUES**

- A balance is required between the Norfolk Island Pine tree as the Cottesloe 'Icon' tree and other tree species.
- Many existing tree species in Cottesloe were poorly chosen in the past and these mature trees are providing a variety of problems.
- The large range of street verge widths, up to 15 metres wide requires flexibility in species choice and planting locations to achieve the one tree per property aim.
- Ratepayers and residents vary in their attitudes to street trees and individual trees may suffer damage or die from 'unknown causes' in areas where they cause problems to houses and properties.
- Street trees can be a major source of public liability concerns due to root damage of drainage, paths, kerbing and crossovers on the verge and a variety of problems in private property.
- Supporting street trees on every verge is an expensive task, requiring substantial annual budget support. Normal maintenance costs are ongoing and the cost of damage caused by street trees in major storms can be very high.

## TOWN OF COTTESLOE POLICY

### (4) POLICY

The Town of Cottesloe has demonstrated, in past years, its commitment to the amenity and visual image of the Town's streetscape by the introduction and maintenance of street trees.

This commitment will continue with the maintenance of existing trees and the establishment of new trees, based on the following conditions and requirements:

1. The Norfolk Island Pine tree is the icon or symbol of Cottesloe and shall be preserved.
2. The Town of Cottesloe shall aim at planting and maintaining one street tree per property frontage.
3. All individual street tree planting will be undertaken by Council staff. All other planting on verges, other than a lawn, will require a submission to the Town of Cottesloe for approval.
4. Tree pruning shall be aimed at producing a full canopy typical of the species, while still addressing legal obligations and the preservation of public safety. Major pruning may require the Manager Engineering Services to seek professional advice.
5. Tree removals must be seen as a last resort, used for dead and/or dangerous trees. Removal or pruning of street trees are only carried out at the discretion of the Manager Engineering Services. Any unauthorized pruning or removal of street trees may be liable for prosecution.

The following reasons do not justify tree removals:

- tree litter/leaf fall ("messy:" tree),
  - restoration of a view,
  - alternative species requested by resident,
  - a desire to re-landscape,
  - house alterations requiring crossover relocation,
  - shading of lawns, pools,
  - swimming pool installation – root or falling leaf problems,
  - perception that tree may fall in a storm.
6. A proposal to remove or replace multiple street trees in one street shall require an expert's report, public consultation and consideration by Council.
  7. For development or building approvals, plans and drawings submitted must include the locations of all street trees on abutting road verges for the consideration of the effects of such land or building changes on these street trees.

## TOWN OF COTTESLOE POLICY

8. A person or company identified as having damaged or removed a street tree(s) without Council approval, shall be required to provide full compensation to Council for all costs associated with the re-establishment of an advanced tree of that same species together with an assessed value determined by the Manager Engineering Services for the loss of amenity/aesthetic value of that tree(s).
9. The Town of Cottesloe will maintain a street tree species list of the most suitable tree species for the different soil and micro climate areas of the town, plus species determined as being no longer suitable for new planting as street trees.
10. For every street tree removed, at least one replacement tree will be planted, with an alternative location being chosen if the original location is no longer available.

**ADOPTION:**                      **April, 2013**

**REVIEW:**                        **April, 2021**