

GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Effective: 1 August 2023

Tree Management Policy

Version:	3.0
Business Unit:	Parks, Sport & Recreation
Responsible Officer:	Manager Parks, Sport & Recreation
Adopted By:	Council on Day Month Year
Next Review:	1 August 2026

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a consistent approach to tree management within Greater Shepparton's Urban Forest, and rural environment.

2. OBJECTIVE

Greater Shepparton City Council will utilise Australian Standards, best industry practice, good planning and appropriate maintenance to street, roadside, park and reserve trees that will provide aesthetic, amenity, environmental and ecological benefits to the community.

This policy (and associated guidelines) provides a framework for ensuring structured, consistent and sound management decisions are made for all trees on land owned by Greater Shepparton City Council or under Council's control.

3. SCOPE

This policy is applicable to Greater Shepparton City Council in all its operations and functions relating to street tree planting, tree management and tree maintenance to ensure best outcomes are aligned with all relevant Acts, Regulations, Australian Standards and Council Strategies.

Areas affected within this scope are as follows:

- **“Urban Zone”** – The parameters of Urban Zones are determined to be equal to the commencement of speed limit zones at township or city boundaries. Trees planted or self-sown within the road reserve, open space area or floodway zones of the Urban Zone boundaries are maintained by Greater Shepparton City Council.
- **“Rural Zone”** – The parameters of Rural Zones are determined to be outside of township or city boundaries. Trees planted or self-sown within the road reserve, open space area or floodway zones of the Rural Zone boundaries are maintained by Greater Shepparton City Council.
- **“Council Tree Asset”**– Any tree planted or self-sown that is owned and maintained on Council land by the Greater Shepparton City Council. Referred to as tree or trees in this policy.

4. DEFINITIONS

Reference term	Definition
Approved tree list	Species of trees identified as appropriate for the local region.
Tree Precinct list	Specific list of suitable trees within Council geographical precincts.
Tree Technical Manual	Documents that provide technical guidance to council staff and contractors.
Electric Line Clearance Management Plan	Council's responsibility to manage vegetation near or in the vicinity of electrical infrastructure owned by a distribution company.

5. POLICY

Decisions made in relation to Tree management will be based on the following principles:

5.1. Trees are considered to be community assets that contribute to the well-being of the community and to the natural environment. Council recognises and values the significance of street trees within the urban setting. Trees create functional and aesthetic streetscapes, provide natural habitat and natural shade.

5.2. Council is committed to planting, preserving and maintaining, in a healthy condition, those trees which are currently or which will become visually, historically, socially or environmentally valuable to the community.

5.3. Council acknowledges that the management and preservation of street trees will be accounted for in the annual budget. By applying appropriate levels of resources and best practice management, Council will strive to develop streetscapes of attractive healthy trees for the benefit of the entire community.

5.4. Council is committed to retention, protecting and maintaining trees within the municipality. However, Council also recognises that primarily due to poor historical maintenance and planning there are significant street trees that may need to be removed as they present an unacceptable risk to person and/or property.

5.5. Council will utilise a decision making framework as outlined in the Urban Forest strategy and Tree Technical Manual to aid and justify species selection and ongoing management.

5.6. Unless otherwise directed by Council, decisions in relation to street tree planting and management will be made by the Director Infrastructure.

6. RELATED POLICIES

The implementation of the Tree Management Policy supports the following Greater Shepparton City Council strategic documents:

- *Urban Forest Strategy*
- *Tree Technical Manual*
- *Electric Line Clearance Management Plan*
- *Asset Management Strategy*
- *Asset Management Plans*
- *Service Plans*
- *Road Management Plan*
- *Infrastructure Design Manual*

7. RELATED LEGISLATION

- Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
- Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). Regulations under the Act
- Road Management Act 2004

8. REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every three years by the Team Leader - Arboriculture, Parks and Sports Facilities.

DOCUMENT REVISIONS

Version #	Date Adopted	Date Effective
1.0	15 June 2015	15 June 2105
2.0	15 June 2017	15 June 2107
3.0	1 August 2023	