



**Brighton  
Council**

**POLICY NAME: Trees on Council Land**

**POLICY No: AP03**

**PURPOSE OF POLICY:**

This policy exists to identify Council and third-party actions regarding trees on Council land.

**POLICY:**

The Policy attempts to maximize community support for a well-treed environment through prudent management of all trees for which Council is responsible.

The major areas of concern to residents as they relate to tree management are tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning and damage caused by trees. This Policy seeks to address the issues underlying these concerns and provide clear guidelines for Council officers as they respond to tree related enquiries from residents.

All new trees should be planted in accordance with Brighton Council Street Tree Strategy 2019.

**1. TREE PLANTING**

All new trees should be planted in accordance with Brighton Council Street Tree Strategy 2019.

Trees will be planted by Council and third parties in accordance with IPWEA standard drawing TSD-R36 TREE/SHRUB PLANTING, or any subsequent version.

Street trees are to be planted in new subdivisions. Details to be negotiated as part of planning approval.

All services, under and above ground, must be considered when determining planting locations.

Traffic safety to be considered when determining planting locations, this includes safe sight distances in areas approaching intersections and crossovers. Refer to the IPWEA standard drawing TSD-RF01 SIGHT DISTANCES, or any subsequent version.

If required by the relevant authority, root guards are to be installed if trees are to be planted in proximity to services, footpath or kerb as per TSD-R36 .

Watering capabilities ie pipe or watering collar to be installed at planting stage.

Residents shall be encouraged to plant trees in line with this policy.

Council will have a preferred species list, this may be used to guide planting but may be deviated from under the approval of the Council.

## 2. TREE REMOVAL

Trees enhance the character of an area and shall generally only be removed if unsafe or unhealthy. Council must assess first and may obtain an arborists report if deemed necessary.

If a tree is deemed unsafe by an appropriately qualified person approved by Council, Council will have it removed or remedied as soon as practical.

Trees may be removed if they are causing a nuisance and there are no other means of resolving the issue. In these cases the final decision must be made by the Works Manager or Municipal Engineer.

Approval may be given by the Municipal Engineer to remove trees to install or upgrade infrastructure, including crossovers. If incurred by a development process a replacement tree must be planted to Councils approval and funded by the developer.

Permission may be given to residents in non-urban areas to remove trees on Council land at their own cost if desired for any reason. Council must assess first and may obtain an arborists report if deemed necessary.

## 3. DAMAGE CAUSED BY TREES

Damage to non-Council infrastructure must be referred to the Works Manager to determine a suitable response. Claims from any damage caused by trees including root issues and falling branches are to be referred to the Executive Officer.

## 4. PRUNING

Pruning will be undertaken as required by Council staff.

Private residents may prune any part of a tree that is overhanging their property however it is advised they contact Council to discuss prior to undertaking work.

Trees shall be pruned to alleviate shading or enhance views only if:

The pruning will have genuine and long lasting benefit; and

The form of the tree will not be adversely affected.

Trees shall be pruned to maintain the following clearances

Telephone Lines	150mm to the nearest foliage or limb
Television Cables	150mm to the nearest foliage or limb
Over footpaths	2.5m to the lowest foliage or limb
Over driveways	3.0m to the lowest foliage or limb
Over roadways	3.5m at kerb, 4.5m over road to the lowest structural limb
Street Name Signs	to be visible from 50m in either direction
Traffic Sight Lines	in accordance with IPWEA standard drawing TSD-RF01
Road Signs	must be visible from distance outlined above

## 5. RISK MANAGEMENT

Council will maintain a Tree Register. Any tree in an urban area that has been referred to Council for any reason will be placed on the register to allow Council to manage and monitor these trees. Trees outside urban areas that are referred to Council may be entered onto the register at Councils discretion. Trees may not be added to the register if they are to be immediately removed.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:**

Policy compiled: July 2002  
Adopted by SMT: July 2002  
Reviewed: September 2011, September 2016, September 2019, December 2021  
To be reviewed: December 2023  
Responsibility: Manager Asset Services



GENERAL MANAGER