



LOCAL PLANNING POLICY - STREET TREES AND STREETSAPES

POLICY AREA: BEVERLEY TOWNSITE

PURPOSE

To provide a guide for the continued selection, planting and maintenance of street trees within the Beverley Townsite.

AUTHORITY TO PREPARE AND ADOPT A LOCAL PLANNING POLICY

Clause 4 of Schedule 2, Part 2 of the *Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* enables a Local Government to prepare and adopt Local Planning Policies.

This policy supersedes Shire of Beverley Town Planning Policy No. 1 – Street Trees and Streetscapes, which is hereby revoked.

DEFINITION

A street tree is defined as any tree with more than fifty percent of its base located on a road reserve or verge. Privately planted trees on verges also fall within this definition, however, small plants such as shrubs and ground covers do not.

POLICY STATEMENT

The Shire of Beverley recognises the environmental and aesthetic contribution that street trees make to the continuing development and presentation of streetscapes in Town, 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 catering for vehicular traffic.

OBJECTIVES

- To ensure that locally native trees and shrubs, where appropriate, are planted on verges and median strips in the Beverley Townsite.
- To preserve the Town's biodiversity and facilitate linkages between bushland areas.
- To enhance the aesthetic value of the Town's streetscapes.
- To promote the establishment of street trees through the Town.



POLICY

1. Council will plant (and encourage the planting of) locally native trees and shrubs where possible. Flexibility in this requirement may be exercised by the Works Supervisor.
2. Council will supply and plant locally native trees and shrubs to streets and road verges to residential properties of R5 density or higher on receipt of a written application from ratepayers/householders and conditional upon the ratepayer/householder accepting the responsibility to maintain and water the tree/shrub until it is well established.
3. Council may approve trees/shrubs being planted on verges at their own cost subject to written application and the species and location being approved by Council's Works Supervisor and the applicant accepting the responsibility to maintain and water the trees/shrubs until well established.
4. Trees/shrubs are to be located 3m from property boundary (where possible), 3m from vehicle crossover, not less than 8 metres apart, 15m from intersection of front and side boundaries if a corner block.
5. Council will consider written requests from ratepayers for the removal of established street trees and may approve removal subject to acceptable justification. Depending upon the reasons submitted for removal the ratepayer may be required to meet all costs involved. Abutting residents must be advised prior to removal, outlining reasons for such a removal.
6. When a landowner requests the relocation of a street tree due to its interference with a proposed crossover or for any other reasons, this may be authorised by Council's Work Supervisor and the total cost of the work is to be borne by the landowner.
7. In planting verge trees/shrubs, Council will observe the restrictions in height imposed by Western Power and Telstra aerial wiring.
8. Council will undertake annual tree pruning, the extent of this operation being determined by the species and growth pattern of the trees and the need to conserve maintenance costs by removing branches, leaves and berries prior to these creating stormwater drainage problems or conflict with the public utilities.
9. Where an entire street tree replacement program is implemented, staged removal of existing trees shall be the preferred option, and Council approval for same required.
10. Council will consider granting approval to ratepayers/householders to effect street tree pruning subject to a written request, pruning being effected to the Work Supervisor's requirements and the ratepayer/householder removing all debris from street/road verges.
11. Council will require developers to locate roads so as to retain remnant vegetation where possible, particularly significant trees.
12. Council will require developers to plant >50% local native species in street plantings.



13. Council will identify strategic roads to act as ecological linkages, with particular emphasis on planting locally native understorey species as well as trees.
14. Council's Work Supervisor is to formulate and implement an annual program for Street Tree Pruning and Street Tree Replacement.

STREET TREE PRUNING

Street tree pruning is necessary to maintain and improve the condition of street trees and to prolong their healthy life by professional maintenance. Pruning is also necessary when power lines are too close to trees and for reasons of pedestrian or traffic safety. Street tree pruning will only be authorised to be undertaken by those who have demonstrated training in arboricultural techniques. Controls are necessary to ensure that pruning is correctly undertaken by trained personnel.

The general pruning of street trees in town is to be undertaken annually on a systematic basis. Street tree pruning will be undertaken as required to meet statutory requirements for power line clearances.

The training of outside work staff in arboricultural techniques will be an ongoing process. Pruning of street trees other than by authorised personnel is not permitted.

STREET TREE REPLACEMENT

- A program of street tree planting will be undertaken each year in winter.
- Street tree planting/replacement planting will be undertaken to:
 - Ensure that a minimum of one (1) tree is planted in the verge adjacent to each residential property;
 - Address gaps in streets
 - capes;
 - Complete approved streetscape improvement projects;
 - Provide for tree replacement when tree removal is required but overall upgrading is not proposed;
 - Replace street trees removed;
 - Meet resident request for street trees.