



GEORGE TOWN COUNCIL
STRATEGY NO.2
URBAN AREAS TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Adopted	23 rd March 2011	Minute Ref: 201/11
Amended		
Next Review Date	As required	

1. TITLE

Urban Areas Tree Management Strategy.

2. PURPOSE

To provide strategic guidance and direction for the management of trees within the Council's urban areas, parks, reserves and streets.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN

Key Area 4 – Environment & Heritage

4. ANNUAL PLAN

4.4 Environmental Services.

Objective:

To provide services and programs that enhances our natural environment and encourages good environmental practices in the community.

5. STRATEGY STATEMENT

Trees are considered as community assets that contribute to the well-being of the community and to the natural environment. The George Town Council recognises and values the significance of trees within the urban setting in that they create functional and aesthetic streetscapes, provide natural habitat and natural shade. Council has the responsibility for the planning, establishment, maintenance and removal of all trees located within its urban areas, parks, reserves and streets.

In order to sustain the landscape and meet public demand, trees need to be planted and established, maintained and removed.

This document sets out Council's approach to the management and maintenance of trees for urban areas, parks, reserves and streets as part of a commitment to creating and maintaining an attractive and safe urban environment.

6. THE BENEFITS OF TREES TO THE COMMUNITY

The value of trees to the community and the urban environment is often overlooked but are significant and quantifiable contributors to the principle tenets of the George Town Council's Annual Plan 2010-2011.

Trees provide several architectural and engineering functions. They provide privacy, emphasise views, or screen out objectionable views. They reduce glare and reflection.



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They direct pedestrian traffic and can calm traffic. They provide background to and soften, complement, or enhance architecture. The shade provided by street trees can also reduce pavement fatigue improving public safety and reducing management costs.

Trees can act as windbreaks and deflect rain fall along foot paths. Trees intercept water, store some of it, and reduce storm water runoff.

7. COUNCIL'S STRATEGIC COMMITMENT TO URBAN AREAS TREE MANAGEMENT

The following statements form part of Council's Urban Areas Tree Management Strategy to ensure the future development and safety of the Council's tree assets to the benefit of our community.

7.1 Tree Risk Management

Council recognises its duties and responsibilities in the management of risk associated with its tree assets. Public safety will be maintained through the use of generally accepted professional practices of tree assessment and treatment in order to reduce risk associated with hazardous trees to an acceptable level.

7.2 Tree Selection

Species will be selected that do not require excessive resource input to maintain them in a safe and aesthetically pleasing manner. Tree species known to cause excessive damage to infrastructure will be avoided. Tree species that are known for their structural integrity, aesthetic value and limited litter drop will be preferred.

7.3 Planting Program

The program incorporates the strategic planting of 200 trees annually in George Town Council's urban areas, parks, reserves and streets over 10 years commencing in 2011/12.

7.4 Tree Pruning

Council will maintain its programmed maintenance works for the clearance of trees from street lighting, traffic signs, advisory signs, road and foot pavements and by arrangement with Aurora, from power lines.

7.5 Tree Removal

The removal of Council managed trees will be avoided wherever possible. However, tree removal is an acceptable management option when required for human health and safety, to protect infrastructure, to facilitate approved development and infrastructure improvements, for ecological restoration.



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7.6 Tree Root Management

Root management works, including root pruning, root deflector and soil moisture cut-off barriers, are occasionally required to be performed on trees. This work is required for risk management, to maintain public safety and contain tree root growth where necessary to prevent damage to property, roads, kerb and channel and footpaths.

Root pruning of trees will not be permitted without the approval of a Council's Works Manager.

7.7 Tree Health Care and Nuisance Pest Control

Declining plant health, pest and disease infection are generally a manifestation of stress that is directly attributable to static site or short duration inciting factors. Factors include but are not limited to climate, soil type or site conditions, the genetic potential of the tree, frost, drought, flooding, air pollutants, or mechanical injury. Maintaining plant vigour is the best form of prevention against declining health and the effects of pest and disease.

7.8 Unauthorised Damage or Removal of Trees

Persons that have taken unauthorised action in relation to a tree may be subject to action and penalties.

7.9 Claims for Damages Caused by Trees

In order to reasonably assess whether Council managed trees are contributing to structural damage to privately owned property, the proponent property owner is required to provide a plan of all existing on-site and surrounding vegetation within the past 10 years (preferable), investigation of soil at the base of the buildings to determine the presence, size, depth, and amount of roots present, identification to genus level of any roots found as a result of the root investigation and structural engineers and geotechnical investigation to support the claim.