

Tree Management Operating Guideline

Definitions.....	2
Relevant Policy.....	6
Legislation.....	6
Species Selection	6
Tree Stock Selection	8
Site Selection for Planting.....	8
Planting Methods	9
Establishment and Early Maintenance.....	12
Cultural Practices for Tree Health.....	13
Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) for Tree Health	14
Tree Pruning Practices	14
Clearances Requirements	16
Tree Removal Procedures	17
Tree Removal and Development	18
Pest and Disease Management.....	19
Woody Weed Management	19
Tree Risk Assessment	20
Public Liability and Tree Risk Management.....	21
Tree Protection on Public Development Sites.....	23
Tree Protection on Private Development Sites.....	24
Managing Trees Damaging Property	24
Trees on Private Land	25
Trees and Road Safety.....	26
Tree Support Systems	27
Forestree.....	28
Tree Data Management	28
Customer Service Requests.....	29
Trees and Traffic.....	30
Lighting in Trees	31
Tree Valuation	32
Tree Data Collection and Management.....	32
Public Consultation and Notification	32
National Heritage Listings	35
National Trust of South Australia – Significant Trees Register.....	35
Culturally and Historically Significant Trees	36



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The City of Adelaide acknowledges the Kaurna people as the Traditional Owners of the Country where the city of Adelaide is situated, and pays its respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Supporting Fact Sheets and Plans.....	37
References	38

Introduction

The City of Adelaide is the local government authority responsible for the square mile of the city centre, North Adelaide and the surrounding Adelaide Park Lands.

One of Adelaide's defining features is its extensive urban forest, shaped by Colonel William Light's original design, which placed the city within a ring of green Park Lands. The City of Adelaide manages more than 70,000 street and Park Lands trees, which provide shade, biodiversity and character to the city.

These trees are central to the city's liveability, helping to reduce urban heat, support habitat and enhance the health and wellbeing of the community. The council has long-term strategies in place to grow canopy cover, diversify species, and ensure that Adelaide's trees remain resilient in the face of a warming climate.

The City of Adelaide will implement tree management outcomes utilising the following Operational Guidelines.

Definitions

Regulated Trees

Trees within a designated regulated tree overlay that have:

- A trunk circumference of 1 m or more; or
- Multiple trunks with a combined circumference of 1 m or more and an average circumference of 310 mm or more (measured 1 m above natural ground).

Significant Trees

Trees within a designated regulated tree overlay that have:

- A trunk circumference of 2 m or more; or
- Multiple trunks with a combined circumference of 2 m or more and an average circumference of 625 mm or more (measured 1 m above natural ground).

Any tree identified in the **PlanSA Planning and Design Code Part 10 – Significant Trees (Adelaide)** is also considered significant.

Tree-Damaging Activity

Any activity that adversely affects a regulated or significant tree may constitute a tree-damaging activity under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.

Maximum penalty: \$120,000.



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Exemptions

Exemptions apply under the regulations, including:

- Trees within 3 m of an existing dwelling or in-ground pool, except for:
 - *Agonis flexuosa* (Willow Myrtle)
 - *Angophora* spp.
 - *Corymbia* spp.
 - *Eucalyptus* spp.
- Trees listed as exempt species on the SA Planning Portal.
- Trees declared under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019.
- Trees requiring Native Vegetation Council consent under the Native Vegetation Act 1991.
- Trees planted for woodlots, orchards, or plantations.

Qualified Arborist

- **AQF Level 3 – Arboriculture**
Trained to perform tasks required by AS 4373–2007 (Pruning of amenity trees).
- **AQF Level 5 – Diploma of Arboriculture**
Required for tree assessments, reporting, specifying protection measures, and certification in line with AS 4970–2009 (Protection of trees on development sites).

Under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 (s.119), significant trees must be assessed by a qualified arborist holding a **Diploma of Arboriculture (AQF Level 5)** or a higher recognised qualification.

Emergency Work on Trees

Immediate action required to prevent imminent harm.

Urgent Work on Trees

Work required promptly but can be planned and undertaken within seven days.

Designation of Park Lands

The *Adelaide Park Lands Act 2005* defines the Adelaide Park Lands as including:

- The land commonly known as the Adelaide Park Lands,
- The six city squares (Victoria, Light, Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore and Wellington),
- Brougham Gardens and Palmer Gardens.

The Minister may also designate certain roads or parts of roads as part of the Park Lands. Excluded from the Park Lands are Parliament House and Old Parliament House (including surrounding land), as well as Government House and its grounds.



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Trees located within the Park Lands (including Park Lands roads and squares) are defined and recorded as Park Land trees. Trees outside these boundaries are recorded as street trees.

Street Trees

Street trees are those growing outside the Park Lands roads and squares.

Exceptions

The following will also be considered street trees:

- Trees adjacent to the building alignment surrounding Victoria, Light, Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore and Wellington Squares.
- Trees on North Terrace within 1.5 m of the back of kerb.
- Trees on Frome Road (between North Terrace and Albert Bridge) within the designated road lane segment or within 1.5 m of the back of kerb.
- Trees on Kintore Avenue (between North Terrace and Victoria Drive) within the designated road lane segment or within 1.5 m of the back of kerb.
- Trees on Victoria Drive within the designated road lane segment.
- Trees on King William Road (between North Terrace and Brougham Place) within 1.5 m of the back of kerb.

Legislative Framework

Local Government Act 1999

- *Section 221(2)(e)*: Altering a public road includes planting, interfering with, or removing vegetation on the road.
- *Section 232*: Before planting vegetation on a road, Council must consider:
 - Environmental and aesthetic impacts,
 - Road use, construction and potential interference with infrastructure,
 - Road safety, and
 - Any other relevant matters.
 If plantings may significantly impact residents, nearby businesses or advertisers, Council must also follow its public consultation policy.

Council By-Laws

- Trees on reserves and in the Park Lands are subject to controls under *City of Adelaide By-Law No. 3 of 2024 – Local Government Land By-Law* (section 4.1.5).

Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016

- Any council-owned tree may also be classified as a regulated or significant tree under this Act.



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Trees as Heritage

The City of Adelaide contains places of cultural and heritage significance for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. These include remnants of Indigenous landscapes, places of ongoing meaning for the Kaurna people, and sites linked with the history and development of South Australia from colonisation to the present.

A tree's heritage value is not determined by size alone. Trees may be considered significant for their:

- Aesthetic value
- Location (for example, as part of an avenue or focal feature)
- Historical or cultural significance
- Role in providing habitat or food for native fauna
- Flowers, foliage colour or form
- Physical qualities
- Rarity of species
- Structural form

Management Approach

Where applicable, heritage trees will be managed in line with:

- The *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (regulated and significant trees)
- The *Heritage Places Act 1993*
- Best-practice tree management standards, including:
 - AS4373 *Pruning of Amenity Trees*
 - AS4970 *Protection of Trees on Development Sites*
 - MIS308 *Tree Pruning*
 - MIS310 *Tree Support Systems*
 - MIS312 *Environmental Arboriculture*
 - MIS313 *Tree Health and Maintenance*
 - MIS501 *Tree Risk Assessment*
 - MIS506 *Tree Valuation*

Where practicable, historic trees will be preserved and replanted in recognition of their cultural significance. Adjacent future planting will be designed to protect the integrity of these trees and avenues.

Examples of Heritage Trees

- War Memorial Oak at Creswell Gardens (*State Heritage Place*)
- Mann Terrace Olive Plantation (*State Heritage Place*)
- Moreton Bay Fig adjacent to the King George V statue
- Moreton Bay Figs at Adelaide Oval



- Avenues such as Carriage Walk in Tuthangga (Park 17) (*not listed as a heritage item but valued for cultural contribution*)

The olive groves in Kuntingga (Park 7), Parnguttilla (Park 8), Pakapakanthi (Park 16) and Tulya Wardli (Park 27) are of post-colonial heritage significance. Replacement planting in these groves will continue to use the same tree varieties to preserve their cultural and historical value.

Relevant Policy

- Tree Management Policy (TMP)
- Tree Operating Guideline (TOG)
- Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAP)

Legislation

- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Regulations 2017*
- *Local Government Act 1999*
- *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*

Species Selection

Tree species selection is influenced by a wide range of factors, including:

- Tree size and suitability to site conditions and limitations
- Proximity to infrastructure (overhead and underground services, crossovers, intersections, sight lines)
- Species tolerance to local environmental conditions and climate suitability
- Growth performance, form, foliage and seasonal features
- Contribution to aesthetics, character and public amenity
- Habitat provision and biodiversity values
- Commercial availability
- Contribution to overall species diversity
- Relationship with character precincts (as defined in the ADM – Greening / Green City Plan)
- Adjacent land uses and heritage buildings (including features such as decorative lighting)
- Significant landscape features, views, vistas and integration with urban elements (pedestrian lighting, access points, driveways, WSUD elements).

The City of Adelaide recognises the important role of trees in creating a high-quality urban environment and seeks to maximise planting opportunities across the city. Planting will consider precinct character, best practice, programmed maintenance and broader urban design principles.

To strengthen species diversity and ensure the long-term sustainability of the urban forest within the City of Adelaide, it is desirable to increase the range of tree families, genera, and species. Diversity benchmarks commonly used internationally and within Australia include the following:



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Explanation	Santamour (2004)	Sydney (2013)	Melbourne (2012)	Example
One Plant Family should represent no more than the recommended percentage	30% family	40% family	20% family	Myrtaceae which includes, Eucalypts, Bottlebrushes, Tea Trees and other Australian Natives
One Genus should represent no more than the recommended percentage	20% genus	30% genus	10% genus	<i>Angophora</i> , <i>Corymbia</i> , <i>Eucalyptus</i> are all Genus of Eucalypts in the Myrtaceae Family
One Species should represent no more than the recommended percentage	10% species	10% species	5% species	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> , <i>E. cladocalyx</i> , <i>E. leucoxylon</i> and <i>E. microcarpa</i> are all South Australian Species of the Genus <i>Eucalyptus</i>

A typical species diversity profile in metropolitan Adelaide shows a high proportion of Myrtaceae (commonly 40–50% – refer to your own data), with a particularly strong representation of the genus *Eucalyptus*. This reflects both their natural predominance in the region and their suitability to local soils and climate. These proportions often exceed the diversity targets outlined above.

The City of Adelaide will not set a specific diversity target for the existing tree population, as doing so may compromise other objectives such as canopy cover. Instead, improved species diversity will be pursued primarily through new planting programs. Families and genera with disproportionately high representation will be retained, with their dominance gradually balanced over time through natural attrition and targeted replacement.

Strategies to improve species diversity include:

- Replacing street trees at the end of their life with species that increase local diversity.
- Using new planting projects as opportunities to establish a higher diversity of species.
- Regularly auditing the urban forest species mix and aligning planting programs to improve diversity.
- Trialling new species within the city, monitoring their performance and expanding their use where suitable.

The City of Adelaide urban forest is currently dominated by:

Tree families

- Myrtaceae – 56.1%
- Casuarinaceae – 6.2%



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- Fabaceae – 5.8%

Tree genera

- *Eucalyptus* – 49.1%
- *Casuarina* – 4.6%
- *Acacia* – 4.5%

Tree species

- *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) – 16%
- *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ssp. *leucoxylon* (South Australian Blue Gum) – 12%
- *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum) – 7%

Tree Stock Selection

All purchased tree stock shall be inspected by the designated Arboriculture Officer to confirm quality and suitability for planting. Stock quality must align with accepted industry standards and comply with **Australian Standard AS2303: Tree Stock for Landscape Use**.

To ensure the availability of suitable families, genera, and species, tree stock should be pre-ordered well in advance. Where required, contract growing arrangements should be initiated **3–5 years ahead of planting programs** to secure supply.

Site Selection for Planting

Council tree planting programs will follow these guidelines:

Planting Priorities

- Focus planting in play spaces, school zones, transport hubs and corridors, pedestrian and cycling routes, event spaces and wildlife corridors.
- Explore opportunities to expand planting spaces using engineering solutions such as verge protuberances, roadway cut-outs and footpath realignment.

Site Preparation

- Ensure adequate growing media and soil volume to support mature trees. Contaminated or unsuitable soil (construction rubble, waste, chemicals, insufficient depth) must be removed and replaced before planting.
- Confirm underground service locations before all new or replacement plantings.

Regulatory Requirements

Tree planting must comply with relevant legislation and guidelines, including:

- *Electricity Act 1996*



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- *Highways Act 1926*
- *Water Industry Act 2012*
- DPTI Operational Instruction 19.8 (*Trees in Medians and Roadsides in the Urban Environment*)
- *Local Government Act 1999* Section 232 (planting on roads), which requires Council to consider:
 - Environmental and aesthetic factors
 - Road use, construction and infrastructure impacts (including potential use of structural soils or strata cells)
 - Road safety
 - Other relevant matters
 - Public consultation, if impacts on residents, businesses or advertisers are likely.

Species Selection and Replacement

- Before replacing a dying tree with the same species, confirm with Infrastructure team that the species is still appropriate for the site.

Planting Methods

All trees must be planted in accordance with the following guideline.

Timing

Tree planting will be undertaken during the planting season (May–September), when temperatures are lower and rainfall is higher. This minimises losses from heat and water stress.

General Requirements

The planting location must accommodate the root mass and provide conditions that encourage root growth into surrounding soil. Many tree failures and physiological disorders can be traced back to poor planting practices.

Planting Recommendations

- **Tree selection:** Assess each tree for health and structure. Reject trees with poor foliage distribution, damage, trunk instability, co-dominant leaders or poor unions. Unsuitable trees are to be returned to the nursery.
- **Planting hole:** Excavate a square, shallow hole with sloping sides, 2–3 times the width of the root ball. Depth must be no greater than the root ball height.
- **Root ball:** Remove all bags, pots or wrapping. Inspect for root density and girdling roots.
- **Placement:** Gently lower the tree onto undisturbed soil, ensuring it is straight. If a northing guide is marked on the root ball, orient it to face north. The top of the root ball must be flush with ground level.



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- **Watering basin:** Form a 75 mm berm around the tree or install a compostable water well to capture water.
- **Backfilling:** Use excavated soil to backfill. Firmly compact the soil around the root ball so the tree is stable.
- **Mulching:** Apply 75 mm of organic mulch, extending beyond the hole and overlapping undisturbed soil. Mulch must not touch the trunk.
- **Staking:** Install two timber stakes with flexible ties. Ties should stabilise the tree during wind but allow some lateral movement.
- **Finishing:** Remove all tags and foreign objects from the stem and branches. Fill the water basin immediately after planting.

Size and Category Guidelines

- **Park Lands / Reserves:** Minimum 45 L container stock.
- **Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) sites:** Tube stock or 45 L stock as appropriate.
- **Streets:** Trees 1.8–2 m tall at planting.

Categories for planting sites will vary (e.g. Park Lands, reserves, streets, WSUD), and the correct specifications must be applied to each.

Design Drawings

The following standard drawings should be referred to when specifying tree planting:

- Tree Planting – Protuberance with structural soil cell
- Tree Planting – Garden Bed
- Tree Planting – Median
- Tree Planting – Footpath
- Tree Planting – Protuberance without structural soil cell

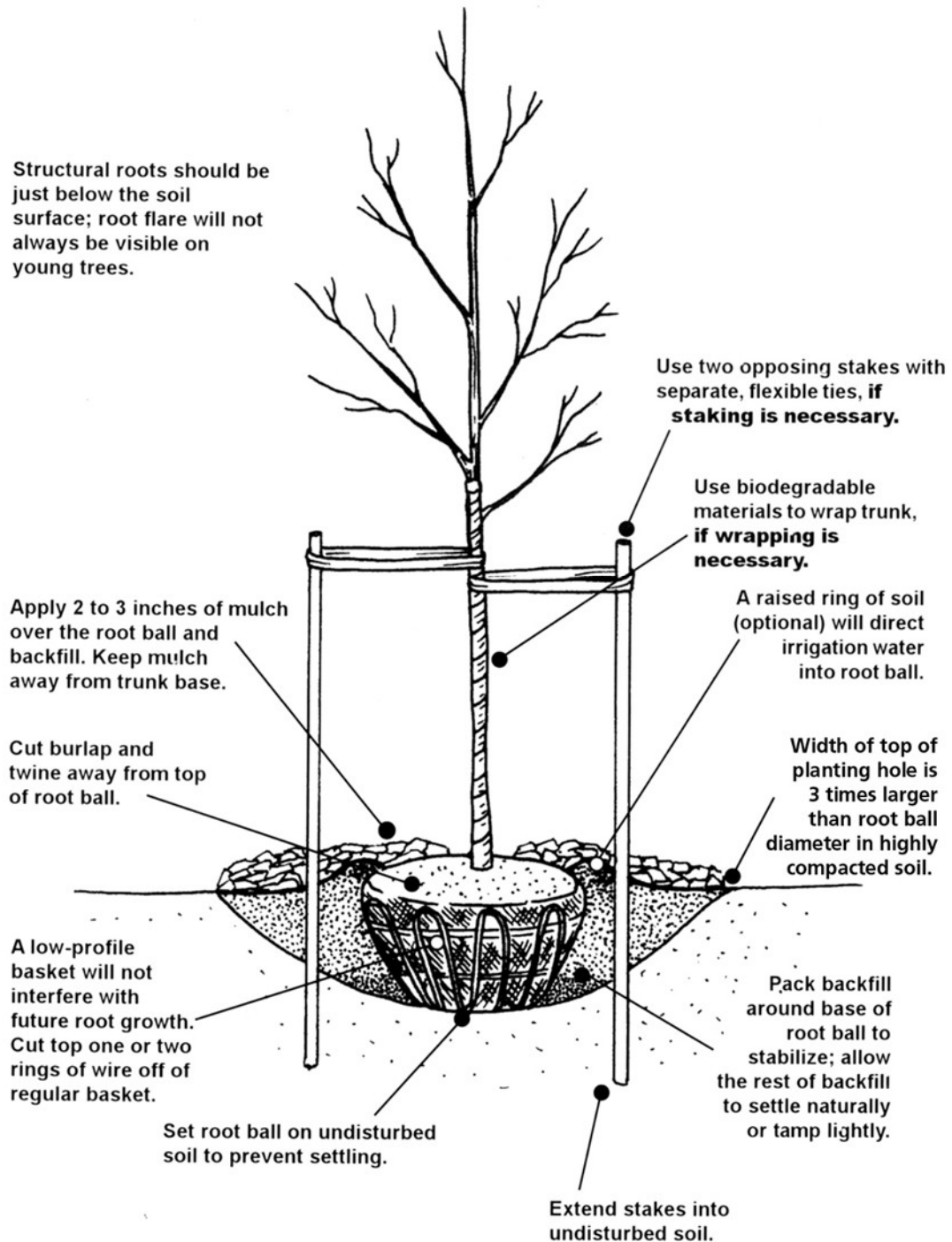


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Tree Planting Diagram

Structural roots should be just below the soil surface; root flare will not always be visible on young trees.



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Establishment and Early Maintenance

The City of Adelaide and its planting contractors will carry out maintenance to support the healthy establishment of new trees. Contractors or CoA are responsible for the first **12 months**, while CoA continues establishment care for up to **3 years** following planting.

At the Time of Planting

- Formative pruning is only undertaken where necessary to remove damaged or defective parts.
- Mulch is applied at a depth of 75 mm using specified materials.
- Staking is used only where required to provide support and must not damage the trunk or branches.

Watering and Soil Care

- Trees will be watered in line with industry best practice, site conditions and species requirements.
- Mulch levels will be topped up as needed to maintain a 75 mm depth.
- Fertiliser will be applied where appropriate to support establishment.
- Weed control will be carried out, including spraying and removal within Greenwells.

Tree Health and Replacement

- The health of all trees will be monitored, with treatment applied as needed.
- Dead or failing trees planted within the establishment period will be replaced.

Stakes, Ties and Infrastructure

- Tree stakes and ties will be checked regularly to ensure they remain secure and supportive without causing damage.
- Ties must be loosened as the stem diameter increases.
- Stakes and ties should be removed within 12–24 months of planting.
- Greenwell bowls and infiltration infrastructure (WSUD) will be maintained to ensure they remain clean and functional.

Ongoing Maintenance

- General site tidiness will be maintained, including the removal of litter and foreign materials.
- A formative pruning program to encourage good tree structure will commence from 2–3 years after planting, in line with **AS4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees** and **Arboriculture Australia MIS308: Tree Pruning**.



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Maintenance Timeline

Stage	Activity	Frequency / Timing	Notes
Year 0 (planting)	Formative pruning (only to remove damage/defects)	At planting	Limited to essential cuts
	Mulching	At planting	75 mm depth
	Staking	At planting (if required)	Must not damage tree
Year 0–1	Watering	Weekly / fortnightly	In line with industry best practice
	Weed control	Ongoing	Within Greenwells
	Stake and tie checks	Regularly	Adjust as stem diameter increases
	Replacement of dead stock	As required	Responsibility of contractor
Year 1–2	Stake and tie removal	12–24 months	Remove once tree is stable
	Continued watering	As required	Adjusted to conditions
	Mulch top-ups	As needed	Maintain 75 mm
	Health monitoring	Ongoing	Replace failing stock if within establishment period
Year 2–3	Begin formative pruning program	2–3 years	In line with AS4373 and MIS308
	Continued health checks, watering, and mulch maintenance	Ongoing	Managed by CoA
	General site tidiness	Ongoing	Litter and debris removal

Cultural Practices for Tree Health

Cultural practices play an important role in improving the long-term health and resilience of trees. These practices include irrigation, mulching, weed management and, in some cases, fertilisation.

Irrigation

- *Active irrigation* systems are more commonly used in parks and reserves to provide regular water supply.
- *Passive irrigation* can be achieved through Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features, which help capture and direct rainfall into the root zone.

Mulching

- Improving soil quality and microbial activity.
- Maintaining stable soil moisture levels.



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- Reducing surface soil temperatures around the tree.
- Providing protection from compaction and weed competition.

Weed Management

- Weed removal should be carried out as required, with a preference for hand tools to avoid damage to tree roots and soil.
- Where herbicides are necessary, they must only be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines and during suitable weather conditions to minimise risk.

Fertilisation

- Fertilising mature trees is generally not required under normal conditions.
- Fertiliser may be applied in response to health concerns, such as during climatic stress or following root disturbance.
- Before applying fertiliser, soil or foliar testing should be undertaken to identify specific nutrient deficiencies.
- Amendments should only be added where test results confirm a need.

Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) for Tree Health

Simple strategies to improve tree health and sustainability include redirecting stormwater runoff for beneficial use. Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) applications support a greener, healthier, and more liveable city by enabling trees and other plants to access additional stormwater, while also reducing the volume of runoff entering the drainage system.

Common WSUD applications include:

- Rain gardens
- Permeable surfacing materials
- Water table inlets and kerb cut-outs
- Verge detention tanks
- Infiltration pits

These treatments should be considered in the design of new planting pits and streetscape upgrades. While they involve an upfront cost at installation, they are typically cost-effective over the three-year establishment period by reducing labour and equipment requirements for manual watering. In addition, tree health benefits are achieved through a more consistent and natural supply of soil moisture.

Tree Pruning Practices

Pruning of Council-owned Street trees will be undertaken in accordance with the objectives, standards, and legislative requirements set out below.



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Objectives of Pruning

Pruning will be carried out to:

- Improve tree structure and mitigate risk.
- Provide suitable clearances.
- Minimise negative impacts on tree health.
- Preserve or support the ecological value of the tree.
- Maintain appropriate lines of sight for safety and access.

Qualifications and Standards

- All pruning must be conducted or directly supervised by qualified arborists holding at least **Certificate III in Arboriculture**.
- Works must comply with industry best practice standards, including:
 - **AS4373 – Pruning of Amenity Trees**
 - **Arboriculture Australia MIS308 – Tree Pruning**
- Exemptions to these requirements may be granted in specific circumstances at the discretion of Council's Arboriculture Officer.

Regulated and Significant Trees

- Where extensive pruning of a regulated or significant tree is required, either to mitigate unacceptable risk or for other approval purposes, **Development Approval** must be obtained before works proceed.
- In emergency and urgent situations, pruning may be undertaken without prior approval in accordance with **Section 136 (Urgent work in relation to trees)** of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.

Risk Management

- Trees identified through the City of Adelaide's **Tree Risk Assessment Protocol** as presenting unacceptable risk to public or private safety will be managed appropriately to mitigate this risk.
- The extent and priority of management actions will be determined by Council's Arboriculture Officer.

Consultation and Specialist Input

- The Arboriculture Officer may seek advice from a qualified Consulting Arborist (Diploma in Arboriculture) to determine tree condition or management requirements for individual trees or groups of trees.



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Pruning Frequency and Scope

- The frequency and extent of street tree pruning will be determined and approved by Council's Arboriculture Officer, based on risk, tree health, and site requirements.
- City of Adelaide's **Tree Risk Assessment Protocol** is the primary tool for determining frequency.

Clearances Requirements

Council will prune street trees to maintain suitable clearances and lines of sight, in line with safety, access, and legislative requirements.

Footpaths

- 2.4 m above the edge of footpaths.
- 2.7 m above the centre of footpaths.

Roadways

- 2.7–3.0 m above the kerb line.
- 5.0 m above the centre of non-arterial roads.
- 6.0 m above the centre of arterial roads, where possible (refer to Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) standards and the *Road Traffic Act 1961* for variations).

Private Property Clearances

Pruning in relation to private property will only be undertaken where:

- A tree is in direct contact with a building or dwelling.
- Reasonable pedestrian access within front gardens or other private open space is restricted.
- A minimum of 3.0 m clearance above private crossovers is required.
- A minimum of 5.0 m clearance above commercial crossovers is required.

Sight Distance and Visibility

- Clear lines of sight will be maintained for vehicles exiting private and commercial driveways.
- For Council-owned Road assets, sight distances must comply with Australian Standards, Austroads Standards, and Council Standards for signage and traffic devices.
- For DIT-owned roads, sight distances must comply with Australian Standards and Austroads Standards, including the *Austroads Guide to Traffic Management – Part 10: Traffic Control Devices* (Section 6.3.7 “Letter Size and Legibility”) and DIT's *Operational Instruction: Trees in Medians and Roadsides in the Urban*



Environment. Reviews for DIT assets will be undertaken by the Senior Traffic Engineer.

- Clear sight lines must also be maintained along walking and cycling routes.

When Tree Pruning Will Not Be Undertaken

Tree pruning will not be undertaken for the following reasons:

- To reduce normal tree litter such as bark, flowers, fruit, or leaves.
- To address personal aesthetic preferences.
- To improve solar access to buildings, private open space, solar panels, or pool heating systems.
- To improve or facilitate private views.

Tree Removal Procedures

Council will only undertake tree removal in the following circumstances.

Permitted Removal

- **Unacceptable risk:** The tree poses an unacceptable level of risk as assessed by a qualified arborist under the City of Adelaide **Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAP)**, and no reasonable pruning options are available to preserve the tree.
- **Dead or diseased trees:** The tree is dead or severely diseased, with a short useful life expectancy at the site, and no reasonable remedial options exist. (Dead trees of locally indigenous species may be retained in appropriate reserves for habitat value. Pruning may be carried out to manage risk levels.)
- **Development works:** Removal is necessary to facilitate public space or infrastructure development where no reasonable design alternative exists to retain the tree.
- **Site suitability:** A tree is determined by Council's Arboriculture Officer (or a qualified Consulting Arborist) to be inappropriate for the site, due to future size, weed potential, or conflict with surrounding structures or infrastructure.
- **Structural damage:** The tree is causing, or is likely to cause, substantial damage to a structure of significant value. Such claims must be supported by a suitably qualified engineer's report. For private property damage, Council will determine responsibility for commissioning the report and may also seek independent advice.
- **Regulated or significant trees:** Removal of a regulated or significant tree requires **Development Approval**, unless emergency or urgent works are necessary to mitigate unacceptable risk. In such cases, Council may act under **Section 136 – Urgent work in relation to trees** of the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*.
- **Specialist input:** The Arboriculture Officer may seek advice from a qualified consulting arborist (Diploma in Arboriculture) to determine if a tree meets the criteria for removal under relevant legislation.



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Not Permitted for Removal

Tree removal will not be undertaken for the following reasons:

- Normal levels of tree litter such as bark, flowers, fruit, or leaves.
- Dissatisfaction with the tree's aesthetic qualities.
- Blocking of solar access to buildings, open space, solar panels, or pool heating systems.
- Preference for a different tree species by a resident or ratepayer.
- Obstruction of private views.
- Perceived growth performance provided the tree is growing at an acceptable rate.

Tree Removal and Development

Design Alternatives

Council-owned trees will not be removed to facilitate public or private development projects unless all reasonable design options to avoid tree removal have been fully considered and demonstrated.

Applicants must show that the following alternatives have been assessed before a tree removal application will be considered:

- Alternative crossover location.
- Alternative underground service alignments.
- Adjustments to building setbacks.
- Alternative building footprints.
- Alternative footing designs.
- Alternative fencing designs and/or locations.
- Modified cut/fill activities and placement of retaining walls.

Regulated and Significant Trees

Where a regulated or significant tree is proposed for removal to facilitate development:

- The appropriate planning approvals are required, and planning consent must be granted prior to any tree removal works.
- The application must demonstrate that all reasonable design alternatives have been considered and found unsuitable.

Compensation for Council Trees

If Council agrees to the removal of a Council-owned tree, compensation may be sought for:

- The amenity value of the tree determined using an industry-accepted Amenity Tree Valuation Method adopted by the City of Adelaide.



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- The tree removal costs.
- The tree establishment costs for a replacement tree, either at or near the site, or at an alternative location.

Assessment Process

Applications for tree removal associated with development will be assessed through the Development Application process, not via a Tree Management Request.

Pest and Disease Management

Building species diversity across the urban forest is one of the most effective strategies for improving resilience to pests and diseases.

Monitoring and Identification

- Regular, proactive **tree audits** will form part of Council's monitoring regime to detect emerging pest and disease issues early.
- Correct identification of pests or diseases must be undertaken by qualified experts, as accurate diagnosis is critical to ensuring appropriate and timely treatment.

Management Approach

- Pest and disease management will follow an **integrated pest management (IPM)** approach rather than relying on a single treatment method.
- IPM strategies may include:
 - Biological controls (e.g. predatory insects).
 - Chemical controls (insecticides and fungicides) applied as necessary.
 - Improving the growing environment around affected trees.
 - Selecting disease-resistant species or cultivars for new plantings.
- All management will be assessed on a case-by-case basis or implemented in response to a known or emerging threat.

Prevention through Diversity

- A diverse population of families, genera, and species will help mitigate the impacts of pest and disease outbreaks, reducing reliance on reactive treatments.

Woody Weed Management

Definition and Context

Woody weed trees may include both exotic and native species when they occur outside their natural range and compete with locally indigenous vegetation. In South Australia, weeds are formally declared under the **Landscape South Australia Act 2019**. These



plants are considered threats to primary production, natural environments and public safety.

Legislative Framework

- Under the **Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016**, any tree belonging to a plant class listed in the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* is exempt from the definition of regulated or significant trees.
- This means such trees can be managed or removed without **Development Approval**.

Management Requirements

- The *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* prescribes different levels of control for declared plants, which may include:
 - Prohibition on sale or movement.
 - Requirements for control (e.g. pruning, containment).
 - Requirements for removal.
- Not all declared species must automatically be removed. Management actions will depend on the prescriptions outlined in the legislation.

City of Adelaide's Approach

- The City of Adelaide will manage declared woody weeds in line with the provisions of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*.
- Management will be undertaken responsibly and proportionately. Where a species does not pose a significant weed threat in a particular setting, and retention is consistent with legislative requirements, a conservative approach will be taken to preserve the tree.

Tree Risk Assessment

The City of Adelaide manages tree-related risks in accordance with the **Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAP)**. The TRAP provides guidance on risk assessment methodology, decision-making processes, and reporting requirements.

Methodology

- The City will utilise an industry-endorsed risk assessment methodology to ensure consistency and accountability.
- For most assessments, the preferred method will be the **Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)**.
- In certain circumstances, alternative methodologies may be applied, such as **Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)** or **VALID**.

Application of Risk Assessments



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- Where tree works are required to mitigate identified risks, guidance will be taken from this document (*Tree Management Operational Guideline*).
- All decisions will balance the need to manage risk with the significant environmental, social, and economic value that trees provide.
- The City will act reasonably and proportionally in response to risks, ensuring that risk management actions are appropriate to the level of risk identified.

Under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016, emergency or urgent works may be carried out on regulated or significant trees if required:

- To protect people or buildings, or
- In other prescribed urgent circumstances.

If such work is undertaken:

- The relevant authority must be notified in line with the regulations.
- The work must cause the least possible damage to the tree.
- Except where exempt under the regulations, the landowner must apply for the appropriate development authorisation as soon as practicable, and within the prescribed timeframe.

Public Liability and Tree Risk Management

The City of Adelaide has a responsibility to minimise public liability exposures by managing risks associated with trees. This includes reducing risks from natural and other hazards and mitigating potential impacts on people, property and services.

Key Areas of Tree Risk Management

- Development and planning activities that affect trees and their growing environments
- Tree planting and establishment practices
- Receipt and management of civil liability claims
- Tree maintenance, including addressing pedestrian trip hazards at tree bases
- Risk of personal harm from tree or branch failure
- Risk of property damage from tree or branch failure
- Risk of service disruption caused by tree or branch failure
- Resolution of disputes relating to encroaching trees and vegetation from private property

Legislative Context – Local Government Act 1999 (Section 245)

1. A council is not liable for damage to property resulting from:
 - The planting of a tree in a road; or



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- The existence of a tree growing in a road (whether planted by the council or not).
- 2. However, liability may arise if:
 - The owner or occupier of adjacent property has made a written request for Council to take reasonable action to avert a risk of damage from a tree; and
 - Council has failed to take such reasonable action.
 - In this case, Council may be liable for damage that would have been prevented had reasonable action been taken.

Tree Risk Assessments

- Tree risks are documented during scheduled inspections recorded in Council's tree management system (Forestreet) using the Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAP).
- Where necessary, works are scheduled and undertaken within recommended timeframes, subject to available resources.

Events in the Park Lands

City of Adelaide provides Event facilitators with a guideline for **Protecting Trees in the Adelaide Park Lands During Events**.

- The Park Lands host many public events, which create additional tree risk considerations.
- Trees normally assessed as low risk may become moderate or high risk during events if infrastructure is placed beneath or near them or visitation increases.
- Event infrastructure should be located clear of trees wherever possible.
- Council will undertake risk assessments of trees within and immediately adjacent to event areas in accordance with the Tree Risk Assessment Protocol (TRAP).

Personal Harm

Enquiries relating to injuries caused by trees should be referred to Council's Risk and Governance Team.

Property Damage

Enquiries regarding alleged damage to private property by Council-owned trees must:

- Be made in writing, and
- Include details of the problem and any supporting evidence.

These will be considered in line with Council's processes (see section *Trees Damaging Property*).

Trees in Footpaths and Roadways



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The City of Adelaide is responsible for maintaining footpaths and roadways across the City and Park Lands as safe and functional networks.

- **Infrastructure Maintenance** manages civil maintenance.
- **Horticulture teams** monitor and manage tree growth and undertake reporting and maintenance actions to ensure safety and functionality.

Risk Identification and Maintenance

Risk identification and management are embedded in horticultural maintenance programs, with prescribed actions and frequencies documented in the Horticultural Maintenance Guidelines.

Service Standards

Construction and maintenance of footpaths and roadways follow defined standards for:

- Inspection and condition evaluation
- Risk assessment
- Prioritisation of maintenance and improvement works
- Methods for construction, repair and maintenance

Mitigating Root Impacts

To reduce root disturbance and improve root zone conditions:

- Structural load-bearing tree root volumes should be provided to accommodate pavement and live loads from pedestrians and vehicles.
- Where higher loads are expected, soil-supporting modules (Strata Cells) or structural soils must be used (see section 5.4.1 *Street Tree Planting*).

Tree Protection on Public Development Sites

Integration into Design

The City of Adelaide will ensure tree protection is incorporated into all public design projects where trees may be in conflict with proposed works. Early engagement with both internal and external stakeholders is essential.

Embedding tree protection requirements from the earliest stages of project design reduces the likelihood of conflict and minimises the risk of tree damage.

Development Approval

- Where tree-damaging activity involving **regulated or significant trees** is unavoidable, **Development Approval** will be required (noting that some exemptions apply).



- The determination of what constitutes tree-damaging activity will be guided by definitions provided under the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (Regulated and Significant Tree Overlay).
- A **Development Application** must be lodged with the City of Adelaide Planning Department, demonstrating compliance with the relevant Performance Outcomes of the Planning and Design Code and justifying why tree-damaging activity is necessary.

Project Arborist Oversight

- All public development projects where trees may be impacted will be routinely monitored by a **qualified arborist (Diploma of Arboriculture)**, recognised as the *Project Arborist*.
- The Project Arborist may be a Council staff member or an external contractor, and will:
 - Provide technical guidance in accordance with **AS4970: Protection of Trees on Development Sites**.
 - Conduct regular site audits to ensure tree protection measures established at project commencement are being followed.

Tree Protection on Private Development Sites

Assessment of Development Applications

The City of Adelaide will exercise due diligence on private development sites where regulated, significant, or Council-owned trees may be affected by proposed works.

- All relevant development applications will be assessed to ensure such trees are not adversely impacted before planning consent is granted.
- Tree protection requirements will follow the guidelines set out in **AS4970: Protection of Trees on Development Sites**.

Compliance Monitoring

- During approved works, Council's **compliance officers** will undertake inspections to ensure tree protection measures are implemented and maintained.
- Where non-compliance is identified, appropriate enforcement action will be taken in line with Council procedures and legislative provisions.

Managing Trees Damaging Property

General Approach

The City of Adelaide will act reasonably and responsibly where it can be clearly demonstrated that a tree is the primary contributor to property damage.

Evidence Requirements



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- Where damage to private property is not clearly observable to, or within the expertise of, Council's Arborist, it is the **responsibility of the property owner** to demonstrate the damage and its direct link to the tree.
- Evidence may include:
 - **Structural damage** – a written report, with photographic evidence, from a suitably qualified structural engineer.
 - **Plumbing damage** – a report from a licensed plumber, supported by evidence of the cause.
 - **Root-related damage** – excavation and exposure of roots to confirm their involvement.
- These reports must be obtained and funded by the property owner and submitted to Council.
- Council may also commission its own independent assessment through a qualified contractor.

Council's Response

- If evidence substantiates that a tree is the primary contributor to damage, Council will act to reasonably mitigate the issue.
- Mitigation measures may include:
 - Crown pruning.
 - Root pruning.
 - Engineering solutions to protect both the tree and the affected infrastructure.
- Where no reasonable alternative solution is available, **tree removal may be required**. If the tree is regulated or significant, planning consent is required before removal or other tree-damaging activity can proceed.

Claims for Compensation

- Claims seeking reimbursement for repair costs to infrastructure can be submitted to Council.
- All claims will be assessed under the **Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme (LGAMLS)**.

Trees on Private Land

The City of Adelaide manages all vegetation, including trees, located on Council-owned land. Vegetation within private properties, institutions or government agency land is the responsibility of the respective owner or occupier.

Overhanging Trees

Where private trees overhang Council property, footpaths or roadways, responsibility remains with the property owner. Owners must prune branches when requested.

Council Powers – Local Government Act 1999, Section 254



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Council may order an owner or occupier to:

- Remove overgrown vegetation
- Cut back overhanging branches
- Remove a tree where growth creates, or is likely to create, danger or difficulty for public use, or where it is unsightly and detracts from local amenity

If the order is not complied with, Council will undertake the remedial work and recover costs from the owner or occupier.

Disputes Between Neighbours

Council does not intervene in disputes between neighbours over private trees, nor is it responsible for issues where private tree roots extend under Council land and cause problems on adjoining properties.

The Legal Services Commission of South Australia provides advice in its booklet “*Trees and the Law – A Guide for Neighbours*” to help resolve private tree disputes.

Trees and Road Safety

In addition to their aesthetic, social and environmental value, roadside tree plantings can also deliver safety benefits. Research shows that traffic speeds are reduced in the presence of trees, particularly where planting creates a sense of narrowing or enclosure through vertical structure and canopy overhang.

To achieve these outcomes, the City of Adelaide will ensure all street tree planting complies with statutory requirements and relevant road safety standards.

Standards and Guidelines

All new street tree plantings will comply with:

- Australian road safety standards
- *Austroads Guide to Road Design*
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) tree planting guidelines
- *DPTI Operational Instruction 19.8 – Trees in Medians and Roadsides in the Urban Environment* will guide tree placement, with consideration of:
 - Underground and overhead services
 - Adjacent land uses and heritage buildings (including structural and decorative lighting)
 - Significant views, features and access points (driveways, street lighting, street furniture)
- Existing street character

Variations and Approvals



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- Any variance from the offsets in *Table 4.1, Operational Instruction 19.8* will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, supported by a comprehensive road safety risk assessment (per Section 3 of the Instruction).
- In accordance with *DPTI Operational Instruction 20.1*, Council must obtain DPTI approval prior to planting trees within or along DPTI-managed road corridors. This applies to both new and replacement plantings.

Design Considerations

The City of Adelaide will consider the inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) tree pits in street tree planting to support tree health and provide

Tree Support Systems

Purpose

Trees are naturally well-engineered, self-supporting structures. In some cases, however, particularly with older trees where structural integrity may be reduced, support systems may be installed to enable tree retention. These systems are considered where the **ecological, social, or cultural values of a tree** are significant enough to warrant retention despite structural limitations.

Assessment and Decision-Making

- The Council Arborist will evaluate the benefits of retaining the tree against the **viability, cost, and ongoing maintenance** of a support system before recommending this option.
- The need for a support system and its design must be determined by an **appropriately qualified and experienced arborist (Diploma of Arboriculture)**.

Standards and Installation

- Tree support systems will be designed and installed in accordance with **MIS310 – Tree Support Systems**, which provides guidance on the appropriate selection of technique and installation methods.
- Installation and associated pruning works must be carried out by arborists with at least **Certificate III in Arboriculture**.

Regulated and Significant Trees

- Where support structures are installed on regulated or significant trees in combination with pruning, this may be considered **tree-damaging activity** under legislation.
- In such cases, **Development Approval** may be required prior to works being undertaken.
- additional environmental benefits.



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Forestree

The City of Adelaide manages its tree assets using Forestree, a specialised GIS-based tree management system. Forestree contains detailed records for every Council-managed tree, including location, species, size, condition, useful life expectancy, and risk rating. This information is continually updated through routine inspections and maintenance works and some of this information is available to the public through Council's website.

Forestree supports customer service by providing accurate and timely information when residents make enquiries or lodge requests about trees. When a customer contacts Council, their enquiry can be linked directly to the specific tree record in Forestree. This ensures that arborists and field staff have immediate access to the tree's history, current condition, and any previous works undertaken. The system helps Council respond consistently, track progress, and provide updates to customers in a transparent way.

By integrating asset data with customer service, Forestree enables the City to make informed decisions, prioritise works, and communicate clearly with the community about how trees are being managed across the urban forest.

Tree Data Management

The City of Adelaide uses data collection to guide urban forest management.

Tree assets are recorded in Forestree, Council's tree asset management system which includes the following information:

- Asset ID and location
- Botanical and common names (family, genus, species)
- Dimensions (height, spread, trunk measurements)
- Condition (health and structure ratings)
- Age class and useful life expectancy
- Risk rating and management requirements
- Heritage or cultural significance

Monitoring

Alignment with the Policy will be supported by data from the asset management system, which records tree inventory, risk ratings, and management actions. Progress will be tracked using key indicators such as:



- Progress toward the 40% canopy cover target by 2035.
- Trends in tree health, diversity, and useful life expectancy.
- Numbers of new plantings, replacements, and removals.
- Timeliness of responses to tree risk works.
- Community satisfaction with tree management.

Customer Service Requests

Community members are encouraged to report concerns such as fallen branches, storm damage, overhanging limbs, or signs of disease and pests through Council's Customer Service portal.

Once a request is lodged, council staff assess the situation against safety, risk, and environmental priorities. Urgent hazards, like fallen trees blocking roads or footpaths, are dealt with immediately.

This process helps balance community expectations with long term sustainability of the urban forest. By responding to requests while also planning for future growth, Council will protect public safety and ensure that trees continue to provide benefits for generations to come.

All non-urgent requests are assessed within five business days and maintenance tasks, such as routine pruning or formative care, are scheduled as part of the broader tree management program.

Requests should include, where possible:

- Name and contact details of the applicant.
- Location of the tree, including whether it is on private property or public land (e.g. reserves, streets, roads).
- Basic details of the tree, such as species, approximate height, canopy spread, and trunk circumference.
- Description of the issue (see examples under risk triage).

Risk Triage

The following items are common triggers for risk triage and further assessment:

- cracking
- leaning
- hanging or broken branches
- root lift
- dieback
- bark damage
- fungal growth
- proximity to structures



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- proximity to people or high-use areas

Assessment Process

Tree management requests will be assessed by Council's Arboriculture team. If further investigation is required, an Arboriculture team member will attend site and:

- Assess the tree against the pruning and/or removal guidelines outlined in this manual.
- Record relevant details in Council's tree inventory system (staff must be trained in effective use of the GIS system).
- Document management recommendations and action them according to Council's tree management timeframes and assessed risk levels.
- Arrange for the applicant to be notified in writing of the outcome of the assessment and any works to be undertaken.

Follow-Up Actions

- Once tree works are completed, the tree inventory system will be updated to reflect the works.
- If a more detailed or specialised assessment is required, the matter will be referred to a qualified consulting arborist (Diploma of Arboriculture).
- For regulated or significant trees, major pruning or tree removal cannot proceed until a development application has been lodged and approved.

Trees and Traffic

In addition to their aesthetic, social and environmental value, roadside tree plantings can also deliver safety benefits. Research shows that traffic speeds are reduced in the presence of trees, particularly where planting creates a sense of narrowing or enclosure through vertical structure and canopy overhang.

To achieve these outcomes, the City of Adelaide will ensure all street tree planting complies with statutory requirements and relevant road safety standards.

Standards and Guidelines

All new street tree plantings will comply with:

- Australian road safety standards
- *Austroads Guide to Road Design*
- Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) tree planting guidelines
- *DPTI Operational Instruction 19.8 – Trees in Medians and Roadsides in the Urban Environment* will guide tree placement, with consideration of:
- Underground and overhead services



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- Adjacent land uses and heritage buildings (including structural and decorative lighting)
- Significant views, features and access points (driveways, street lighting, street furniture)
- Existing street character

Variations and Approvals

- Any variance from the offsets in *Table 4.1, Operational Instruction 19.8* will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, supported by a comprehensive road safety risk assessment (per Section 3 of the Instruction).
- In accordance with *DPTI Operational Instruction 20.1*, Council must obtain DPTI approval prior to planting trees within or along DPTI-managed road corridors. This applies to both new and replacement plantings.

Design Considerations

- The City of Adelaide will consider the inclusion of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) tree pits in street tree planting to support tree health and provide additional environmental benefits.

Lighting in Trees

The City of Adelaide will consider written applications for the temporary installation of bud lighting in street trees. Preference will be given to the use of up-lights.

Assessment and Approval

Applications will be assessed on:

- Public liability requirements
- Potential impacts on tree health
- The tree's current condition, age and structure

Applicants will be notified of Council's decision in writing. Temporary installations will generally be approved for a maximum of three months (typically the festive season). Longer installations may be considered on request.

Installation Requirements

- Bud lighting must be installed in a way that does not damage the tree or restrict growth and expansion.
- Installations are strictly temporary.

Enforcement

If bud lighting remains in place beyond the approved period:



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- Council will request removal by the applicant within four weeks.
- If not removed, Council will remove the lighting and return it to the property owner. The condition of lighting after removal cannot be guaranteed.

Tree Valuation

A Minimum Industry Standard has been developed outlining the core principles of an effective tree valuation method, which can be found in *MIS506 – Tree Valuation*.

The City of Adelaide uses City of Melbourne Tree Valuation method.

Tree valuation will be carried out on an as-required basis for individual tree assessments by a suitably qualified arborist from the Arboriculture team or an external consultant. The arborist must hold a Diploma in Arboriculture or an equivalent qualification.

Tree valuation may also be used to guide bond amounts, where the City of Adelaide may request bond payments in situations where developments may adversely impact council trees. Bond valuations will be derived from the sum of the amenity and ecological services values, plus the removal or replacement costs.

For certain trees which hold significant cultural, historic or scientific value, their value may not be calculated by any prescribed method. In these instances, the calculation used to reach the final value will be transparent, if arbitrary.

Tree Data Collection and Management

The City of Adelaide will undertake systematic tree assessments in accordance with confluence zones defined in the City's *Tree Risk Assessment Protocol*. These assessments provide an evidence base for managing the health, safety, and sustainability of the urban forest.

Public Consultation and Notification

Under **Section 232 of the Local Government Act 1999**, before planting or authorising the planting of vegetation on a road that may significantly impact residents, nearby businesses or advertisers, Council must follow the relevant steps in its public consultation policy.

Adelaide City Council Street Tree Planting Policy specifies that:

Public consultation will be undertaken (in line with Council's Communication and Consultation Policy and the *Local Government Act* community land provisions) for:

- Proposed tree species in streets
- Tree removals
- New tree planting
- Pest and disease management actions

Any proposed change to established street tree species will first be conveyed to all Councillors, with reasons provided, before proceeding to consultation.



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Activities Not Normally Considered to Have Significant Impact

The following are generally not regarded as requiring consultation under Section 232:

- Selection of indicative street tree species listed in **Appendix A** (based on the 2018 Council-endorsed ADM palette).
- Isolated replacement plantings of the same species (“like for like”), where no complaints about the existing species have been received.
- Replacement with a new species where planting of that species is already substantially underway in the street or locality, and previous consultation has occurred.

Levels of Consultation

Council will consult on street tree planting at two levels:

1. Program-wide Consultation

- Council’s strategic and operational tree planting programs will be publicly notified.
- Interested persons will have **21 business days** to make submissions or request further consultation.

2. Local Consultation

- Local landowners and occupiers will be consulted directly regarding specific proposed planting activity in their area.

Delivery of Strategic Tree Planting Programs	
Notification - Forward planting program	<i>Council will publicise the tree planting program or other vegetation planting proposal by notice in:</i> A newspaper circulating state-wide A newspaper circulating locally Customer Centre Council’s Libraries & Community Centres Council's Internet website. <i>The notice will include:</i> Identification of land for which management plan(s) are proposed on community land Where the proposal can be viewed Email address for electronic copy of proposal Invitation for submission(s) to Council providing at least 21 days Address to send submission(s).
Inspection	Information will be displayed at: Customer Centre Libraries & Community Centres Online.
Submissions	Submissions will be accepted by Council in writing by:



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	Lodging at the Customer Centre Email Completing the website submission form. Council staff will: Acknowledge receipt of submission(s) Advise when persons can inspect a report on consultation Advise when the matter will be considered by Council Advise where Council Resolutions can be inspected.
Consideration	Council staff will consider the submissions, prepare a report on consultation and, if appropriate, prepare a revised proposal. Council staff will submit the received proposal and report on consultation to Council's elected members for consideration.
Decision	The matter will be determined at a meeting of Council's elected members.

Operational Tree Planting Programs	
Notification - Specific planting activity	Council will undertake consultation at a detailed level, with local landowners and occupiers with respect to specific proposed planting activity. Council will send letters to: owners/occupiers of land abutting the road; where planting is to occur. persons who have previously made submission(s) in relation to the forward planting program and have requested further consultation.
Submissions	Submissions will be accepted by Council in writing by: Lodging at the Customer Centre Email Completing the website submission form via "Your Say" on CoA's public website. Council staff will: Acknowledge receipt of submission(s) Advise when persons can inspect a report on consultation Advise when the matter will be considered by administration.
Consideration	Council staff will consider the submissions and where appropriate prepare a revised proposal.
Decision	If proposed action is supported by a majority view of the respondents: Decision delegated to Council staff based on Appendix A, Street Tree Species Proposed replacement (Indicative) species.



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National Heritage Listings

The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout are listed as a National Heritage Place under the *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)*. Tree management activities, including removal, planting, pruning, maintenance, and infill planting — have the potential to affect this listing.

The National Heritage values include historic plantings and designed landscapes that reflect the contributions of successive City Gardeners. These values are expressed through:

- Groves and avenues of trees
- Gardens and plantations
- Open areas with small copses
- Perimeter and shelterbelt plantings
- Specimen trees
- Designed and natural vistas
- Remnant pre-colonial native vegetation

Where possible, these features are digitally mapped in Forestree, Council's Tree Management System, although records are not exhaustive.

All tree management actions must be guided by:

- The *Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout National Heritage Management Plan*; and
- The *Historic Plantings Management Plan*.

If works are not clearly addressed in these plans, staff must seek advice from Council's Park Lands and Heritage Teams before proceeding.

National Trust of South Australia – Significant Trees Register

Administered by The *National Trust of South Australia* which is a community based NGO. It identifies and recognises individual trees (or groups of trees) that are considered significant for reasons such as:

- Age or size
- Aesthetic or landscape value
- Historical or cultural associations
- Rarity of species or outstanding example of a species



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It is non-statutory recognition. Being listed does not automatically protect the tree under law, but it raises public awareness and can influence planning decisions. Protection may still come under state laws (e.g. regulated/significant tree provisions in the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*) or local council policies.

Register of Significant Trees within the National Trust of Australia
<https://trusttrees.org.au/>.

Trees can be nominated for inclusion in this register using the nomination form online at
<https://www.trusttrees.org.au/>

Culturally and Historically Significant Trees

The City of Adelaide contains places of cultural significance to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. These include remnants of indigenous landscapes and sites of continuing importance to the Kaurna people and places linked with the history and development of South Australia from colonisation to the present.

A tree may be considered culturally significant based on factors such as:

- Historical or cultural importance
- Aesthetic value
- Location (for example, as part of an avenue or focal point)
- Provision of habitat or food for native fauna
- Flowers, foliage colour or form
- Physical qualities
- Rarity of species
- Structural form

Remnant Trees

Some trees within the City may pre-date colonisation and be considered remnant vegetation. These trees can hold cultural and spiritual significance for Aboriginal people of the Adelaide region. Consultation with local Kaurna representatives is essential to help identify these trees and to guide their ongoing management.

Preservation and Consultation

Where practicable, culturally significant trees will be preserved and replanted to maintain their importance to the City. Future planting nearby will be designed to protect the integrity of these trees and avenues. The City will also consult with Kaurna representatives to ensure remnant trees are managed in a culturally appropriate way.

The Adelaide Park Lands and City Layout include archaeological and cultural sites protected under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* and the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



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Damage or disturbance to these sites can result in significant penalties for individuals and Council, as well as reputational harm.

Council identifies areas with a high likelihood of archaeological or cultural significance before any works are undertaken. For any tree planting project involving new excavation, the planning team must seek advice from Council's Park Lands and Heritage Teams before proceeding.

Comparison of Heritage Protections for Trees in South Australia

Category	Administered by	Legal Status	What it Protects	Trigger for Protection / Action	Example
National Heritage List (Heritage Places)	Australian Government (<i>EPBC Act 1999</i>)	Statutory – Federal law	Entire places of national heritage significance (may include trees, landscapes, buildings)	Any action likely to have a <i>significant impact</i> on heritage values must be referred for federal approval	Adelaide Park Lands & City Layout
National Trust of South Australia – Significant Tree Register	National Trust SA (community NGO)	Non-statutory – recognition only	Individual trees or groups of trees with cultural, historical, scientific or aesthetic value	Listing has no direct legal effect but may influence planning decisions	Moreton Bay Fig listed by National Trust
Regulated & Significant Trees (SA law)	SA Government (<i>Planning, Development & Infrastructure Act 2016</i>)	Statutory – State law	Individual trees that meet size thresholds or are listed in the Planning & Design Code	Any tree-damaging activity (removal, major pruning, etc.) requires development approval unless exempt	Large River Red Gum with trunk cir

Supporting Fact Sheets and Plans

The City of Adelaide has developed a series of useful fact sheets for employees and contractors.

- Tree planting pit design specifications



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- Tree pruning clearances
- Tree pruning techniques
- Protection of trees on development sites

References

- Tree Risk Assessment Manual *Second Edition*, (2017) International Society of Arboriculture.
- Location SA Map Viewer, Accessed on 08/08/2024 via:
<https://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/?map=hybrid&uids=138>
- Australian Standard AS4373: *Pruning of amenity trees*
- MIS308: *Tree Pruning* (Arboriculture Australia)
- MIS501 *Tree Risk Assessment* (Arboriculture Australia)
- MIS310 *Tree Support Systems* (Arboriculture Australia)
- MIS506 *Tree valuation* (Arboriculture Australia)
- AS4373 *Pruning of amenity trees*
- AS4970 2303 *Tree stock for landscape use*



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