



## STREET TREE MANAGEMENT SPECIFICATION

### 1 STREET TREES

#### *Principal*

The City of Greater Geraldton recognises the significance of Street Trees within the urban setting in terms of creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes and has the responsibility for the planning, establishment and maintenance of all street trees in the municipality.

### 2 PLANNING FOR STREET TREES

#### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton will plan for the retention of suitable trees within the proposed road reserves and for the enhancement by the planting of selected street trees.

#### *Procedure*

- i. The City of Greater Geraldton shall consider the use or retention of street streets as part of any streetscape in its planning process.
- ii. Naturally, occurring trees, where appropriate, shall be retained within the streetscape.
- iii. A selection of new varieties shall be encouraged and in accordance with landscape codes applicable to various arboreal zones of the City of Greater Geraldton and to suit the character of particular localities.
- iv. All trees identified within the City of Greater Geraldton Heritage Tree Listing shall be maintained in accordance with the current City of Greater Geraldton's Town Planning Policy.
- v. Develop the formulation of an overall streetscape master plan.

### 3 STREET TREE PLANTING

#### *Specification*

The Council acknowledges that the City of Greater Geraldton is responsible for the planting of all street trees; however, owner/occupiers will be encouraged to plant their own street trees of approved varieties and to the City of Greater Geraldton specifications.

### *Procedure*

- i. The City of Greater Geraldton shall undertake tree planting in streets annually (June/July), as an ongoing planned programme for creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes. Requests from owner/occupiers will also be considered and within the annual tree planting program provided the request complies with the policy.
- ii. Property owners and occupiers may be permitted to plant their own street tree/s from a list of approved varieties with approval from the Director of Infrastructure Services and in accordance with the City of Greater Geraldton's – Verge Treatment Specifications [[ISV001](#)].
- iii. The following serve only as a guideline for all street tree plantings. Variations under exceptional circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Director of Infrastructure Services.
- iv. Plant at least 5 metres away from any public utility junction box, manhole, pole or aerial feeder line.
- v. Plants to be on an alignment of 2.75 metres from the property boundary (please refer to STD28 – Verge Treatment Plan).
- vi. Plant on a 3.25 metre standard alignment from any adjacent property boundary.
- vii. Generally planting trees on spacing intervals of approximately 15 metres or one tree per property frontage with similar spacing being maintained on large frontage lots.
- viii. Plantings near road intersections and driveway crossovers will be subject to pedestrian and motorist safety assessment.
- ix. All trees are to be planted in accordance with the City of Greater Geraldton's Tree Planting Procedure.

## **4 STREET TREE WATERING**

### *Specification*

Council accepts that the City of Greater Geraldton is responsible for the post planting care and maintenance of all street trees; however, owner/occupiers will be encouraged to assist with street tree watering.

### *Procedure*

- i. The City of Greater Geraldton shall undertake the watering of all new street trees, as and when required, until the trees are established (approximately 2-year period).

- ii. Street tree watering shall include all of the City of Greater Geraldton's programmed plantings as well as those planted on request from owners/occupiers.
- iii. Property owners and occupiers shall be encouraged to water their street trees during the establishment period. A written request to this effect shall be lodged with the resident soon after the tree is planted.
- iv. The City of Greater Geraldton shall adopt appropriate practices of pre and post planting care to ensure the survival of all trees planted.

## **5 STREET TREE PRUNING UNDER POWERLINES**

### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton is responsible for the pruning of all street trees under power lines, although Western Power has authority to clear power lines without consulting the City.

Property owners/occupiers may be permitted to prune street trees under power lines when they obtain written approval from the City of Greater Geraldton and agree to undertake the works with a qualified tree pruner with Western Power certification and in accordance with these products.

### *Procedure*

- i. The City of Greater Geraldton shall undertake the pruning of all street trees affected by power lines on a programmed basis.
- ii. Programmed street tree pruning shall include trees on the side of the street affected by overhead power lines as well as trees affected by electrical feeder lines to individual properties on the opposite side of the street.
- iii. Programmed pruning shall not normally include trees on the opposite side of the street to power lines. Acceptable reasons for pruning away from power lines are to improve sight lines, pedestrian/vehicle clearances, safety and necessary tree management.
- iv. Programmed pruning is to be planned each year, on a needs basis in accordance with Western Power Guidelines and in accordance with pre-determined arboreal/geographical sectors of the city.

Programmed street tree pruning shall normally be to fulfil any of the following requirements;

- a. To clear the tree canopy from interference with overhead power lines and other essential services in accordance with Western Power requirements.
- b. To remove overhanging branches considered hazardous to pedestrian or vehicular traffic, buildings or structures.

- c. To under prune low growing branches considered hazardous to traffic or pedestrians.
  - d. To form the shape of developing trees.
  - e. To redefine the framework of mature trees.
  - f. To rejuvenate vigour into unthrifty growth.
  - g. To reduce crown density or to redistribute growth to lateral branches.
  - h. To remove dead, dying or pest infected limbs and branches.
- v. Property owners may be permitted to prune street trees under power lines where they obtain written approval from the City of Greater Geraldton and agree to undertake the works with a qualified tree pruner with Western Power certification and in accordance with these procedures.

Requested for approval must be submitted in writing to the Director of infrastructure Services for consideration through the City's Trees and Horticulture Department.

- vi. A property owner/occupier granted permission to prune a street tree shall;
- Be requiring to sign a prepared letter indemnifying the City of Greater Geraldton against any claims for loss, damage or injury because of the pruning.
  - Advise the name of the Western Power (certified) approved tree pruning contractor to be used for the pruning who shall agree to undertake the works in accordance with the City of Greater Geraldton's standards.
  - Pay all associated costs for the pruning.

## **6 STREET TREE PRUNING (GENERAL)**

### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton does not normally prune street trees unaffected by power lines; however, private pruning of such trees may be permitted in accordance with the City of Greater Geraldton's procedure and subject to the City of Greater Geraldton being indemnified against any claims for loss or injury.

### *Procedure*

- i. Under its programmed pruning schedule, the City of Greater Geraldton shall not normally prune street trees unaffected by power lines; however, pruning may be undertaken in the interests of:
  - Public safety;
  - Traffic and pedestrian hazard;
  - Human health hazard;

- Reducing structural risk to the tree;
  - Removing growth abnormality or disease; and
  - Managing the health and well-being of the tree.
- ii. Property owners/occupiers may apply in writing to the Director of Infrastructure Services for permission to prune any street tree unaffected by power lines. Applications are to be assessed and approved by the City's Trees and Horticulture Department.

Where the City's Trees and Horticulture Department approves such pruning, the owner/occupier granted permission to prune tree shall:

- Be required to sign a prepared letter indemnifying the City of Greater Geraldton against any claims for loss, damage or injury as a result of the pruning.
  - Advise the name of the approved tree pruning contractor to be used for the pruning who shall agree to undertake the works in accordance with Australian Standard 4373 (2007) – Pruning of Amenity Trees.
  - Pay all associated cost of the pruning.
- iii. Where trees are classified the process identified in the Town Planning Policy must be followed:
- Severe pruning (loping) is not an acceptable practice, proper arbour cultural methods should be implemented whenever possible.
  - Any tree works are to comply with AS4373 (2007) – Pruning of Amenity Trees and should be undertaken by suitably qualified/trained City of Greater Geraldton staff member or by suitably qualified/trained tree surgeons.

## **7 UNAUTHORISED STREET TREE PLANTING**

### *Specification*

Street trees planted without the Director of Infrastructure Services approval are considered unauthorised planting's, but may be retained subject to certain conditions being met.

### *Procedure*

- i. An unauthorised street tree planting shall constitute any one of the following:
- A tree planted without the authority of the Director of Infrastructure Services.
  - A tree planted of an inappropriate species for verge planting or under power lines.

- A tree planted out of alignment in relation to the City of Greater Geraldton's [ISV001](#) – Verge Treatment Specifications & [STD28](#) – Verge Treatment Plan.
- ii. Where an unauthorised street tree planting is identified, the City's Director of Infrastructure Services shall determine whether the planting can be retained if it conforms to the City's planting specifications and to species choice.
- iii. Where the planting is of a recent origin and the tree is of a conforming species but on the incorrect alignment or spacing, the City of Greater Geraldton shall appropriately relocate the tree after the owner/occupier has been notified and providing the species lends itself to transplanting.
- iv. Where the planting is of a recent origin and the tree is, non-conforming is species and planting specifications, the owner/occupier shall be given the option of relocating the tree on private property. Such removal shall be accordance with the City's Director of Infrastructure Services direction and at full cost to the owner/occupier of the adjacent property.
- v. Where the planting is more established and the species considered inappropriate for transplanting, associated policy relating to street tree pruning and /or street tree removal shall apply.

## **8 STREET TREE REMOVAL**

### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton does not remove street trees unless warranted under exceptional circumstances relating to public risk and safety, or is in keeping with the City's removal/replacement program. Owing to the hazardous nature of the task, the owner/occupier will not be granted permission to remove trees.

### *Procedure*

- i. The City of Greater Geraldton shall undertake the removal of street trees under the following circumstances:
  - a. Trees that are dead or diseased and beyond remedial treatment.
  - b. Trees that have been assessed as structurally weak and dangerous and place the public at risk.
  - c. Trees that have been irreparably weather damaged from a storm.

- d. Trees that are a hazard to motorists/pedestrians owing to restrict vision of traffic presented by the tree from being on a non-conforming alignment or spacing.
  - e. In the event of road widening or re-alignment where adjustments to property setbacks and underground services has to occur and every option of preventing the tree being removed has been investigated without success.
  - f. Where the tree is dangerously in contact with overhead power lines or distributor wires to properties and where for reasons of growth habit pertaining to the species, selective pruning is not practical with the only option being severe lopping.
  - g. Trees, which are approved for removal under the redevelopment or relocation program or because of high maintenance costs due to i.e. unsuitable species growing under power lines, excessive side growth on main trunk etc.
- ii. The following shall not constitute sufficient reason for the removal of street trees:
  - a. Growth of the tree obscuring scenic views.
  - b. Dislike of the species planted or in growth habit.
  - c. Left fruit or bark shedding being a nuisance.
  - d. Allergies or health problems being experienced (without a medical report).
  - e. The tree being in the way of a second, non-essential driveway crossover.
  - f. Shading of private garden or solar hot water installation.
- iii. Under special circumstances, council may consider owner/occupier requests.
- iv. Under special circumstances public consultation should be undertaken for cases where trees have any known historic importance or may be considered to have additional significance to the streetscape amenity using the following possible options:
  - a. Verbal/written liaison with the adjoining or affected owner/occupier.
  - b. Locality information signage displays.
  - c. Advertisement in the public newspapers, and if deemed necessary by the Director of Infrastructure Services, referred for consideration by Council.
- v. Arboriculture assistance may be sought when circumstances warrant such specific consultative input.
- vi. Where trees are removed the City's Director of Infrastructure Services in consultation with adjoining property owners shall select and arrange

tree replanting as part of the Trees and Horticulture Department annual tree planting program, except where a replacement tree may create a potential public road safety hazard.

## 9 STREET AND PRIVATE TREE RELOCATION

### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton encourages the relocation of trees on private property or within road and public reserves, rather than removal subject to the species and tree size being able to be successfully relocated without causing possible damage to existing features and subject to budget funding availability.

### *Procedure*

- i. Application for relocation of a tree may be made in writing to the Director of Infrastructure Services, who will in turn arrange a site evaluation inspection, by the City's Tree and Horticulture Department.

Only suitable, healthy trees known high transplanting success rate will be considered by the City of Greater Geraldton.

- ii. Every endeavour will be made to relocate suitable trees in accordance with the following conditions:
  - a. Where the City's Trees and Horticulture Department consider the tree species and size for relocation.
  - b. If located on the road reserve, where no major damage to existing services or features is envisaged.
  - c. If located on private property where open access to the tree is available and there is no damage to existing features is envisaged.
  - d. Where funds exist within the City's budget to enable the tree to be relocated.
  - e. Where a suitable site exists for the tree to be relocated.
- iii. Where trees on private property are considered unsuitable for relocation in accordance with the guidelines of this specification, the City's Trees and Horticulture Department will in the first instance provide horticulture advice, without prejudice on options for the tree.
- iv. Established trees considered suitable for relocation include:

TREE SPECIES	HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS	TREE SPECIES	HEIGHT RESTRICTIONS
Palm Species	Up to 4.0 metres	Deciduous Species	4.0 metres
Norfolk Island Pine	2.0 metres	Conifer Species	3.0 metres
Ficus Species	4.0 metres	Meterosideros Species	3.0 metres



Other tree species may be suitable for relocation following an inspection by the City's Trees and Horticulture Department.

- v. The City of Greater Geraldton shall take all care but no responsibility for guaranteeing that the tree will survive the relocation process.
- vi. Where tree/s exists on private property the property owner shall reimburse the City of Greater Geraldton and amount at least equivalent to the estimated removal cost of the tree/s.
- vii. The City of Greater Geraldton shall take every care and plan the removal of trees from private property; however, the City shall not be held responsible for any costs associated with damage to property, which was accidental.

## **10 APPROVED STREET TREE SPECIES**

### *Specification*

The City of Greater Geraldton approves planting of specified tree species on road verges in accordance with the City's guidelines. The City's Trees and Horticulture Department may approve other species through application to the Director of Infrastructure Services for consideration.

The species list is subject to ongoing trials and assessment with individual species being added or deleted accordingly at the discretion of the City's Trees and Horticulture Department.

### *Procedure*

- i. Recommended Tree Species – The following tree species have been approved for planting with the following roadway verge configurations.

The criteria to be considered when selecting suitable species should include:

- Eventual size of species (height, spread, trunk diameter etc.);
- Species characteristics (canopy structure, low spreading, upright etc.);
- Overhead/adjacent/underground services and structures;
- Known root zone characteristics;
- Suitably to Geraldton's unique climate;
- Desirable aesthetic features (flower, leaf, fruit etc.);
- Future maintenance requirements; and
- Suitability for the inclusion into the existing streetscape.

**TABLE 1:** Verge width 3 to 5 metres (under power lines)

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Dawson River"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Kings Park Special"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon Viminalis
Coral Gum	Eucalyptus Torquata
Cotton Wood	Hibiscus Tiliaceus
Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Leucoxylon "Rosea"
NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa
Olive Tree	Olea Europa (Cultivars Only)
Pride of Bolivia	Tipuana Tippu
Rottnest Island Tea Tree	Melaleuca Lanceolata
Variegated NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa Variegated

**TABLE 2:** Verge width 3 to 5 metres (under no power lines)

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Dawson River"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Kings Park Special"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon Viminalis
Coastal Sheoak	Casuarina Equisetifolia
Coral Gum	Eucalyptus Torquata
Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Leucoxylon "Rosea"
Illawarra Flame Tree	Brachychiton Acerifolia
Jacaranda	Jacaranda Mimosaeifolia
NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa
Olive Tree	Olea Europa (Cultivars Only)
Poinciana	Delonix Regia
Pride of Bolivia	Tipuana Tippu
Red Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Ficifolia
Red Ironbark	Eucalyptus Sideroxylon Rosea
Rottnest Island Tea Tree	Melaleuca Lanceolata
Various Palms	Palms
Weeping Peppermint	Agonis Flexuosa

**TABLE 3:** Verge width 5 to 10 metres (under power lines)

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Dawson River"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon "Kings Park Special"
Bottle Brush	Callistemon Viminalis
Coral Gum	Eucalyptus Torquata
Cotton Wood	Hibiscus Tiliaceus
Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Leucoxyton "Rosea"
NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa
Olive Tree	Olea Europa (Cultivars Only)
Pride of Bolivia	Tipuana Tippu
Rottneest Island Tea Tree	Melaleuca Lanceolata
Variegated NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa Variegated

**TABLE 4:** Verge width 5 to 10 metres (under no power lines)

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
Coastal Sheoak	Casuarina Equisetifolia
Conifers	Cupressus
Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Leucoxyton "Rosea"
Hill's Fig	Ficus Hilli
Illawarra Flame Tree	Brachychiton Acerifolia
Jacaranda	Jacaranda Mimosaefolia
Moreton Bay Fig	Ficus Macrophylla
Norfolk Island Pine	Auracaria Heterophylla
NZ Christmas Tree	Metrosiderous Exelsa
Paperbark	Melaleuca Lanceolata
Poinciana	Delonix Regia
Pride of Bolivia	Tipuana Tippu
Red Flowering Gum	Eucalyptus Ficifolia
Red Ironbark	Eucalyptus Sideroxyton Rosea
Rottneest Island Tea Tree	Melaleuca Lanceolata
Various Palms	Palms
Weeping Peppermint	Agonis Flexuosa

The selection of species for a given street location will also be determined on the suitability of the species in relation to:

- Wind Exposure
- Salt Tolerance

Any additions or variations to the recommended species plantings may be trialled by the City's Tree and Horticulture Department with reporting of the outcomes through Council for modification of the policy.

- ii. Recommend Streetscape Planting
  - a. In general, the City of Greater Geraldton encourages the planting of a common group of tree species within a given section of road reserve to promote a common streetscape theme that enhances the amenity of the neighbourhood. In such instances, one, two or three tree species may be utilised to create an enhanced streetscape.
  - b. Generally, an isolated, different tree species will not be approved for planting in an area where existing streetscape theme exists.

## **11 STREET TREE MANAGEMENT OF TOWN PLANNING CLASSIFIED LISTED TREES**

In the majority of situations, requests to prune or remove Classified Trees shall be referred to the Town Planning Department for consideration in accordance with processes detailed within the City of Greater Geraldton Town Planning Scheme related to Classified Trees.

However, where trees are considered by the City's Tree and Horticulture Department to be dead or in condition which poses a potential risk to the public then at the approval of the Chief Executive Officer, the City's Tree and Horticulture Department shall implement removal or remedial pruning respectively, through consultation with a qualified arboriculturalist.

## **12 DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR MANAGEMENT OF THE SPECIFICATION**

Delegated Authority is given to the Chief Executive Officer to enable the management of the City of Greater Geraldton Tree Management Specification in an efficient and responsive manner.

*Endorsed by the City of Geraldton – 22 June 2004*