

## Tree Management Policy

*Yarriambiack Shire Council encourages a working environment which promotes gender equality and models non-violent and respectful relationships.*

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## 1 Objective

This policy has been developed to ensure the future management of tree assets of the Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The policy provides a practical and balanced approach to tree management which seeks to maximise the abundance and health of trees on Council land while ensuring public safety and allowing controlled development. It acknowledges that trees sometimes come into conflict with other elements of the streetscape, particularly hard structures and services, but recognises that all are essential components of a pleasant and functional landscape.

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

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

## 2 Definition

For the purposes of this policy, Council adopts the following definition from the Victorian Planning Provisions:

<b>Native vegetation</b>	Plants that are indigenous to Victoria, including trees, shrubs, herbs, and grasses.
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## 3 Responsibility

Chief Executive Officer

Director Asset and Operations

Manager Infrastructure and Work

Manager Development and Environmental Services

## 4 Policy Statement and Scope

### 4.1 Land to which this policy applies

This policy applies to the following land within the Yarriambiack Shire Council:

- Land owned by the Yarriambiack Shire Council
- Land managed by the Yarriambiack Shire Council on behalf of:
  - The Department of Transport (Regional Roads Victoria, VicRoads)
  - The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
  - Parks Victoria
  - GWM Water
- Local road reserves
- Road reserves managed by the Yarriambiack Shire on behalf of the Department of Transport (Regional Roads Victoria, VicRoads).

### 4.2 Tree Management (pruning and removal)

#### 4.2.1 Tree pruning

An essential component of the management of the shire's tree assets is the maintenance of individual trees in a safe and visually appealing condition. Once established, the major maintenance requirement of a tree is pruning.

As a general rule, the pruning of trees should be minimised as all pruning cuts are potentially injurious and trees look more appealing when left to develop in their natural shape.

Trees should only be pruned to achieve specific goals such as the removal of dangerous branches, or to remove hazards from electricity lines.

#### 4.2.2 Removal of trees

Decisions regarding tree removal become necessary in response to requests by residents, developers and external authorities or through observation of problem trees by Council staff/contractors.

It sometimes becomes necessary to remove trees, either because of a problem with the tree itself, or to facilitate the development of adjacent properties or installation of infrastructure. Experience has shown that the concern associated with the removal of trees can be minimised through proper consultation with residents and demonstration of respect for the importance of trees by Council.

The removal of *native vegetation* may require a planning permit through the provisions of the Yarriambiack Planning Scheme.

#### 4.2.3 Tree removal guidelines

The reason for requests for tree removal are numerous. The most common reasons are:

- Tree threatening to cause significant property damage (either to private or Council owned property).
- Tree causing significant interference to services or mains ie power lines, water, sewer, kerb or pavement.
- Tree causing sight distance problems for pedestrians and/or motorists. Can be at intersections, driveways or footpaths.
- Tree being storm damaged or having failed in part due to shedding limbs
- Tree is dying, diseased or dead
- Tree dropping limbs or shedding leaves.
- Tree poses immediate threat to public.
- Tree identified during Hazardous Tree inspection program as needing removal.

#### 4.2.4 Requests for tree removal

All requests for tree removal must be in writing and as a minimum provide the following information:

- Reasons for requesting removal
- Details of trees to be planted as replacements including number and species (if applicable)
- Location/identification of tree

#### 4.2.5 Assessment of tree removal requests

Upon receipt of a request for removal of a tree, it shall be assessed by the Director of Assets & Operations or their delegated officer who shall make a decision as to whether the tree is removed or retained. Consultation may be required with other agencies such as DELWP, Regional Roads Victoria, Parks Victoria, or Barendj Gadjin Land Council.

Assessment of a request to remove a tree will be based on:

- The health of the tree.
- Whether the tree causing damage to public assets.
- Whether the tree causing damage to private property.

- Whether the tree has been damaged.
- Whether the tree posing an immediate threat to the safety of residents.
- Any other relevant safety aspects.

Before deciding that a tree should be removed, the officer should consider whether the problem can be economically rectified by other means eg pruning or root treatment.

An arborist may be engaged to make a recommendation on the health of the tree.

To enable the officer to carry out the assessment the attached flow chart has been developed.

#### **4.2.6 Notification of removal of a tree or trees**

When a tree has been approved for removal, the following notification will be undertaken:

- Letters to adjoining property owners.
- Notice in Council’s newsletter, public notice ad in the local newspaper or newsletter.

The letters and notice shall include details of the tree, the location of the tree, and when the tree is to be removed.

#### **4.2.7 Emergency of removal of a tree or trees**

In the case of an emergency a tree will be removed without formal notification if the tree is considered dangerous by Council officers. As emergencies would include events such as storms, strong winds, car accidents, and the like events.

In these cases, Council officers will door knock the immediate area to inform property owners of what is being undertaken and why.

#### **4.2.8 Cost of removal**

Where it is necessary to remove a tree because the tree is dying or diseased, a safety hazard, causing interference to utilities (Power, Water or Sewerage) or because it is causing damage to Council property the cost of removal shall be borne by Council.

In all other cases trees will only be removed if the applicant agrees to pay all costs.

### **4.3 Tree planting**

Tree planting is an essential component of the management of the shire’s tree assets.

The planting of trees on nature strips is an activity which is generally well received by residents.

Management issues associated with street tree planting are prioritisation of planting sites, species selection and post planting maintenance.

#### **4.3.1 Tree planting guidelines**

Priority shall be given to:

- replacement of removed trees
- resident requests for individual trees
- planting in association with capital projects
- community planting programs

#### **4.3.2 Replacement trees**

In township areas where a tree is removed it shall be replaced by another tree of an approved species during the next suitable planting season. Costs relating to the planting and establishment of replacement trees will be the responsibility of the body who pays for the tree removal.

A replacement tree will be planted in all instances unless it can be shown that the site is unsuitable for all types of tree planting.

In reserves/roadsides tree removal involving indigenous/native trees may require a planning permit which would be referred to Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. Any requirements for replanting or offsets would be in line with their requirements.

Where a tree is to be removed from a reserve/roadside and the applicant is not the owner of the adjacent property the officer will advise the owner that the tree is to be removed and explain why.

All trees removed from nature strips shall be replaced as soon as is practicable, provided a suitable planting site is available.

#### **4.3.3 Requests for individual trees**

Individual trees requested by residents shall be planted as soon as possible providing a suitable planting site is available.

The selection of the type of tree will be considered against the requirements set out in Section 4.4 of this Policy.

#### **4.3.4 Capital works projects**

Tree planting will be undertaken in association with capital works projects such as road repair, infrastructure development, or creation of new housing developments, through funds made available through the project budget.

#### **4.3.5 Planting location**

Selection of an appropriate planting site is a crucial factor in determining the long term viability and cost effectiveness of a street tree. A poorly positioned tree has the potential to diminish the visual appeal of a streetscape, cause structural damage, become hazardous or require excessive spending on maintenance and pruning.

Planting sites should be chosen to comply with the existing landscape character of the street and the preferences of adjacent residents, while allowing for the functional limitations imposed by the street environment.

Generally, where a single tree is to be planted on a nature strip, it shall be located as near as possible to the centre of the nature strip, while conforming to the existing rhythm of planting in the street and the location guidelines outlined below.

Where two or more trees are planted on a single nature strip, their position should conform to the existing rhythm of planting in the street and the location guidelines outlined below.

The number of trees which can be planted on a nature strip shall be limited by the character of the streetscape and the location guidelines outlined below.

#### **4.3.6 Location guidelines**

##### **Existing Vegetation**

No tree shall be planted below the overhanging branches of an existing tree, either on the nature strip or in adjacent properties.

No tree shall be planted within five metres of an existing nature strip tree unless:

- it is proposed to remove the existing tree in the long term
- close informal plantings are consistent with the character of the streetscape

#### **4.3.7 Trees planted by residents**

Planting of street trees by residents should only be undertaken with the cooperation of Council officers.

Unauthorised planting of street trees by residents shall be discouraged but recently planted trees shall be allowed to remain provided they are:

- of a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape

- good quality specimens
- in a suitable location
- planted to Council standards

Where a tree does not meet these conditions, the adjacent resident shall be asked to remove the tree. If this request is not complied with, the tree will be removed by Council staff and returned to the adjacent property owner in an appropriate container.

#### 4.3.8 Planting in Parks

Tree planting in parks shall be in accordance with park management plans. Where no management plan exists and there is community pressure for tree planting in a particular park, the park shall be assessed by the Director of Assets & Operations or their delegated officer according to;

- existing tree cover
- level of community interest
- level of park usage

Where planting is deemed to be warranted and no management plan exists, species selection shall be made by Council officers based on;

- existing landscape character
- environmental conditions
- submissions by residents
- effect on local fauna

#### 4.4 Species Selection

Council has prepared a species selection list for the municipality. This has been developed in conjunction by Council in conjunction with local nurseries.

Species selection shall be based on using locally indigenous species wherever possible to display and celebrate local Wimmera/Mallee Flora and to provide habitat for indigenous wildlife species; and

- existing streetscape character
- submissions from local residents
- environmental conditions
- growing space and conditions
- traffic conditions
- scale of the street
- external authorities requirements
- any possible impact on Council assets.

The species selections for each town is nominated in Section 4.8.

#### 4.5 Resident opposition to tree planting

The establishment or maintenance of an avenue of trees or a consistent planting theme can sometimes require Council to plant a tree in a nature strip against the wishes of the resident immediately adjacent. This is a difficult situation which calls for Council to make a judgement regarding the rights of the wider community over the individual resident.

When making such a decision, it should be borne in mind that a major factor in the survival of a newly planted street tree is the co-operation of the nearest resident in maintaining that tree.

Where a consistent avenue of trees or a strong consistent planting theme exists and a gap in this theme will detrimentally affect the overall streetscape, trees will be planted to fill the gaps despite opposition from adjacent residents.

If adjacent residents are strongly opposed to planned tree planting their views will be taken into consideration.

In all other instances, a decision regarding planting shall be made by the Director of Assets & Operations or their delegated officer.

#### 4.6 Illegal Removal

Refer to Local Laws and the Yarriambiack Planning Scheme

#### 4.7 Damage caused to trees

The response by Council to damage caused by trees will vary according to the type and extent of the damage. The most commonly reported types of damage that Council needs to address are:

- Footpaths, roads, and gutters
- Vehicle crossovers
- Fences
- Household water service and stormwater pipes
- Sewerage pipes
- Dwellings

#### 4.8 Town specifications

##### 4.8.1 Beulah, Brim, Hopetoun, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, and Woomelang

###### 4.8.1.1 Species selection

###### 4.8.1.1.1 Street Trees

A list of suitable street trees for Beulah, Brim, Hopetoun, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, and Woomelang are listed in Table A.1 of Appendix A.

###### 4.8.1.1.2 Other suitable trees and shrubs

A list of suitable trees and shrubs for use in Beulah, Brim, Hopetoun, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, and Woomelang (other than street trees) are listed in Table B.1 of Appendix B.

##### 4.8.2 Minyip, Murtoa, Rupanyup, and Warracknabeal

###### 4.8.2.1 Species selection

###### 4.8.2.1.1 Street Trees

A list of suitable street trees for Minyip, Murtoa, Rupanyup, and Warracknabeal are listed in Table A.2 of Appendix A.

###### 4.8.2.1.2 Other suitable trees and shrubs

A list of suitable trees and shrubs for use in Minyip, Murtoa, Rupanyup, and Warracknabeal (other than street trees) are listed in Table B.2 of Appendix B.

## 5 References

- Yarriambiack Planning Scheme
- *Planning and Environment Act (1987)*
- *Road Management Act (2004)*

Council Approved Policy (Remove if Administration Staff Policy)

<b>Policy Adopted:</b>	Ordinary Meeting [date]	Minute Book Page [number]	
<b>Policy Reviewed:</b>	Ordinary Meeting [date]	Minute Book Page [number]	

CEO Approved Policy (Remove if Council Policy)

<b>Adopted:</b>	CEO Approved Date	CEO Name	CEO Signature
<b>Reviewed:</b>			

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**Appendix A – List of suitable street trees**
**A.1 Suitable street trees for Beulah, Brim, Hopetoun, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, and Woomelang.**

<i>Species</i>	Common name
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold dust Wattle
<i>Acacia brachybotrya</i>	Grey Mulga
<i>Acacia Montana</i>	Mallee Wattle
<i>Adenanthos terminalis</i>	Gland Flower
<i>Babingtonia behrii</i>	Broom Baeckea
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Banksia ornata</i>	Desert Banksia
<i>Callistemon rugulosus</i>	Scarlet Bottlebrush
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringe-myrtle
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Wedge-leaf hop-bush
<i>Eremophila glabra</i>	Common Emu-bush
<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>	Berrigan
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Weeping Pittosporum

**A.2 Suitable street trees for Minyip, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Warracknabeal.**

<i>Species</i>	Common name
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold dust Wattle
<i>Acacia brachybotra</i>	Grey Mulga
<i>Acacia Montana</i>	Mallee Wattle
<i>Banksia marginata</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Banksia ornate</i>	Desert Banksia
<i>Callistemon rugulosus</i>	Scarlet Bottlebrush
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringe-myrtle
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Wedge-leaf Hop bush

<i>Eremophila glabra</i>	Common Emu-bush
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Weeping pittosporum

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**Appendix B – List of suitable tree and shrub species for other plantings**
**B.1 Other suitable trees and shrubs for use in Beulah, Brim, Hopetoun, Lascelles, Patchewollock, Speed, Tempy, and Woomelang.**

<i>Species</i>	Common name
Trees and Large Shrubs.	
<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>	Umbrella Wattle.
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle.
<i>Acacia salacina</i>	Willow Wattle.
<i>Alectryon oleifolius</i>	Cattlebush.
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	Buloke.
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria.
<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>	White Cypress-pine.
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Slender Cypress-pine
<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>	Berrigan.
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Red Gum.
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	Black Box.
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i>	Yellow Gum.
<i>Hakea leucoptera</i>	Silver Needlewood.
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah.
<i>Myoporum platycarpum</i>	Sugarwood.
Mallee Trees	
<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>	Bull Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus calycogona</i>	Red Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus costata</i>	Yellow Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus Dumosa</i>	Dumosa Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus gracilis</i>	Yorell.
<i>Eucalyptus leptophylla</i>	Slender-leaf Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i>	Oil Mallee.

<i>Eucalyptus phenax</i>	Green-leaf Mallee.
<i>Eucalyptus porosa</i>	Black Mallee-box.
<i>Eucalyptus socialis</i>	Grey Mallee.
Small Trees and Shrubs	
<i>Acacia acanthoclada</i>	Harrow Wattle
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle
<i>Acacia ancistrophylla</i>	Dwarf Myall
<i>Acacia brachybotrya</i>	Grey Mulga
<i>Acacia euthycarpa</i>	Wallowa
<i>Acacia farinose</i>	Mealy Wattle
<i>Acacia hakeoides</i>	Hakea Wattle
<i>Acacia halliana</i>	Halls Wattle
<i>Acacia ligulata</i>	Small Cooba
<i>Acacia macrocarpa</i>	Manna Wattle
<i>Acacia Montana</i>	Mallee Wattle
<i>Acacia rigens</i>	Nealie
<i>Acacia sclerophylla</i>	Hard-leaf Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina mackliniana</i>	Western Sheoak
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>	Slaty Sheoak
<i>Allocasuarina pusilla</i>	Dwarf Sheoak
<i>Babingtonia behrii</i>	Broom Baekea
<i>Banksia marginate</i>	Silver Banksia
<i>Banksia ornate</i>	Desert Banksia
<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>	Daphne Heath
<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>	Common Fringe-myrtle
<i>Daviesia arenaria</i>	Mallee Bitter-pea
<i>Dodonaea bursariifolia</i>	Small Hop-bush
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Slender Hop-bush

<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Wedge-leaf Hop-bush
<i>Dodonea stenozyga</i>	Desert Hop-bush
<i>Eremophil deserti</i>	Turkey Bush
<i>Eremophila glabra</i>	Common emu-bush
<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>	Spreading Eutaxia
<i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i>	Leafless Ballardt
<i>Grevillea huegelii</i>	Comb Grevillea
<i>Grevillea ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaf Grevillea
<i>Grevillea pterosperma</i>	Desert Grevillea
<i>Hakea mitchellii</i>	Desert Hakea
<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>	Hooked Needlewood
<i>Leptospermum coriaceum</i>	Mallee Tea-tree
<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>	Heath Tea-tree
<i>Melaleuca acuminata</i>	Creamy Honey-myrtle
<i>Melaleuca uncinata</i>	Broombush.
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Weeping Pittosporum
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	Sweet Quandong
<i>Senna coracea</i>	Broad-leaf Desert Cassia
<i>Senna filifolia</i>	Fine-leaf Desert Cassia

**B.2 Other suitable trees and shrubs for in Minyip, Murtoa, Rupanyup and Warracknabeal.**

<i>Species</i>	Common name
Trees and Large Shrubs	
<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>	Umbrella Wattle
<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>	Golden Wattle
<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>	Buloke
<i>Allocasuarine verticillata</i>	Drooping Sheoak

<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	Sweet Bursaria
<i>Callitris gracilis</i>	Slender Cypress-pine
<i>Casuarina obesa</i>	Swamp Sheoak
<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>	Berrigan
<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>	Bull Mallee
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Red Gum
<i>Eucalyptus dumosa</i>	Dumosa Mallee
<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>	Black Box
<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i>	Yellow Gum
<i>Eucalyptus macrocarpa</i>	Grey Box
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Moonah
<i>Myoporum platycarpum</i>	Sugarwood
Shrubs and Small Trees	
<i>Acacia acinacea</i>	Gold-dust Wattle
<i>Acacia brachybotrya</i>	Grey Mulga
<i>Acacia glandulicarpa</i>	Hairy-pod Wattle
<i>Acacia hakeoides</i>	Hakea Wattle
<i>Acacia macrocarpa</i>	Manna Wattle
<i>Acacia Montana</i>	Mallee Wattle
<i>Acacia rigens</i>	Nealie
<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>	Slaty Sheoak
<i>Callitris verrucosa</i>	Scrub Cypress-pine
<i>Cassia nemophila</i>	Desert Cassia
<i>Chenodium nitrariaceum</i>	Nitre Goosefoot
<i>Daviesia arenaria</i>	Mallee Bitter-pea
<i>Daviesia pectinata</i>	Thorny Bitter-pea
<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	Wedge-leaf Hop-bush
<i>Eremophila deserti</i>	Turkey Bush

<i>Eremophila glabra</i>	Common Emu-bush
<i>Eutaxia diffusa</i>	Spreading Eutaxia
<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>	Hooked Needlewood
<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>	Pink Beard-heath
<i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i>	Tangled Lignum
<i>Nitraria billardierei</i>	Nitre-bush
<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>	Weeping Pittosporum
<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>	Sweet Quandong
<i>Senna coriacea</i>	Broad-leaf Desert Cassia

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