

Policy No. 37: Vegetation Management

POLICY MANUAL

Policy No. 37

Vegetation Management

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to provide direction for the management of vegetation on property and managed land owned by the Council.

Department

Infrastructure Services

Author

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Council Meeting Date

13 February 2024

Minute Reference

021/2024

Next Review Date

February 2028

POLICY

1. Definitions

Vegetation

Trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges and herbs – generally all plant life in a location.

Native Vegetation

A plant which is indigenous to Tasmania.

Remnant Vegetation

Native vegetation that retains the characteristics of the vegetation which existed on that site prior to settlement. It may be in good or degraded condition.

Urban Areas

Areas that have been developed for a wide range of community and civic purposes within a town, suburb or city.

Urban Forest

Vegetation within urban areas: primary component of urban ecosystems.

Biodiversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part.

2. Objective

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- sustain the character and biodiversity values of rural locations through the management of vegetation.
- manage vegetation in urban areas in a manner that improves the amenity and environmental performance of our townships, parks, reserves and roadsides.
- manage vegetation and undertake tree audits in a manner that ensures the safety of the community.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to vegetation on the Council's property and the land managed by the Council.

4. Policy

Vegetation, including remnant vegetation and plantings of native and exotic species, are important features of the Meander Valley's scenic landscapes and contribute to the unique character of rural areas, townships and many urban areas.

Native vegetation plays an important role as a source of genetic diversity, enhancing open space and in improving the health of waterways.

Vegetation provides an array of social, health and well-being, economic and environmental benefits to the community.

The Council will develop a strategy for managing vegetation that:

- provides guidance for the planning, maintenance and improvement of parks, reserves and roadsides;
- assesses site suitability and use to ensure appropriate species and densities are planted and maintained;
- recognises ancillary benefits for the health and well-being of the community provided by urban forests;
- includes consideration of public safety in our parks and on our roadsides and allows for a comprehensive third-party audit on the condition of our trees;
- promotes positive environmental outcomes;
- recognises the importance of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity;
- recognises the cultural values of vegetation and protects high value vegetation; vegetation communities and remnant vegetation;
- recognises the role of riparian vegetation in enhancing water quality within streams and wetlands;
- encourages the appropriate vegetation of waterways;
- recognises the role remnant vegetation has in defining the character of a place;
- recognises the important role that vegetation can play in managing landslip and salinity risks; and
- outlines the positive outcomes working with adjoining landowners.

5. Legislation and Related Standards

Threatened Species Act 1995

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Historical Cultural Heritage Act 1995

Nature Conservation Act 2002

Weed Management Act 1999

Local Government (Highways) Act 1982

Neighborhood Disputes About Plants Act 2017

6. Responsibility

Responsibility for the operation of this Policy rests with the Director Infrastructure Services.