



Trees and Plumbing

How to manage trees and plumbing problems

Tree roots are a common cause of damage to wastewater pipes. They can enter small cracks in your wastewater pipes to seek out nutrients and then continue to grow. As they grow, they take up more space and slow down your drainage. This can eventually cause a blockage.

Local Government is not responsible for plumbing on private property.

The property owner is responsible for the good order and maintenance of plumbing.

Council will investigate all tree complaints involving plumbing, make an informed decision and will advise the person who lodged the complaint accordingly.

Part of this process will require the visual inspection by a Council Officer of the section of pipe where the blockage has occurred. The cost of the excavation to expose the blocked section is borne by the applicant.

Council does give consideration to an insurance claim. The onus of proof is with the property owner in any claim.

Do you have a problem with a tree on public land?

Parks, Reserves, Footpath, Laneway or Car Park

Notify Council of the problem and a Council Officer will investigate the problem and contact you to advise what action will be taken.

Do you have a problem with a tree on private land?

Residential, Commercial or Industrial Properties or Private Recreation Sites (Golf Courses)

Problems with trees on private land requires a Tree Work Permit from Council.

Contact Council's Tree Management Officer or advice on the steps to be taken as part of an application for a Tree Work Permit.

Avoiding plumbing problems

Trees planting

Before you plant trees on your property, find out where your wastewater pipes are. A sewerage service diagram will show you. Try not to plant trees within 6 metres of wastewater pipes. Your local nursery can advise on trees and their root systems.

Maintenance Plan

If your existing trees are a problem, ask a plumber to set up a regular maintenance plan for you.

The investigation process

Trees are important

Much technical advice is sought in assessing Tree Work Permits as part of Council's environmental commitment to sustainability and building the resilience of communities to natural and urban hazards, shocks and stresses.

A city in its landscape

Fairfield City Council is within the Western City District and is subject to the Planning Priorities in the District Plan that include:

- W14 - Protecting and enhancing bushland and biodiversity
- W15 - Increasing urban tree canopy cover and delivering Green Grid connections
- W16 - Protecting and enhancing scenic and cultural landscapes
- W17 - Better managing rural areas
- W18 - Delivering high quality open space

The Greater Sydney Green Grid - the regional network of high quality green spaces and tree-lined streets that supports walking, cycling and community access to open spaces - will provide cool, green links throughout the District.

Expansion of the urban tree canopy will complement the Green Grid and support the cooling of neighbourhoods.

Note: The Land and Environment Court has directed that disruption to infrastructure such as kerb, footpath, driveways etc. is not a reason for the removal of trees.

Questions?

Call Fairfield City Council on 9725 0222.