

Greening Fairfield



PRESERVATION OF TREES

Fairfield City Council complying with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and protecting the amenity of Fairfield City for its residents has in place a Local Environment Plan 2013 (LEP).

Under the provisions of Fairfield LEP 2013 (Clause 5.9), a Tree Work Permit is required to be issued by Council for cutting down, topping, lopping, pruning, ringbarking or removing a tree. The exception is that approval is not required for the removal of limited undesirable trees and plants (Schedule List A & B).

TREE WORK PERMITS

Lodging an Application for a Tree Work Permit. Please read the following for guidance:

1. The application form must be signed by the owner of the property on which the trees are located. (In case of Strata or Company Title, this is the Body Corporate);
2. Council can only give consent to the property owner.
(That is the owner of the land where the tree is standing);
3. Permission for the removal of trees will only be given if they are unhealthy/diseased (likely to become dangerous), dying or causing structural damage.
(The dropping of leaves and twigs does not constitute a valid reason for a Tree Work Permit);
4. The trees should be clearly identified if it is anticipated that the applicant or their representative will not be on site at the time of the inspection.
(Mark the trees with a ribbon or something that will be easily noticed);
5. The Tree Work Permit must be on site when the approved works are being carried out.
(Have your permission on hand at all times);
6. Approval is valid for six (6) months only from the date of inspection.
(The Tree Preservation Officer can be contacted to apply for an extension);
7. Refusal of a Tree Work Permit can be appealed. The applicant is required to obtain an independent assessment by a suitably qualified arborist and make an application to Council for a review.
(Fee applies);
8. Payment of the Inspection Fee must accompany your completed application form.
(Once this is paid, an appointment for the inspection will be scheduled).

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WHAT IS A TREE?

A perennial plant with a self supporting stem. Has a height of more than 4 metres, spread of more than 3 metres, a trunk diameter of more than 75mm measured 1 metre above the ground level (other definitions apply if the tree is located on the Fairfield LEP Riparian Land and Waterways map).

COUNCIL WILL GENERALLY APPROVE AN APPLICATION TO PRUNE OR REMOVE A TREE

- To remove completely dead trees and dead branches
- To remove diseased or unhealthy trees which are not expected to survive
- To prune or remove trees which are considered a safety hazard (i.e. pedestrian/vehicular sight line impairment)
- Where a tree has caused extensive structural damage and there are no repair alternatives

All approved pruning must be done with due regard to the health of the tree, correct pruning techniques and the safety of nearby people and property. All approved pruning work must be done to Australian Standard AS4373-2007 - Pruning of Amenity Trees.

COUNCIL WILL NOT NORMALLY GIVE APPROVAL TO PRUNE OR REMOVE A TREE

- To improve views
- For minor property damage such as minor lifting of driveways and paths by tree roots
- Because trees are creating a nuisance by shedding leaves, fruit, bark, cones or twigs
- Because trees are overshadowing. Increasing solar access will not be considered sufficient reason to remove a tree. Council may approve selective thinning of the canopy
- To rectify/prevent termite damage – as termites eat only dead wood, removing or pruning an otherwise healthy tree is not a justifiable reason for tree works. Termite damage to private property can be inhibited by appropriate barrier treatment and regular pest inspections by a certified pest inspector.

In keeping with the communities' sustainability vision, property owners are required to undertake compensatory plantings when approval to remove a tree is granted.

TREES BELONG TO EVERYBODY

**TREES PROVIDE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS
TREES CAN INCREASE PROPERTY VALUES**

TREES MAKE FAIRFIELD CITY AN ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE