



SHIRE COUNCIL
Blayney

Street Tree Policy

Policy	25L
Officer Responsible	Director Infrastructure Services
Last Review Date	16/07/2018

Strategic Policy

OBJECTIVES

To provide guidelines that assist Council and Council staff to comply with the *Best Practice Manual – Trees and Tree Roots* developed by Statewide Mutual.

To establish a framework and guidelines that assist in the development of a tree management program and enhance the aesthetics, the public amenity and safety of trees in public open space, and minimise the exposure to public liability.

To provide a systematic procedure for the determination of appropriate tree species for specific planting locations on Council owned and maintained lands.

GUIDELINES

Reference will be made to the Blayney Shire Council document, "Guidelines for Street and Open Space Tree Management" (the guidelines), when undertaking the assessment of street and open space trees.

GENERAL

Tree Selection

When planting trees, the species and proposed location shall be considered in relation to existing services and structures, to ensure that Council's exposure to public liability claims in streets, parks and reserves under Council's control is minimised.

Council staff shall initially assess each site and refer to the preferred species list provided in the guidelines.

It is recognised that the species list will evolve over time, due to the dynamic nature of the horticulture industry, and the development of new cultivars and hybrids.

Trees located in an established "avenue" will be replaced with the same species where possible.

Tree Planting

Blayney Shire Council shall endeavour to plant a street tree outside each property zoned residential or rural residential within the Blayney Shire Council Local Government Area (LGA). When considering plantings council shall ensure minimal conflict with car parking spaces, driveway access points and potential traffic / pedestrian conflicts.

The planting of any tree or other plant by any person on public open space is prohibited without the written approval of Council.

Tree Maintenance

Council will maintain existing trees in a sound and healthy condition and where necessary, undertake pruning or removal of the tree to minimise public liability exposure in streets, parks or reserves resulting from Council trees.

The Street Tree Policy establishes a framework and guidelines to assist in developing tree management programs that will enable the creation of an ideal streetscape environment by enhancing the aesthetics, public amenity and safety of trees in public open space and minimise Council's exposure to public liability. The Policy formalises current street tree management practices.

1. Inspection Program

Council staff shall inspect all trees planted within road shoulders, nature strips and developed open space on tri-annual basis. Reference will be made to the Blayney Shire Council document, "Street and Open Space Tree Management Guidelines" (the guidelines), when undertaking the inspection of road shoulders, nature strips and developed open space trees.

No inspection regime has been developed for naturally self-sown trees located within road shoulders and public recreation areas.

2. Evaluation Procedure

Blayney Shire Council shall evaluate the findings of the Inspection Program by using the analysis tools set out in the Statewide Mutual, *Best Practice Manual – Trees and Tree Roots*. Adoption of this technique will be the responsibility of Council's Supervisor Parks and Recreation.

3. Control Regime Philosophy

Blayney Shire Council shall endeavour to follow the order for risk control as follows: -

- Eliminate the risk
- Reduce the risk
- Accept the risk

This task shall be undertaken and managed by the Supervisor Parks and Recreation.

4. Implementation

Blayney Shire Council shall implement the policy in accordance with the guidelines.

5. Resourcing

Funding and physical resources shall be considered each year as part of Council's Operational Plan.

Identification of resources and incorporation into the Draft Operational Plan will be the responsibility of Council's Supervisor Parks and Recreation and Director Infrastructure Services.

6. Performance

Council's Operational Plan will incorporate annual performance targets based upon the inspection program. These targets will be reported as part of the six monthly Delivery Program progress report and annually as part of Council's Annual Report.

End of Policy

	Date	Minute
Adopted:	08/08/2011	1108/015
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