



**GLAMORGAN
SPRING BAY
COUNCIL**

Glamorgan Spring Bay Council

Tree Management Policy
(Council Managed Land)

Version 4.0

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

This policy sets out the principles by which Council manages maintains removes or plants trees on council land within the Glamorgan Spring Bay Municipal area.

1.2 Scope

This policy relates to all areas within the municipal area for which Council has ownership or management responsibility including land to be donated as is the case with subdivision development.

1.3 Definitions

- Council** is Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and includes an Authorised Officer of council
- Road Reserve** the land between property boundaries on either side of a road
- Council Managed Land** land owned, leased, licenced or otherwise under the care and control of Council
- Reserve Master Plan** is a plan developed from time to time in consultation with community and qualified people for adoption by council which is designed to enhance, develop, protect or maintain an identifiable land area.

1.4 Objectives

- 1.4.1 To provide a quality environment for residents, ratepayers and visitors and recognise the importance of trees to the quality of the local environment.
- 1.4.2 To provide a practical and balanced approach to tree management that seeks to ensure public safety whilst striving to preserve and maintain, in a safe and healthy condition, those trees which are currently or which will become visually, historically, or environmentally valuable to the community of Glamorgan Spring Bay.
- 1.4.3 To address the issues of tree management, tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning and damage caused by trees on Council managed land.
- 1.4.4 To provide clear guidelines for Council officers as they respond to tree related enquiries, to ensure that any associated risks are managed or controlled.
- 1.4.5 To consider the impacts of climate change and the adaptation that may be necessary with respect to maintaining the amenity and climate influence of trees for resilient landscapes.

1.5 Related Policies and Legislation

This policy relates to and depends on other Council policies, as well as legislation, including:

- Civil Liability Act 2002
- Law of Torts – Common Law
- Roads & Jetties Act (1935)
- Local Government Highways Act (1982)
- Local Government Act (1993)
- Land Use and Planning Approvals Act (1993)
- Work Health and Safety Act (2012)
- Work Health and Safety Regulation (2012)
- Glamorgan Spring Bay Council Native Flora and Fauna Management Plans 2014-2019
- Forest Practices Act 1985 stipulates that a Forest Practices Plan is required for the following forest practices, including land clearing:
 - harvesting and regenerating native forest
 - harvesting and/or establishing plantations
 - clearing forest for other purposes
 - clearing and converting threatened native vegetation communities
 - constructing roads and quarries for the above purposes
 - harvesting tree ferns

Breaches of legislation could result in legal action and significant fines.

1.6 Policy Review and Update Cycle

This policy is to be reviewed at least every four years and will be guided by developments in Climate Change Policy at a National and State level.

2 Policy

2.1 Land Management Plans/Reserve Master Plans

2.1.1 Native Flora and Fauna Management Plans 2014-2019 (www.gsbc.tas.gov.au/services/NRM) provide Council with a strategic approach to the management of natural values within reserves, whilst recognising and considering significant cultural and social values of reserves. These plans take precedence over measures expressed in this policy where there is a conflict. They are specifically developed to determine the management of trees and other flora within their designated planned management area based on their natural values.

2.1.2 Reserve Master Plans may be developed from time to time to strategically manage specific areas of interest. These will be developed with reference to this policy and where they differ from policy, will take precedence as their development is specific rather than general.

2.2 INSPECTION AND MANAGEMENT REGIMES

The operational management of Council's tree stock is guided by the relevant Service Level Documents

and associated work practices.

These documents detail:

- Customer request management;
- Inspection regimes;
- Tree assessment processes;
- Tree management activities, and
- Recording and implementation of tree assessments.

A risk-based approach is taken in respect to tree management considering a range of factors in determining an appropriate course of action.

As part of the assessment processes consultation with relevant stakeholders occurs.

Issues not related to Council infrastructure will be referred to the relevant authority or agency.

2.3 TREE PLANTING

2.3.1 Planting of trees and/or shrubs in park and reserve areas will be carried out under Council supervision with relevant community groups to determine type and location.

2.3.2 Planting of street trees by residents is not permitted without the prior written approval of the General Manager, and provided that:

- A plan is submitted with the request showing location and details.
- Council approves the species to be used.
- Plants do not or will not interfere with traffic visibility or infrastructure services.
- No hazard is created.
- The planting style is compatible with the surrounding landscape.
- Trees are maintained by the resident to a standard approved by the General Manager.

2.4 TREE REMOVAL

A person cannot remove, poison or otherwise destroy any species of tree or shrub on public land, owned, or under the care and control of Council, without the written approval of the General Manager or by court order to remove.

If a healthy tree is requested to be removed by a property owner as a result of driveway alterations or development etc. and approved by Council, the owner of the property shall incur all costs associated with the initial tree assessment, the removal of the said tree and root system, and pay for purchase and planting of a suitable replacement at a location agreed with Council.

2.5 TREE ASSESSMENT AND SIGNIFICANCE

Upon receipt of a request to remove a tree, an authorised agent of Council shall assess the tree condition based on:

- Health
- Structure
- Form

- Life expectancy and amenity
- Safety including road sight line interference; and
- Damage caused or potential for damage
- Budget.

Suitability, based on:

- Compatibility with the surrounding landscape.
- Potential to cause damage.
- Location
- Potential to cause nuisance; and
- Characteristics of species to growing space and conditions.

Significance, based on whether it:

- Has a major impact on the landscape.
- Has outstanding visual appeal.
- Is very large (more than 15m high or 15m wide).
- Is very old (more than 40 years).
- Is one of a significant species.
- Provides a significant habitat for native fauna.
- Has historical associations.

2.6 TREE REMOVAL AUTHORISATION

A decision regarding removal or retention of a tree on Council managed land will be made on the basis of the assessment criteria outlined above unless otherwise stated, authority for removal will rest with the General Manager or a duly authorised Council officer.

Removal of trees of significance requires Council approval.

Potential circumstances where tree works do not require an approval under this policy:

- For the purposes of bushfire hazard reduction work.
- Power line clearance.
- Emergency works – any work carried out by Council, the State Emergency Services or a public authority in response to an emergency.
- Tree works carried out by Council or its agents on land owned or under the care and control of Council, provided that assessment of the tree work has been carried out in accordance with this policy.
- Tree removal approved by a current Development Approval issued by Council.

2.7 TREE PRUNING

Tree pruning shall only be carried out by qualified Council officers or an approved contractor engaged by Council with the appropriate qualifications.

2.8 PRUNING OF COUNCIL TREES BY RESIDENTS

Pruning of Council owned trees, by anyone other than qualified Council officers or approved contractors engaged by Council, shall only be permitted by way of written authority from the General Manager.

2.9 DAMAGE CAUSED BY 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 and Council's response process is outlined below.

2.10 DWELLINGS

Council's response to these types of damage is:

- a) Damage inspected by council staff or authorised representative.
- b) If repair is required, the damaged section shall be removed and the offending roots exposed.
- c) In some instances a professional inspection/assessment and report may be required at the property owner's expense.
- d) The damage must be reported in writing to the General Manager so that details can be forwarded to Council's insurer to determine liability.
- e) If no other option is practical, the tree may be removed.
- f) Further damage shall be prevented by root pruning or, where necessary, installation of an appropriate root barrier or removal of tree (see 3.3b).
- g) The property owner may be required to pay for all associated costs if the damage is caused by the said Council tree.

2.11 OTHER DAMAGE

Claims against Council for damage allegedly caused by fallen trees, fallen limbs, objects colliding with trees or any other damage allegedly caused by the above ground parts of trees shall be routinely referred to the General Manager so that details can be forwarded to Council's insurer to determine liability and be reported to Council for information purposes.

3 Implementation

Implementation of this Policy rests with the General Manager.

4 Attachments

Nil