

POLICY NAME: URBAN VEGETATION ON PUBLIC LAND
POLICY REF: U04
MEETING ADOPTED: 23 March 2023
Resolution No. 230323/4
POLICY HISTORY: 221118/30; 290916/17; 260215/26, 260810/32



TABLE OF CONTENTS

OBJECTIVE 1
POLICY 1
 1. Tree Planting and Species Selection 1
 2. Tree Asset Management..... 4
 3. Bushland Reserves.....10
 4. Urban Subdivisions and Development10
 5. Tree Protection10
BACKGROUND.....12
DEFINITIONS13
SCOPE OF POLICY.....14
RELATED DOCUMENTATION15
REVIEW15

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this Policy is to:

- Prioritise the maintenance and protection of existing vegetation on public land.
- Broaden the emphasis on urban tree management to include urban forestry principles, with trees managed as a collective asset, to maximise the benefits that urban vegetation provides.
- Improve the quality and quantity of urban vegetation in Ballina Shire.
- Increase species diversity and improve the age range of urban trees.
- Recognise and protect trees considered significant due to their heritage, cultural, social and/or ecological values
- Balance the protection of trees and bushland with management of public risk
- Enhance Ballina Shire's reputation within the community as a good steward and manager of trees and significant vegetation.
- Clarify the delegated authority to the General Manager in respect of decisions regarding the removal of trees from public land.
- Recognise the impact of climate change on the management and sustainability of urban vegetation.
- Increase awareness and educate stakeholders including the community, developers and Council staff of the value of trees in the urban landscape.
- Encourage community engagement and participation in management of public trees.

POLICY

1. Tree Planting and Species Selection

Ballina Shire Council will proactively identify opportunities to plant suitable trees in the urban environment to increase canopy cover across the local government area.

Street trees play a critical role in establishing local landscape character because they are highly visible and help to offset the bulk and scale of buildings. Street trees also provide shading to roads and hard surfaces and make a valuable contribution to controlling heat radiated from urban surfaces. They provide a significant cooling effect and also create more aesthetically pleasing living spaces. Trees provide valuable habitat links throughout urban environments for a wide variety of wildlife.

The following Policy principles apply to tree planting and species selection for trees on public land.

a. Tree Planting Program

Council will implement an annual street tree and reserve planting program across streets and reserves. This will include seeking opportunities in appropriate locations to maximise canopy cover, age and species diversity and to deliver ongoing environmental, economic and social benefit.

Council will ensure that new tree planting does not risk potential damage to infrastructure, community safety or increase exposure to third party claims.

To increase street tree species diversity and reduce the effects of broad scale tree decline or death due to pests and diseases, Council will encourage planting a diversity of tree species within the urban environment excluding Council endorsed streetscape projects whereby particular species may be selected.

To improve the general health and longevity of street trees in built up areas the use of contiguous tree pits, structural soils and or vaulted tree pits will be considered to maximise the soil volume available to the trees.

All suitable available spaces for new street tree plantings are to be mapped and scheduled for new plantings as resources allow.

The tree planting program is to be guided by the Risk Management Control Strategies listed in the Statewide Mutual: Trees and Tree Roots Best Practice Manual – Statewide Publication (current version).

b. Tree Selection Criteria

Council will plant the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, functional and biological attributes of the species, known performance and the potential to contribute to the landscape character. Tree species are preferably to be selected from the Ballina Shire Urban Garden Guide. The guiding principle of “the right tree in the right place” is to be used when selecting new tree plantings.

c. Nursery Tree Stock Specification

Council and other stakeholders such as developers must only use quality nursery stock according to the latest best practice and Standards. Developers must ensure the installation of tree stock conforms to AS2303:2015. Certification of compliance with this Standard will be required for all developments including subdivisions.

d. Nature Strip Landscaping

Nature strip landscaping within public road reserves requires consent from Council. Council supports the landscaping of nature strips to improve the streetscape; however the services and access within the nature strip need to be protected.

It is accepted practice that residents maintain and mow nature strips. A Nature Strip Landscaping Plan must be submitted for approval by Council prior to landscaping works being undertaken. The resident must maintain the landscaped nature strip including groundcovers and shrubs in good order following completion of the Council approved works. Council will maintain and oversee the tree maintenance.

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) principles are to be incorporated into all new and refurbished nature strips. This should include the capacity of trees and vegetation to mitigate stormwater impacts and improve water quality flows to waterways.

A Nature Strip Landscaping Plan Fact Sheet is provided on Council's website.

e. *Community Involvement*

Council will encourage community involvement in tree planting activities and regularly promote the benefits of trees to the community. Council will continue to support and supply trees and vegetation to the community through the following community programs:

- Landcare/Coastcare on Council managed lands
- Street Tree Planting Program
- National Tree Day and Schools National Tree Day
- World Environment Day
- Council's restoration projects
- "Benefits of trees" community education program

f. *Tree Provision to Residents*

Council can provide free trees to residents of Ballina Shire under the following programs:

- New Home Native Garden Gift
- New Baby Tree of Life Gift
- Memorial Tree Gift

The trees will be propagated or sourced by Council and should be listed in the Ballina Shire Urban Garden Guide.

Program and proof of residency will be required. No plaques or other items/attachments can be placed with these trees on public land. Residents will need to maintain the juvenile trees for 24 months.

Council will not accept any liability for planting, maintenance, loss, damage or removal of the tree.

- *New Home Native Garden Gift*

Council can provide up to fifteen trees, shrubs or groundcovers to Ballina Shire Residents for landscaping private land. This is limited to new house constructions or significant renovations. Evidence must be provided within 24 months of a construction certificate or 12 months of an occupation certificate.

Council can provide advice at the time of plant selection as to species suitability and planting requirements if suitable plans and site information is provided.

- *New Baby Tree of Life Gift*

Council can provide one commemorative tree to Ballina Shire residents who have a new baby. The tree may be planted on private property or in an appropriate Council approved location on a public reserve. Evidence of the Baby's birth certificate must be provided.

- *Memorial Tree*

Council can provide one memorial tree to Ballina Shire residents who wish to plant a tree in memory of a deceased loved one. The tree may be planted on private property or in an appropriate Council approved location on a public reserve. Evidence of the resident's death certificate must be provided.

g. *Sponsor a Tree Program*

Notable trees on public land can be "sponsored" by individuals, families, community groups or businesses and sponsors provide annual donations to support their maintenance.

Tree "sponsorship" will be acknowledged by a Certificate and on Council's website.

2. **Tree Asset Management**

Trees require specialised care and management and a comprehensive inventory of trees is essential for timely and cost effective management.

Council is committed to a maintenance regime that provides adequate resources for the long term health and sustainability of its urban vegetation. The following Policy principles will apply to tree asset management:

a. *Tree Inventory*

Council will establish and maintain a Tree Inventory of all street trees, park trees and trees with crowns overhanging private property to quantify the tree assets of Ballina Shire. This will prioritise the tree pruning, removal and replacement works, allow effective resource allocation and manage the risks associated with urban vegetation.

b. *Significant Tree Register*

Council will maintain a Significant Tree Register for trees on public and private land. Significant trees are assessed using rigorous criteria addressing historic, social/cultural, natural/biodiversity and visual/aesthetic values. This Policy applies to Significant Trees on public land only with separate legislation applying to private trees.

The entry to the Significant Tree register is set at 75% or above for "significance" value. Below average, average or above average trees (0 - 74% value) will not be added or maintained on the register as significant.

The Significant Tree Register will be displayed on Council's website and is reviewed annually enabling trees to be added or removed from the Register. Residents may apply to Council to have trees included or removed from this Register.

c. *Tree Maintenance*

Council will ensure that suitable tree management is applied across all street and reserve trees. Council will undertake tree audits and inspections

as resources allow. Council will ensure concise and timely coordination between the various divisions within Council for efficient tree management. All tree works will be prioritised to ensure delivery standards are maintained.

d. Risk Management

Council will manage tree risks on a prioritised basis whilst acknowledging that no tree is absolutely safe but that acceptable levels of risk are to be sought.

Tree risk assessment will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced Council Arborists. When required, suitably qualified and experienced independent Consulting Arborists will be engaged to undertake the tree risk assessment.

Tree risk assessment should incorporate systematic, best practice method(s) (e.g. Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), Tree Risk - Benefit Management and Assessment (VALID) or Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA). All tree management information will be stored as per Council's Record Management Plan May 2013 and the (recommended) Tree Inventory.

Council's risk abatement methods will be guided by the methods listed at Table 3: "Risk Management for Existing Trees" of Statewide Mutual Trees and Tree Roots Best Practice Manual (current version).

Improvements to buildings or structures are to be undertaken before root pruning interventions are to be undertaken. It should be acknowledged that tree roots are opportunistic and are concentrated wherever soil conditions are favourable.

Stormwater drainage, water and sewer pipes must be designed, installed and maintained to exclude tree roots with Council specified pipes with water-tight joints. All drainage and pipe repair works must comply with AS4970:2009.

e. Tree Pruning and Removal

Council will undertake tree and vegetation pruning to improve tree health, habit and to provide nominal clearances for pathways, roads, buildings and other essential infrastructure. All tree pruning works are to comply with AS4373:2007. Tree pruning, removal and replacement works will be limited by resources as shown in Council's annual budget.

The public are not permitted to prune or remove trees or vegetation on Council managed lands including footpaths and reserves without Council consent.

Council's Table 1 "Acceptable and Unacceptable Reasons for Removal or Pruning of Trees on Public Land" in this Policy apply for tree pruning and removal works.

In requesting the pruning or removal of trees on public land or claiming that public trees are causing damage to private property or infrastructure, a Tree Works on Public Land Application must be provided to Council. Written

evidence supporting the application may be required and is likely to include some or all of the following:

- Arborist Report as per AS4373:2007 or AS4970:2009
- Site Survey indicating location of subject tree
- Engineer's Report
- Stormwater Plan
- DNA Tree Root Identification Report

Council will use its tree assessment procedures to ensure consistency in the approach to determining tree pruning, root pruning and tree removal. Tree removal will be guided by general cost-benefit analysis principles where most costs occur at planting and at removal, with most benefits occurring as the tree approaches a mature age and size.

Some of the Council decisions can result in complaints to Council and to individual Councillors. These complaints can involve concerns about a decision not to remove a tree as well as complaints about tree removal. While the number of complaints are small relative to the number of operational decisions that are made, the potential change to the amenity of an area can be significant and therefore be sensitive to some community members. Councillors should not be expected to advocate on behalf of the community.

As most situations are best managed by following tree assessment procedures, each case will be decided under delegated authority by the General Manager.

These arrangements do not limit staff electing to refer a matter for independent arboricultural review or to Council for determination, or a Councillor requesting a report, or a Notice of Motion as ways to review a decision.

Representations by the media will not be taken into consideration.

Table 1 Acceptable and Unacceptable Reasons for Removal or Pruning of Trees on Public Land

| Acceptable Reasons | Unacceptable Reasons |
|--|--|
| Part A | Improve or allow a private view. |
| Dead trees or dead branches | Allow solar access or for solar panel installation clearance. |
| Diseased or infected trees requiring isolation | For construction hoardings and scaffolding. |
| Storm or wind damaged trees. | Reduce leaf, bark or fruit fall (except Coconuts), and release of pollen and sap droppings. |
| Trees with unacceptable Public Risk ratings using the VALID, TRAQ or QTRA risk assessment methods of assessment. | Reduce wildlife waste and noise and to deter wildlife (e.g. termites, flying foxes). |
| Branches in contact with adjoining buildings/structures. | Aesthetic, amenity, ecological or cultural heritage values. |
| Maintain pedestrian, bicycle, vehicle, aircraft and street, sport and electrical infrastructure clearances and sight lines. | Canopy pruning cannot be undertaken in compliance with AS4373:2007. |
| Part B | Root pruning in the Structural Root Zone cannot be undertaken in compliance with AS4970:2009. |
| Listed weed/biosecurity risk species | Root presence and pruning adjacent to under-engineered structures. |
| For installation or maintenance of a dividing fence – maximum 0.5 metre branch clearance. | To allow secondary access to properties across public land except for approved dwellings and approved accesses to that dwelling. |
| Managing views for public benefit and safety at Council approved locations. | Insufficient supporting evidence is lodged with the Tree Works on Public Land Application. |
| Root prune to prevent further damage to built structures (excluding segmental paving) that have been appropriately engineered in the first place, where practicable. | To undertake clearing under a NSW Rural Fire Service 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Entitlement |
| Structural damage to private or public structure is significant and ongoing and cannot be feasibly mitigated by root pruning. | For Bushfire Prone Land construction standards as identified by the NSW Rural Fire Service. |
| Formative pruning of young and developing trees. | Pre-emptive land purchases. |
| To comply with Planning Legislation, Australian Standards, Council Vegetation Management Plans and Resolutions. | |
| Issued a Bushfire Hazard Reduction Notice by the NSW Rural Fire Service. | |
| Tree to be removed is over-mature and in poor condition. | |
| The tree to be removed has no overriding botanical, ecological, heritage or cultural value. | |

f. Notification of Tree Removal and Pruning Works

Council's Table 2 "Notification for Tree Works" in this policy applies for tree removal and pruning works. Where immediate tree hazard situations cannot be safely mitigated, notifications for tree works, may not be able to be provided in time.

Table 2 Notification for Tree Works

| Tree Works Type | Notification |
|--|--|
| • Tree pruning | No notification. |
| • Tree removal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written notice placed on the subject tree trunk. • Notification on Council's website. |
| • Significant Tree pruning complying with Part A of Table 1 "Acceptable Reasons" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No notification. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Tree pruning complying with Part B of Table 1 "Acceptable Reasons" • Significant Tree removal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a written Arboricultural Assessment. • Provide letters to street property owners adjoining the Significant Tree. • A written notice placed on the subject tree trunk. • Notification on Council's website. • A minimum exhibition and comment period of 14 days. |

g. Resident Funded Tree Pruning and Removal

Council may provide consent for a resident to have tree works undertaken on public land trees at the resident's expense. The resident will be required to lodge the Tree Works on Public Land Application and comply with Table 1 of this Policy. The following circumstances will be:

- Low risk trees encroaching onto properties.
- Weed tree species removal.
- Council priorities and resources prevent works occurring in the immediate future.

Resident funded tree work will require all the following:

- With the exception of listed weed species, the resident providing a (brief) written Arboricultural Report by a Consulting Arborist with the application on the subject tree outlining the tree condition, vigour, location and reasons for tree works.
- The resident must engage an Arborist who has been pre-approved under Council's Contractor Management System verifying their qualifications, experience, safety management systems and insurances.
- The Arborist must hold and maintain \$20 million Public Liability insurance and provide Council upon request with a Certificate of Currency and Policy for the same.
- Pruning works must comply with AS4373:2007.
- Adhere to Council approval addressing; site safety, industry practices, reserve access and debris management.

h. Tree Root Management

As part of Council's risk management strategy where root encroachment hazards and damage are identified, a number of practices in accordance with Table 1 may be employed.

- Flexible, permeable and non-standard footpaths and tree pit surrounds provided near trees so as to reduce the likelihood of uplifting and trip hazard formation.
- Installation of root barriers where practicable.
- Root pruning where practicable and not likely to have an adverse impact on tree health.
- Tree removal (where no remediation of root encroachment issues is possible).

DNA tree root identification may be needed to assist when tree root ownership is disputed.

i. Fungal Disease Management

Fungal disease can kill trees or cause trees to fail unexpectedly. *Armillaria luteobubalina*, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, *Phellinus* sp and numerous other fungi are common causes of tree death and tree failure.

Expert advice is to be obtained to assist in fungi management.

j. Pest Management

Trees can be impacted by various pests. Expert advice is to be obtained to guide tree pest management.

Use of synthetic chemicals should be minimised or avoided.

k. Weed Management

Council will undertake the prioritised and staged removal and replacement of trees and vegetation classified as a Biosecurity risk or environmental weed species as resources allow. The impacts to canopy cover will be a key consideration in this process.

l. Tree Management around Utilities

Council does not support the planting of trees under powerlines in accordance with electricity legislation. All tree and vegetation clearance works around non-Council utility services will be referred to and conducted by the service provider unless undertaken by accredited Council staff or contractors.

m. Tree Clearance around Roadways, Bike Paths and Footpaths

Trees in the urban environment often grow in close proximity to bike paths and footpaths, as well as overhang roadways. Trees will be managed to meet the clearance requirements of current standards and guidance.

n. Tree Information Systems

Council will keep abreast of new technology in the field of Arboriculture and urban forestry and incorporate best practice management. This will include the mapping of Council's public trees for the Tree Inventory.

o. Emergency Situations

Risk to public safety and property will take priority in tree pruning and removal decisions in emergency situations.

3. Bushland Reserves

Many bushlands exist within the urban environment and have forest edges adjacent to other land uses. All urban bushlands on Council land are protected and most are of significant ecological value. The provisions in this Policy also apply to urban bushlands. All tree and vegetation work within urban bushlands must comply with Council approved Vegetation Management Plans and all legislative requirements.

4. Urban Subdivisions and Development

Future land development and urban subdivision designs must consider the proximity of structures to adjacent vegetation and in particular listed Endangered Ecological Communities and Critically Endangered Ecological Communities as defined by the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. These considerations are to be made in relation to Council owned land/public reserves and land that is to be dedicated to Council as part of land development or urban subdivision.

To reduce hazards, tree health impacts and maintenance costs being transferred to future generations, Table 4 identifies minimum vegetation buffer requirements between structures (excluding fences) and existing/proposed vegetation.

Table 4 Urban Subdivision/Development Minimum Vegetation Buffer Requirements

| Vegetation Type | Minimum Vegetation Buffer Requirements |
|--------------------------|--|
| Urban bushland | The larger of either: 6m from centre of tree trunk or the Tree Protection Zone as per AS4970:2009. Other environmental buffers may also apply as part of the development application process. |
| Fig tree | 40m from centre of tree trunk excluding infill developments |
| Norfolk Island Pine tree | 20m from centre of the trunk excluding infill development |

5. Tree Protection

Council recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits that the urban forest provides. The protection of trees and vegetation will therefore be given high priority in all aspects of the Shire's activities. Council technical staff will use best practice tree management procedures to ensure a consistent approach to tree and vegetation protection.

The following policy principles apply to tree and vegetation protection:

a. Management of Trees during Development Activities

Trees must be protected from construction works and other activities/events that threaten tree health and stability. Tree sensitive design, management, construction including construction hoardings and scaffolding around trees must adhere to AS4970:2009.

The Council Arborist or qualified staff will be consulted to review all Development Applications where works are within the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) of trees on public land.

Development works within the TPZ of public trees are to include an Arboricultural Report including Arboricultural Impact Assessment as per AS4970:2009. This report is to be prepared by a Consulting Arborist with no affiliation to firms undertaking the tree pruning or removal works.

b. Bonds on Public Trees

Council will impose bonds where public trees are at risk during development to ensure protection of existing trees. The bond will be used to rectify any damages to public trees and refunded upon completion of the construction and/or maintenance and/or tree health period should no damage occur. This is to include all foreseeable costs including rehabilitation, removal, clean up, similar replacement, establishment and traffic control.

c. Overhead Power Lines and Utilities

Council may pursue measures to relocate infrastructure away from trees in certain circumstances, to reduce the need for excessive canopy pruning, reduce root damage and to increase new opportunities for tree planting.

Tree plantings are not to occur near power lines in accordance with the electricity legislation unless approved by the electricity authority and resourced for high accredited maintenance costs. Consideration will be given to the “bundling” or “undergrounding” of electrical wires to minimize harsh crown clearance pruning.

All new subdivisions should have underground rather than pole to pole electrical services.

d. Unauthorised Tree Works/Vandalised Trees

Council will not tolerate unauthorised tree works or vandalism upon trees and will take site specific responses following notification of illegal works and tree vandalism.

Council will investigate unauthorised tree works, poisoning and removal and pursue enforcement action where appropriate.

Measures Council may use include:

- community notification and education
- installation of public sign highlighting vandalised vegetation area

- installation of large view screen at the vandalised area until vegetation replacement occurs
- compliance actions
- removal actions
- compensatory actions

e. *Development Replacement Measures*

Council will require compensatory plantings to replace any damaged, removed and/or newly planted trees or vegetation.

The compensatory plantings will comply with Councils Biodiversity – Compensatory Habitat Offset Policy.

BACKGROUND

Ballina Shire has urban zones covering an area of 2,975 hectares. Land use is diverse and ranges from the central business districts to the ocean and river foreshore edges. It includes coastal and plateau topographies, varying residential densities, industrial and commercial developments.

Council's urban forest is made up of a diverse range of species and age groups planted over a number of historic periods, creating a mosaic of plantings interwoven with remnant locally indigenous trees.

The value of this range of species and age class cannot be understated from species protection, carbon sequestration or community wellbeing. Council's public trees provide many social, economic and environmental benefits. They beautify and soften streetscapes, provide wildlife habitat and play a significant role in determining the urban character of towns within the LGA. Trees are also essential in the maintenance of a healthy urban environment as they release oxygen, trap airborne pollutants and absorb carbon dioxide.

While trees play an important role in the urban landscape, it is also recognised that trees of the wrong type, or growing in the wrong place, can create problems and risks that are not reasonable in the urban environment.

All Stakeholders including public authorities and property owners have obligations and responsibilities with respect to the protection and management of trees on public land.

Tree management in the urban environment is about balancing the various risks against the benefits that trees provide, to ensure the best community outcome. A realistic Budget needs to be included in Council's Strategic Plan specifically for the effective management of this important public tree resource.

DEFINITIONS

| | |
|--|---|
| AQF: | Acronym: Australian Qualifications Framework-a policy framework that defines all qualifications recognised nationally in post-compulsory education and training within Australia. |
| AS4970:2009: | Australian Standard: AS4970:2009 Protection of trees on development sites (or current version). |
| AS4373:2007: | Australian Standard: AS4373:2007 Pruning of amenity trees (or current version). |
| AS2303:2015: | Australian Standard: AS2303:2015 Tree stock for landscape use (or current version). |
| Arboriculture: | Practice and study of the care of trees and other woody plants in the landscape. |
| Arborist: | An industry professional with a minimum qualification of AQF Level 3 or above in Arboriculture or equivalent recognised and relevant experience. |
| Arboricultural Impact Assessment: | The review of the impact of construction (including cut or fill) on trees in accordance with AS4970:2009. |
| Consulting Arborist: | An industry professional with a minimum qualification of AQF Level 5 or higher or equivalent in Arboriculture, also referred to as the Project Arborist in AS4970:2009. |
| Emergency: | A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. |
| Hazard: | Anything with the potential to harm health, life or property. |
| Hazardous Branch or Tree: | As determined by Council's Arborist or independent Consulting Arborist. |
| Pest: | A destructive insect or other animal that has a harmful effect on trees/vegetation (excluding native wildlife). |
| Pruning: | The removal of tree branches to predetermined points in accordance with AS4373:2007. |
| Remediate: | For the purpose of this Policy, this is to fully return a tree or ground to a state that is as close as reasonably possible to its original and previous condition. |
| Risk: | The likelihood of harm occurring as a result of exposure to a hazard |
| Risk Assessment: | Tree risk assessment incorporating systematic best practice method(s) (e.g. Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ), Tree Risk – Benefit Management |

and Assessment (VALID) or Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA)) and be undertaken by suitably qualified Consulting Arborists.

Significant Tree Register: A database of trees which are defined as having cultural or arboricultural significance in the landscape.

Structure: Any building or structure approved by Council or other relevant approval authority and includes carparks, detached garages, outbuildings, swimming pools and essential infrastructure.

Tree: A perennial plant having a height of more than 3m and which has a woody, self-supporting main stem/s or trunk/s.

Tree Asset Management System:

A database which numbers and provides details of trees on public land. Information would include but not be limited to: location, species, common name, DBH, height, age class, vigour, condition, pruning history, pest and disease management.

Tree Damage: Injury to a tree including removal, lopping, topping, mechanical wounding, poisoning by way of herbicide or other construction material leachate and or residues, and includes compaction and or disturbance to the roots.

Vegetation: All the plants or plant life of a place taken as a whole. This includes trees, shrubs, groundcovers and vines.

Urban: Town areas with residential, commercial or industrial uses. These areas generally have speed limits of 60km/h or less.

Urban Bushland: Land on which there is vegetation which is either a remainder of the natural vegetation of the land or, if altered, is still representative of the structure and floristics of the natural vegetation.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This Policy only applies to trees on public land.

This Policy applies to the following Stakeholders:

- Council employees, contracted staff and volunteers;
- Residents and residential property owners;
- Developers;
- Commercial businesses and properties;
- Council owned businesses and or enterprises;
- Consultants, Contractors; builders, engineers;
- Contracting and Consulting Arborists.

RELATED DOCUMENTATION

Related documents, policies and legislation:

- AS2302:2015: Tree stock for landscape use
- AS4373:2007: Pruning of amenity trees
- AS4970:2009: Protection of trees on development sites
- Ballina Development Control Plan 2012
- Ballina Local Environment Plan 2012
- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Biosecurity Act 2015 NSW
- Civil Liabilities Act 2002
- Code of Practice: Amenity Tree Industry 1998 (WorkCover NSW)
- Crown Land Management Act 2016
- Dividing Fences Act 1991
- Electricity Supply Act 1995
- Greener Places Design Guide (Draft) – Government Architect NSW
- Guide to managing risks of tree trimming and removal work (July 2016) – Safe Work Australia
- Local Government Act 1993
- National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974
- Record Management Plan May 2013
- Relevant State controls such as State Environment Planning Policies (SEPP's)
- Rural Fires Act 1997
- Rural Fires Amendment Regulation 2020
- Statewide Mutual: Trees & Tree Roots Best Practice Manual (current version)
- Trees (Disputes between neighbours) Act 2006
- Work Near Overhead Powerlines – Code of Practice 2006

REVIEW

The Urban Vegetation on Public Land Policy is to be reviewed every four years.