

Policy No.	5.4
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1. Introduction

The District Council of Cleve Tree Management Policy is developed in association with other Council strategic objectives.

This Policy is intended to provide guidance in relation to general planting, maintenance and, if necessary, the removal of trees (and vegetation) in or under the care, control or management of Council, within the scope of relevant legislation.

2. Purpose

This Policy provides the strategy to manage, develop, protect and conserve the environment of the Council area, in a manner that is reasonable, consistent, promotes the principles of sustainable development and within the resource allocation provided by Council.

This Policy will apply to all relevant Council operations and includes commitment to the following:

- To meet Council's overall obligations in relation to tree management pruning and removal pursuant to budget recommendations;
- To ensure that trees on roads, community land and other landscapes are planted and maintained in a consistent and reasonable manner, underpinned by risk management principles and resources that are made available;
- To ensure that trees on roads, community land and other landscapes are planted and maintained in an equitable manner and continue to provide amenity to the local community; and
- To ensure that trees are nurtured and protected utilising risk management principles and within the legislative framework.

3. Scope

This Policy shall apply to all trees under the care, control and management of the Council and within the scope of legislation.

4. Definitions

Tree:

A woody perennial plant, including palms, that can have one or more trunks and a distinct elevated crown or lateral branches.

Significant Tree:

- a) tree declared to be a significant tree, or a tree within a stand of trees declared to be significant trees, by a Development Plan (whether or not the tree is also declared to be a regulated tree, or also falls within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees, by the regulations); or

- b) tree declared to be a regulated tree by the regulations, or a tree within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees by the regulations that, by virtue of the application of prescribed criteria, is to be taken to be a significant tree for the purposes of the Act;

Regulated Tree:

- a) tree, or a tree within a class of trees, declared to be regulated by the regulations (whether or not the tree also constitutes a significant tree under the regulations); or
- b) tree declared to be a significant tree, or a tree within a stand of trees declared to be significant trees, by a Development Plan (whether or not the tree is also declared to be a regulated tree, or also falls within a class of trees declared to be regulated trees, by the regulations).

Planting:

The installation of a tree at an identified site.

Road:

Means a public or private street, road or thoroughfare to which public access is available on a continuous or substantially continuous basis to vehicles or pedestrians or both and includes -

- a) bridge, viaduct or subway; or
- b) an alley, laneway or walkway.

Community Land:

Means Local Government land classified as community land pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1999*. Does not include roads or land excluded from Community Land classification.

Landscape:

Used to describe a particular piece of geography located in the Council.

Strategic Plan:

Identifies a Council's objectives for the area over a period of at least 4 years (the relevant period).

Reserve:

Includes parks, gardens, reserves, playgrounds, ovals, and other areas such as water retention locations.

Risk Management:

Coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk (Australian & New Zealand Standard AS/NZ ISO 31000:2018).

5. Key Principals

The key principles of this Policy are:

1. To ensure that Council effectively and reasonably manages trees on roads, community land and across the landscape;
2. To provide for effective maintenance, replacement and functional programmes for planting and preservation of trees;
3. To coordinate and ensure that resources are allocated so that Council meets its strategic and operational obligations;

4. To ensure the effective and efficient use of resources, reasonably allocated to maintain and manage trees across the Council landscape;
5. To manage the requirements related to the legislative framework;
6. To focus on the provision of amenity, biodiversity and environmental sustainability;
7. To consider the ongoing impacts of external stakeholders, including SA Power, Utilities and other authorities;
8. To consult with the community and promote the positive influence trees will provide to the general landscape; and
9. To minimise and consider issues of conflict between trees and Council infrastructure using the principles of risk management.

6. Recommended Trees for Planting in Residential Areas

Recommendations on tree species/varieties for re-planting after removal of trees will be recommended by a qualified person at the time of inspection.

7. Inspection Requirements

Inspections will be carried out on an “as need” basis. This will include:

- Visual inspections after inclement weather events;
- Scheme requested inspection on trees within the district;
- Complaint or suggestions received by a member of the public; and
- Management of old/dead trees requiring inspection for removal due to safety concerns.

8. Complaints Handling

Complaints will be handled under the Council’s Customer Complaints Policy and Procedure.

9. Tree Removal

All requests for the removal of trees must be made in writing, stating the person’s name, address and the reasons they believe the tree(s) require removal.

10. Tree Removal Assessment

The initial assessment will be based on merit and if the Manager Infrastructure & Civil Works is able to make a qualified judgement, a recommendation for the tree for removal, will be provided to Council’s CEO for consideration. Only Council’s CEO or their delegate may approve the removal of living trees on Council own or controlled land or roads. If the assessment does not support the removal of the tree, the Manager Infrastructure & Civil Works will provide written confirmation of that decision and the reason why. Should the applicant disagree with the decision, then a Formal Tree Assessment may be considered by Council.

11. Financial/Budget

Arborist inspection and removal costs may need to be considered on an 'as needs' basis in a formal report to Council for budget allocation of funds.

12. Supporting Documents

Council's Tree Management Policy is supported by:

- Council's Tree Register, and
- Council Risk Assessments.

13. Further Information

This policy is available for inspection at the District Council of Cleve principal office, 10 Main Street, Cleve SA 5640, during ordinary business hours upon payment of the fee fixed by the Council in accordance with the Council's Fees & Charges. It is also available to be downloaded, free of charge, from Council's website www.cleve.sa.gov.au.

Printed copies are considered uncontrolled. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the current version.

Responsible Department/Officer	Manager Infrastructure & Civil Works
Applicable Legislation	Local Government Act 1999 Native Vegetation Act 1991 Landscape South Australia Act 2019 Electricity Act 1996 Road Traffic Act 1961 Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016 Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
Related Policies	Customer Complaints Policy Public Consultation Policy Risk Management Policy
Related Procedures	Customer Complaints Procedure

14. Policy/Document Review

This Policy/Document will be reviewed by the District Council of Cleve every two (2) years and following Council Elections. The Council has the right to review this policy at any time, if considered desirable.

15. Document History

Version	Adopted	Description of Change
1.0	12/05/2021	New Document
2.0	19/05/2026	Updated to Council's new Logo & Font Updated Legislative References Minor wording updates