

TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA

Trees, like all living things grow, age and eventually die. The City of Greater Bendigo will manage and monitor all urban trees throughout their lifecycle and remove and replace them as appropriate. In every instance, the on-going health and retention of the tree in the landscape will be given priority.

Whilst tree removal is a last resort management option, public safety always takes priority.

Policy Statement

1. City trees may not be removed unless approved by a City arborist in accordance with the tree removal criteria stipulated below.
2. All trees that are removed will be replaced as close as practically possible to the tree being removed to ensure that there is no net loss of trees from the immediate area.
3. Waste and debris generated from tree maintenance activities will be disposed of as per the City's Procurement Policy. Waste, including mulch and firewood, will not be offered to residents or businesses.
4. When the removal of a public tree is deemed necessary for construction, development or works, all costs associated with its removal, replacement and loss of amenity must be paid by the property owner, utility or developer prior to removal.

Tree Removal Criteria

Tree removal will not be considered in the following instances;

- a. If the tree is considered healthy and structurally sound.
- b. If there is a safe and practical means for tree retention.
- c. For solar access.
- d. For unjustified property or infrastructure damage claims.
- e. To reduce leaf, fruit and litter debris.
- f. For causing minor allergenic and irritant responses.
- g. To minimise obstructions of advertising signage and desired views.
- h. For awnings, verandas and other projections over public open space.
- i. To reduce the impact from any bird/bat/other animal waste or noise.
- j. For superficial bush fire risk.
- k. If the tree/s provides an important biodiversity function such as recognised high conservation road reserves.
- l. For personal aesthetic preference.

- m. Trees listed as a 'significant tree' on either the City of Greater Bendigo or National Trust registers.

The removal of City trees may be considered under the following instances;

- a. All hazardous trees will be removed as soon as reasonably practicable.
- b. Trees that are unviable, have a high probability of failure, or are structurally unsound.
- c. Any tree deemed dead, dying or in severe decline by a City arborist.
- d. In the case of works and development, only once all practical design solutions to retain the tree have been exhausted.
- e. Trees proven to be causing damage to private infrastructure or services where all interventions to retain the tree have been exhausted.
- f. For pest, disease and biosecurity reasons that cannot be managed with the tree *in situ*.
- g. A tree that has a defect requiring action that cannot be rectified without removal of the tree.
- h. Trees that are recognised as inducing severe allergenic or toxic responses.
- i. As part of a project, whole street upgrade or capital works program which will result in a net increase in or improvement to green space that could not be achieved with the tree/s *in situ*.
- j. Trees that do not meet specific objectives of the City's Urban Forest Strategy (to be developed), a masterplan or a management plan for a location in which they are located.
- k. The tree is a declared noxious or environmental weed species in the in the North Central region.
- l. Non-indigenous trees within natural or bushland reserves that are considered weedy or incompatible with the conservation values of that reserve.
- m. Trees listed as a 'significant tree' on either the City of Greater Bendigo or National Trust registers may only be removed following a Council resolution to do so.