



2019 TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY



May 2019

TREE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019

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Preliminary Information

Responsible Department

Environment and Infrastructure

Strategic Reference

City of Victor Harbor Community Plan 2036 & Strategic Directions 2016-2020

Objective 1 – Healthy Environments

-) Approach 1.1 Protect and rehabilitate the natural environment
-) Approach 1.2 Protect and enhance landscape and scenic amenity
-) Approach 1.3 Adapt to the Impacts of Climate Change

Objective 5 - An innovative Council empowering the community

-) Approach 5.6.1 Assess opportunities within an effective risk management framework

Attachment 1 – Tree Policy (Adopted 28 May 2018)

Reference to Applicable Legislation

Local Government Act 1999 (Sections 221; 232; 245; 254)

Native Vegetation Act 1991

Highways Act 1926

Heritage Act 1997

Electricity Act 1996

Electricity Regulations 1996

Water Resources Act 1997

Waterworks Regulations 2011

Sewerage Act 1929

Sewerage Regulations 2011

Environment Protection Act 1993

Water Industries Act 2012 (Draft)

Related Documents

Tree Policy (Adopted 28 May 2018)

Roadside Vegetation Policy

Risk Management Framework and Strategy (2012)

Southern Fleurieu Roadside Vegetation Management Plan 2011

Independent Inquiry into Management of Trees on Public Land, 2010, LGA and LGAMLS

Tree Management, Risk Management Guidelines, LGA Mutual Liability Scheme, 2012

Trees: Legislation and Risk Management Guidelines for Local Government
(developed by the LGA Mutual Liability Scheme)

City of Victor Harbor Community Plan, 2022

Victor Harbor Environmental Management Plan, 2010-2014

Victor Harbor Local Heritage Register

Planning for Trees in the Urban Environment, Ely, 2009.

Culturally Significant Trees Assessment and Management Guidelines (Draft) LGA, DC Mt Barker & Treenet, 2012.

Introduction

The Tree Management Strategy is intended to provide strategic direction and procedures for the short and long term management of the City of Victor Harbor's trees in public places. The Strategy gives guidance for planning, planting, maintenance and, if necessary, the removal of trees (and vegetation) on Council owned and managed land and roads, within the scope of relevant legislation. The Strategy should be utilised in conjunction with Council's Tree Policy.

Trees are an important community asset and are an integral part of biodiversity as defined in the 'National Local Government Biodiversity Strategy'.

As such trees are an essential component to achieving Ecological Sustainable Development.

Trees provide:

-) a softening of the urban landscape;
-) noise and pollution reduction;
-) temperature and wind modification (creating microclimates);
-) shade and shelter;
-) habitat and biodiversity component;
-) historical value;
-) improved economic value and tourist potential;
-) definition of landscape characters and localities;
-) road definition, influence on vehicle speed, pedestrian safety and comfort.

Trees may also have negative impacts including:

-) risk of personal injury;
-) hazards to adjoining properties with overhanging limbs and invasive tree roots;
-) interference with infrastructure and services;
-) over-shading;
-) restricting views and site distances;
-) cost of maintenance;
-) leaf litter fouling waterways, drains, creeks, the coastal waters and adjoining private property.

Tree Policy

The Tree Policy provides the principles to manage, develop, protect and conserve trees in the Council area. The policy should be utilised in conjunction with Council's Tree Management Strategy and Guidelines.

The key principles of the Policy are:

1. To ensure that Council effectively and reasonably manages trees on Council owned and managed land.
2. To provide for effective maintenance, replacement and functional programs for planting and care of trees.
3. To coordinate and ensure that resources are allocated so that Council considers strategic and operational obligations.
4. To ensure the effective and efficient use of resources, reasonably allocated to maintain and manage trees on Council owned and managed land.
5. To manage the requirements associated with legislation and compliance.
6. To consult with the community and promote the positive influence trees provide to the general landscape, biodiversity and sustainability.
7. To minimise and consider issues of conflict between trees and infrastructure using the legislative framework and the principles of risk management.

Tree Risk Assessment Strategy

Council is to carry out Tree Risk Assessments wherever a possible risk has been identified by an Elected Member, member of the public or Council staff. An initial assessment should be carried out within a reasonable timeframe and where possible within 24-48 hours of receiving the notification and a determination made as to whether immediate action is required or a further risk assessment needed. If the initial or subsequent assessment determines action is required, this should be prioritised according to the risk, and resources made available to carry out the necessary works.

To minimise risk associated with public trees, tree planting processes will be consistent with:

-) *Trees: Legislation and Risk Management Guidelines for Local Government* (Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme, 2004); and
-) *Independent Inquiry into Management of Trees on Public Land* (Local Government Association and Local Government Association Mutual Liability Scheme, 2010).

Priority will be given to tree maintenance works involving trees assessed as having highest risk to public or property.

Staff should continue to be trained in tree risk assessment and general tree knowledge. Open Space staff should be trained in basic Visual Tree Assessment, and incorporate this as part of their regular assessment at each reserve or worksite.

Trees which are assessed as the result of a written complaint should be recorded in a database (Tree Register), and the records of the complaint and assessment filed in a file for this purpose.

Visual Tree Assessment

Visual Tree Assessment techniques are to be used to determine risk and/or maintenance issues prior to beginning tree maintenance work. Tree assessment should consider clearance, visibility and amenity issues as well as hazards such as deadwood, dying or diseased sections, cracks, weak branch unions, cankers, decay, poor tree architecture, root problems and other visible signs and symptoms.

Staff should also be aware of when it is necessary to promote a tree assessment and call in a qualified arborist for an opinion or assessment.

Trees which are assessed either as the result of a complaint or any other reason for an inspection should be scheduled for reassessment based on priority as a result of the Risk Assessment.

Incident Reports

The collection of data on tree failure incidents is instrumental in enabling Council to properly assess risks, to allocate resources to prioritise risks and to manage trees cost-effectively. Data is also required to correctly identify the causes of failure so that preventative actions and practices can be developed.

'The scale of a tree register should reflect two key considerations:

-) the resources of the council to develop and maintain the register; and***
-) the risk to personal safety and property associated with tree failure. '***

(Independent Inquiry into Management of Trees on Public Land, 2010, LGA and LGAMLS)

Smaller and regional Councils not have the resources to collect and manage this data. Council will consider this issue as part of its risk management process and if appropriate add to the Council's Risk Register.

Tree Risk Management

Council implements processes to reduce the likelihood of tree and limb failure and to eliminate or reduce the exposure to risk of people and infrastructure. Council should develop and maintain a proactive risk management approach.

To achieve the above Council needs to commit to:

1. Develop a file for written complaints relating to tree requests (Tree Assessment Database);
2. Record all written complaints relating to trees (Synergy);
3. Proactively maintain tree health and integrity;
4. Prune and remove dangerous limbs and trees as they are identified;
5. Proactively look for risks, and train staff to look at nearby trees for high risk when assessing an individual tree;
6. Plan buildings, footpaths, roads and other infrastructure to reduce future damage to infrastructure and trees, and conflicts which increase exposure to liability.

These measures have an inherent cost, not only in terms of financial burden, but also for biodiversity and landscape amenity. The cost needs to be balanced against the magnitude of the risk associated with the particular tree.

Staff are encouraged to consider alternative risk reduction techniques beyond tree and branch removal.

Complaints, reports and enquiries relating to trees should be considered and then the relevant tree inspected by Council staff, prioritised and added to Council's Tree Register before proceeding to implement works.

Trees which require further assessment should be placed on a Tree Monitoring Schedule, and re-inspected in line with this schedule.

Council is to adopt a Proactive Tree Risk Management Strategy.

Proactive tree risk management comprises the following elements:

-) establishing a register of priority trees which may include trees of high value, high failure potential, high exposure or high public concern;
-) assessing (amongst other things) tree failure risk;
-) identifying actions to manage risk;
-) establishing and following a program to implement actions; and
-) on-going tree surveillance and maintenance of the tree register.

Risk Management should be in line with AS/NZS ISO 31000: 2018.

Action 1	Establish a program of regular maintenance for street trees, rural roadside trees and reserve trees based on factors including risk, heritage significance, biodiversity value, previous failures, age, species, cost and budget.
Action 2	Consider the impacts of climate change on species selection, planting methods and maintenance programs.
Action 3	Planting programs and Road Construction Projects should incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design techniques to minimise use of water in future years and to provide resilience to climate change.
Action 4	Continue to increase the use of recycled water in the maintenance of trees.

Tree Register

Council should establish and maintain a tree register with a scope that provides sufficient information to reasonably manage tree risks, complaints, reports and actions.

A tree register is a database that records the location, species, condition, values, and risks of trees. A Tree Register can be used to plan and program work including actions to maintain tree health (such as addressing watering deficiencies), formative pruning, risk management actions (such as pruning or reducing the exposure of targets) or renewal. At this time Council's resources will not enable the collection and maintenance of data at this level. There is a cost to establish the register, and ongoing resources are required to maintain the register to ensure the data remains current and accurate.

The scale of a tree register should reflect two key considerations:

-) the resources of the council to develop and maintain the register; and
-) the risk to personal safety and property associated with tree failure.

To establish and maintain the tree register ongoing funding is required to ensure that the register is appropriate and is maintained and data kept up to date. In some instances regular tree monitoring/surveillance may be necessary with the frequency of monitoring depending on the level of risk identified for each tree.

The City of Victor Harbor will establish and maintain a register for a subset of the Council's trees that have high management importance (e.g. Heritage listed trees, large trees in high use areas and trees reported as dangerous which require monitoring). A Tree Monitoring List is maintained as a subset of the tree register to ensure regular inspections are carried out on trees which have been reported as dangerous or represent an elevated level of risk to Council.

Trees reported as dangerous should be assessed by Council staff trained in the Tree Risk Assessment and appropriate action taken to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. This may include a recommendation for pruning or other intervention works, or referral for removal consideration.

Action 5	Establish and maintain a Tree Register to include trees of heritage significance, larger trees in high use areas and trees which may represent a risk to Council including trees which have been reported as dangerous or hazardous trees.
Action 6	Maintain a Tree Monitoring List of trees which may represent a risk and maintain an inspection regime according to the risk posed by the individual tree as assessed by Council's trained staff

Land Use and Development Planning

Council should ensure in new developments sufficient space is allowed for trees to be established and grow to full size without damage to infrastructure and risk to the public.

Treescapes should be an important aspect of the assessment of new developments. This should include meeting Council’s aesthetic, community, ecological and risk management requirements.

All new developments should consider providing sufficient space for tree growth, and protecting existing mature trees. A guideline for developers should be developed to include the parameters of aesthetic, community, ecological and risk management requirements. Treescapes should be designed to maximise ecological and aesthetic benefits as well as minimising maintenance costs and risks to Council. For this reason all trees in new developments must be approved by Council relevant staff, and guidance should be given to developers to assist in developing appropriate Landscape and Treescape designs.

Action 7

Establish clear guidelines for developers to provide the aesthetic, ecological, community and risk management parameters required by Council.

Tree Planting Strategy

Council is to develop and maintain a Tree Planting Plan aimed at beautifying the street as a whole, rather than an individual property. The Tree Planting Plan should consider areas devoid of planting as well as replacement of existing plantings. The plan should comply with the general guidelines of this policy, other Council policies (e.g. Footpath Policy, Disability Access Policy) and any statutory requirement (e.g. Waterworks Act 1932, and Waterworks Regulations 1996, Sewerage Act 1929 and Sewerage Regulations 2011 and Electricity Act 1996 and Electricity Regulations 1996). Council will maintain an annual Tree Planting Program to develop and maintain the number and quality of trees in streets. A Species List for planting in various locations should be maintained and adapted based on industry standards, local experience and the impacts of climate change and extreme weather.

To minimise risk associated with public trees, processes should be consistent with '*Tree Management – Risk Management Guidelines for Local Government (LGA & Mutual Liability) January 2013*'

The City of Victor Harbor may, from time to time, plant trees on the nature strips adjacent to allotments as part the overall Street Tree Development Program, providing they comply with the general guidelines of this strategy, other Council policies (e.g. Footpath Policy, Disability Access Policy) and any statutory requirement (e.g. Waterworks Act 1932, and Waterworks Regulations 1996, Sewerage Act 1929 and Sewerage Regulations 2011 and Electricity Act 1996 and Electricity Regulations 1996).

Planting Program

Council will maintain an annual Tree Planting Program to develop and maintain the number and quality of trees in streets and reserves. The program should be based on clear guidelines as to the desired planting numbers and preferred species in different locations. All new subdivisions should include a tree planting plan as part of an approved landscape design. Consideration should be given to where groups of trees may be planted to provide a significant impact from an aesthetic and biodiversity perspective. The Urban Forest Program is an example of this broad-scale focus. Species selection for tree planting should take into account factors such as available room, soil type, exposure to wind and sea air, road hierarchy and presence of overhead and underground services. Tall trees should not be planted on the northern side of existing solar panels, where they may significantly impact on the efficiency of those panels. Community groups including schools should be encouraged to be involved in planting programs to help provide awareness and appreciation of the value of trees.

Species Selection

Species selection should be based on a regularly updated Tree Planting List. This list should be revised at least annually based on experience of previous plantings, changes to climatic conditions, and advice from other peer bodies including TreeNet. In each case the species selected should be suitable for the particular site, soil and wind and salt exposure conditions. Consideration of species selection should also include but not limited to:

-) Climate & soil conditions including drainage
-) Size at maturity (height & Spread, considering space available)
-) Character & Aesthetics
-) Shape and form (attractive, reliable and provide clear lines of site at maturity)
-) Structural stability (likely frequency of branch drop)
-) Maintenance requirements (water, fertilizer, pruning, fruit & leaf litter)
-) Longevity
-) Biodiversity (use of indigenous species if suitable. Particularly if linking vegetation corridors)
-) Weed species or species which will spread are unsuitable for planting in public areas
-) Deciduous or Evergreen
-) Root system characteristics
-) Pest & disease resistance

It is increasingly evident that climate change is a reality. Trees will have to endure whatever climatic changes occur in their life time. Given trees may live for a period of up to one hundred years or more, predicting what those possible changes will be is very important. Climate variability has been recorded for 150 years. Analysing the species that were planted locally in periods of climatic extremes should provide useful data on which to evaluate the future use of these species. Climate change may also result in existing trees declining earlier than expected and needing to be removed. Knowledge on climate change and its implications is increasing and needs to be regularly reviewed.

Tree Pruning and Maintenance Strategy

Council is to prune and maintain trees to ensure trees remain healthy, structurally sound and develop minimal failures. This program should have a long term perspective aimed at maximizing the trees functional life.

Trees should be maintained where reasonably possible in accordance with Australian Standards.

The *Australian Standard AS 4373-1996 : Pruning of Amenity Trees* describes methods for pruning trees and encourages practices and procedures that reduce the risk of hazard development, branch failure, fungal infection or premature tree death. It includes formative pruning, hazard reduction, selective pruning and thinning. The Standard recommends that “pruning be carried out by tree workers who through related training, on-the-job experience and qualifications are familiar with the principles, techniques and hazards of this work”.

Councils should provide resources for formative pruning programs to ensure young trees are pruned to minimise failure and risk in the future. Council will not remove a tree for access to sun for solar panels. Some minor pruning may be approved provided it does not impact on the shape and integrity of the tree.

Any tree asset comes with a level of inherent risk. Identifying and managing (minimising) that risk is essential. In urban environments in particular people, buildings and other infrastructure will be in close proximity to trees. In public areas containing trees Council, and some other authorities, have a duty of care to provide all residents and visitors to Victor Harbor with a safe environment.

Arboriculture as a science has progressed significantly over the last twenty to thirty years. There is a scientific basis and understanding of tree physiology, branch structure, wounding response and root growth characteristics. Tree management and maintenance practices need to be based on this science and practices of short term goals needs to be phased out to gain long term cost savings and reduced risk.

A programmed approach to managing any asset is essential. Residents expect a level of response to tree problems or requests. Severe weather events for example can also create a need for unplanned tree works. The conflict between programmed and reactionary works will always be present and needs to be managed carefully when the level of resources is limited. Risk mitigation should be the determining factor in balancing programmed versus reactionary works.

The impacts of a changing climate are likely to impact on the longevity of many species which may have been marginal when planted. This is likely to increase the number of requests for maintenance and removal works as some species decline more rapidly, or are no longer suited to increased periods of hot weather, or changes to rainfall patterns.

Roadside Vegetation

Trees on rural roads are managed as part of Council's roadside vegetation assets. Many of these trees are part of important wildlife corridors and may often be the only remnant or Indigenous vegetation left in the area. They may also provide valuable shelter for adjacent cropping and animal production. The protection and creation of hollows for wildlife should be considered as part of maintenance of trees on roadsides. Removal of dead wood from roadsides is not permitted unless by express approval of the City of Victor Harbor. There are likely to be conflicting management issues along roadsides that are heavily vegetated. Access for vehicles such as agricultural machinery, fire trucks and graders plus locating services such as water, gas and electricity could be very limited if the natural values are to be preserved.

The trees as with other roadside vegetation are coming under increasing threat. Management of these trees should be in accordance with the Southern Fleurieu Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Removal or pruning of trees and native vegetation in rural areas will often require approval from the Native Vegetation Unit of the Department of Environment and Water, unless specifically exempt under provisions of the Native Vegetation Act or the Roadside Vegetation Management Plan. Approval for pruning or removal of native vegetation should be sought through the Manager Environment and Recreation or delegate.

Tree Removal Strategy

All trees on footpaths are Council property and should not be removed without Council's permission. Any person proven to be responsible for removal of a tree without Council consent shall be liable to compensate Council for the value of the tree. In all cases, alternatives to removal should be considered. Requests for removal of trees growing on property under Council's care and control must be made in writing addressed to the City Manager.

Three levels of consideration will then apply.

1. Trees of possible heritage value or other recognized significance should only be removed following consideration by Council. In these cases a detailed report on the significance and issues surrounding the removal request will be prepared for Council.
2. The Manager, Environment and Recreation and the Manager, Operations are given delegation to remove trees which are:
 -) less than 5 metres in height;
 -) a threat to public safety;
 -) unhealthy, of an inappropriate species or unsuitable location;
 -) significantly detracting from the streetscape due to poor form/shape or declining health;
 -) a proclaimed or environmental weed species; or
 -) a pine tree of the genus *Pinus*.
3. All other trees are to be considered by a Tree Assessment Panel comprising
 -) Manager, Environment & Recreation, or his delegate;
 -) Group Leader, Open Space, or his delegate;
 -) an Elected Member (determined by Council).

When a request for tree removal is received, a trained member of staff should carry out a Tree Risk Assessment, and this assessment should be provided to the Tree Assessment Panel prior to the inspection by the Tree Assessment Panel. Determination by this panel will be carried out by all three members individually scoring the trees according to the method described in *Appendix 1*, followed by joint deliberation to determine a reasonable outcome. Where the determination can not be agreed by the panel, the matter shall be referred to Council.

Council will not remove a tree for access to sun for solar panels or to provide a view. Some pruning may be approved at the cost of the applicant, provided it does not impact on the shape and integrity of the tree.

The impacts of a changing climate are likely to impact on the longevity of many species which may have been marginal when planted. This is likely to increase the number of requests for maintenance and removal works as some species decline more rapidly, or are no longer suited to increased periods of hot weather, or changes to rainfall patterns.

Budget for Tree Removal

Once a tree has been approved for removal it is important that sufficient funds are available within the Council budget for this work to be carried out within a reasonable period. Council may be placed in a compromised position if a tree which has been approved for removal fails causing damage to life or property.

The budget for tree removal should be reviewed annually to ensure sufficient funds are available for approved maintenance and tree removal requirements.

Heritage Trees

Council is to retain, maintain and conserve trees of heritage significance.

A number of trees are listed as a Local Heritage Place within Council's Development Plan (refer Table ViH/4 – Local Heritage Places).

The assessment and management of these trees should be in line with '*Culturally Significant Trees Assessment and Management Guidelines*'. This document outlines four values of heritage significance.

1. **Cultural** – Trees play an important role in elements of towns and cities such as approach roads, showgrounds, transport links, residential areas, important buildings, access roads, parks and nature strips. Trees help identify special places. They may have associations with individual people and communities or tell stories of other times and places.
2. **Historical** – Trees are often associated with important eras, buildings, events or people. Trees may reflect specific epochs in garden design or landscape architecture.
3. **Scientific** – Trees could be rare, vulnerable, endangered or of a great age. Remnant trees from former natural ecological communities may retain valuable habitat and faunal corridors for other endangered and dependent species.
4. **Aesthetic** – Trees are of aesthetic value if they reflect important features in townscapes. These trees often visually dominate a place by their size, scale and visual impact.

The Norfolk Island Pines in the Soldiers Memorial Gardens are also included within Council's Development Plan (Table ViH/5 – State Heritage Places) and listed under the State Heritage Register.

The Register of the National Estate lists the Hindmarsh River Estuary and Inman River Estuary in particular for the remaining Swamp Paperbark (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*).

Removal of any of these trees, unless in an unsafe state, needs to be undertaken within a public consultation process. Maintenance of the trees should be to enhance the aesthetics while preserving the long term viability of the trees.

Indigenous Trees which are 'Native Vegetation' are protected under the Native Vegetation Act, 1991.

There is not known to be any trees of Aboriginal significance on Council land, but there are trees of significance on private property in the Council district.

Some trees of particular significance may require individual Management Plans (e.g. Soldiers Memorial Gardens, Norfolk Island Pines).

Action 8

Continue to protect all trees of heritage significance on Council owned or managed land.

Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*)

Norfolk Island Pines are a symbol of the Victor Harbor coastline. While not Indigenous to the area they encapsulate the city's European heritage and character. To this end it is intended that the number of Norfolk Island Pines is maintained over time to preserve this character.

While there may be a loss of these trees from residential streets the overall numbers should not be reduced. When a Norfolk Island Pine is removed from a street, two young Norfolk Island Pines should be replanted where possible in a nearby foreshore reserve taking account of the natural heritage and biodiversity of that reserve. The street tree should be replaced with a more suitable species, which will create part of a local street character in accordance with the Tree Planting Program.

Council may consider the removal of a Norfolk Island Pine when it is considered to be dangerous or causing structural damage to private property and public utilities or substantial structural damage to Council's roads and drains.

Pine Removal Strategy

Trees of the genus 'Pinus' may be removed where they are causing conflict with road infrastructure or potentially impacting on biodiversity.

In the 1940's and 1950's a large number of pine trees (*Pinus* sp.) were planted in urban and rural landscapes of Victor Harbor. Many of these trees were planted on council roadsides and reserves. It is estimated that in the vicinity of 3,000 pine trees still exist on Council land, most of which are on rural roadsides. A significant number of these trees are now in decline creating possible hazards and liability concerns, particularly where the trees are on the side of heavily trafficked roads. In other situations the pine trees are not an appropriate species in the location in which they were planted. Often the trees as they mature begin to damage kerbs, water-tables' roads and nearby buildings.

It is envisaged that most of these pine trees will need to be removed and replaced over the next 15-50 years as they decline and become a liability (particularly on roadsides), and visually unattractive. Other trees in areas of high biodiversity and conservation value should be removed to protect these ecological values. The number of pines on council land is estimated in the vicinity of 3,000 trees. The removal of the trees needs to be prioritised on an annual basis to assess the net benefits of removal taking into account the environmental benefits in terms of biodiversity, reduction in damage to infrastructure and liability offset by the temporary loss of a food source and greenhouse gas intake of a mature tree. The Pine Removal Program should be reviewed each year with priority given to trees impacting on biodiversity, public infrastructure, private property or danger to the public.

Action 9

Develop a Pine (*Pinus* sp) Removal Program focused on reducing risk and review on an annual basis.

The Manager Environment and Recreation, and the Manager Operations have delegated authority to remove Pine Trees (*Pinus* sp.) as deemed appropriate in accordance with the Tree Policy and the Tree Management Strategy.

In areas of native vegetation the pines and their seedlings are a threat to native vegetation and biodiversity. Many of the pines have replaced native vegetation as a food source for a number of birds, particularly cockatoos. A program to replant the native food sources (*Casuarina*, *Hakea*, *Banksia*) for these birds should be run in parallel with the Pine Removal Program.

Action 10

Continue a program to plant *Casuarina*, *Hakea*, *Banksia* and other suitable species to replace pines removed as a food source for native fauna.

Cost of Removal and Replacement

Requests for removal of trees on council land must be made in writing to the City Manager.

An applicant to remove a tree on Council land may be required to contribute to the cost of that removal and replacement of a suitable advanced species. If the tree is unhealthy or causing damage to property or infrastructure and was due for removal, the cost of removal should be fully born by Council. If the tree is a relatively healthy specimen and in the opinion of the Manager Environment and Recreation would not have otherwise been removed in the next five years, the cost of removal and replacement, if approved, should be borne by the applicant. This may be the case for example where a new development requires an access requiring the removal of a tree/s.

The increase in tree removal requests has had a significant impact on the tree maintenance budget over recent years. It is important Council recognises its responsibilities and risks when considering the budget for tree removals. Tree removals approved by the Tree Assessment Panel need to be removed as decided to ensure Council is not placed in a high risk situation

Council may in some instances deem to recover the cost of the value of the tree to the landscape. This value will be calculated in accordance with an approved and recognized methodology

Works in the Vicinity of Trees

All work in the vicinity of trees should be in keeping with AS 4790-2009: Protection of Trees on Development Sites. Risk Management Standard ensuring minimal damage is caused to the tree and its root system. Care should be taken to install barrier mesh to define a root protection zone if machinery or digging equipment is to be used around trees.

Activities which require particular care include:

-) footpath construction;
-) installation and maintenance of services;
-) herbicide and pesticide programs;
-) facility development and maintenance.

Tree Management Team

The City of Victor Harbor is to establish a cross departmental Tree Management Team to ensure Council plans for future plantings, as well as effectively managing the maintenance and replacement of existing trees, including making recommendation to Council on future resourcing requirements.

The team should consist of representatives of Strategic Planning, Development Planning, Open Space Planning, Open Space Operations, and Environment. The team should meet as required but generally on a six monthly basis. The team is to establish guidelines in which to work to be approved by the City Manager.

Action 11	Establish a cross functional tree management team to ensure Council plans for future plantings, as well as effectively managing the maintenance and replacement of existing trees, including making recommendation to Council on future resourcing requirements.
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Tree Management Guidelines

Council is to establish Tree Management Guidelines to assist staff to meet the Tree Policy and Tree Management Strategy. The Tree Management Guidelines and associated schedules should be reviewed annually including a peer review.

The Tree Management Guidelines should include up to date tree species lists, best practice maintenance guidelines and forms to be used by staff and the public. The review should aim at ensuring the current practices are coordinated and achieving the aims of the Tree Policy and Tree Management Strategy.

Action 12

Develop Tree Management Guidelines in accordance with the Tree Management Strategy and Council policy and review these guidelines on a regular basis.

Trees on Private Property

Council has no control over the management of trees on private property unless they encroach onto Council land.

Council may issue an encroachment notice to the owner of a property where trees or shrubs are encroaching on Council property and may cause a risk to pedestrians or vehicles. The owner is given the opportunity to remedy the encroachment.

If the owner fails to complete the work within the set timeframes Council may carry out the work and recoup the cost of the work from the owner of the property.

Appendix 1 – Action Table

Action	Description	Responsible Officer
Action 1	Establish a program of regular maintenance for street trees, rural roadside trees and reserve trees based on factors including risk, heritage significance, biodiversity value, previous failures, age, species, cost and budget.	MO
Action 2	Consider the impacts of climate change on species selection, planting methods and maintenance programs.	MER
Action 3	Planting programs and Construction Projects should incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design techniques to minimise use of water in future years and to provide resilience to climate change.	MO
Action 4	Continue to increase the use of recycled water in the maintenance of trees.	MO
Action 5	Establish a Tree Register for all trees of heritage significance and trees which have been reported as dangerous or hazardous trees.	MER
Action 6	Maintain a Tree Monitoring List of trees which may represent a risk and maintain an inspection regime according to the significance of the risk posed by the individual tree as assessed by Council’s trained staff.	MO
Action 7	Establish clear guidelines for developers to provide the aesthetic, ecological, community and risk management parameters required by Council.	MER
Action 8	Continue to protect all trees of heritage significance on Council owned or managed land.	MER
Action 9	Develop a Pine (Pinus sp) Removal Program focused on reducing risk and Review on an annual basis.	MER
Action 10	Establish a program to plant Casuarina, Hakea, Banksia and other suitable species to replace pines removed as a food source for native fauna.	MO
Action 11	Establish a cross functional tree management team to ensure Council plans for future plantings, as well as effectively managing the maintenance and replacement of existing trees, including making recommendation to Council on future resourcing requirements.	MER
Action 12	Develop Tree Management Guidelines in accordance with the Tree Management Strategy and tree policy and review these guidelines on a regular basis.	MER

MO – Manager Operations

MER – Manager Environment and Recreation

Appendix 2 – Draft Budget Recommendations

Activity	Current Budget	2019/20 Proposed Budget	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Staff training including Risk Assessment	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Proactive tree maintenance program	\$8,900	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Tree removal budget	\$21,800	\$25,000	\$35,000	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Pine removal program	\$25,500	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Tree maintenance (urban)	\$157,400	\$160,000	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$190,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
Tree maintenance (rural)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total tree management budget	\$265,600	\$294,000	\$319,000	\$329,000	\$349,000	\$359,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$360,000	\$360,000
Overall budget impact	\$0	-\$28,400	-\$53,400	-\$63,400	-\$83,400	-\$93,400	-\$94,400	-\$94,400	-\$94,400	-\$94,400	-\$94,400