



Shire of Peppermint Grove

Public Tree Management Strategy 2022

Purpose

- To ensure that Peppermint Grove retains its treasured leafy ambience through the sound management of trees that are managed by the Shire.
- Provide guidance for the care, protection, and preservation of Shire trees.
- To define the circumstances in relation to tree removal and development applications.

Council affirms that the Shire of Peppermint Grove's *Agonis flexuosa* (WA Weeping Peppermint) street trees are a valuable community asset for environmental, aesthetic, and social reasons including shade, heat reduction, habitat for native fauna and managing inviting, sustainable green spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Scope

This strategy applies to all trees that are owned and managed by the Shire of Peppermint Grove on road reserves, parks and in public spaces. This will assist in increasing environmental values by promoting future greening as well as increasing tree numbers and canopy coverage across the Shire.

Background information

The Shire maintains a comprehensive electronic database of all trees on road reserves, parks and in public spaces. All Shire managed trees are inspected on a regular basis by a qualified arboricultural consultant with the data then entered into a specialised tree management software program. Information gathered on each tree includes details on species, health and condition, a QTRA Risk Assessment, a photographic record, plus a list of recommended works which is placed in a priority rating to assist with forward planning.

Street tree planting

The Shire's nominated street tree is the *Agonis flexuosa* (WA Weeping Peppermint) which is where the suburb's name originated from. All trees presently standing are to eventually be replaced with the WA Weeping Peppermint when they have deteriorated to an unacceptable level, or as part of an approved development project.

The Shire will plant a minimum of one (1) tree per verge adjacent to each residential property, and if there is sufficient space, multiple trees will be planted to increase the number of street trees.

Where new tree plantings may potentially impact a resident's view, trees opposite parkland or on the Foreshore will be aligned as close to the property boundary lines as is practicable.

The Shire shall undertake tree planting on street verges and within parks as part of its annual winter tree planting program when soil moisture conditions are appropriate and subject to available stock.

Spacings of street trees shall be the minimum required to maintain a near continuous tree canopy in the street. Street trees shall be located with due consideration to services, sightlines and alignment of existing vegetation.

Council will maintain and water all young street trees to ensure good survival rates for a minimum of two years. Residents are encouraged to assist with watering wherever possible.

Street trees are only to be planted, pruned and removed by the Shire unless specific approval is granted by the Chief Executive Officer or a designated Officer.

Unauthorised street tree plantings may be referred to the CEO to determine whether the species and position conforms with the Shire's tree planting requirements.

Pruning of Street trees

The Shire is responsible for pruning and maintaining trees owned within road reserves and parks. Trees are only to be pruned by authorised qualified contractors under direct instruction from the Shire to ensure all street and parkland trees are protected for future generations.

Pruning in the Bushland Forever site along The Esplanade will only be carried out by Shire authorised contractors to reduce material for fire hazard controls, site access, or other safety related reasons and not primarily for the opening up of views.

Tree pruning shall generally address the following requirements:

- Clear the canopy from infrastructure such as streetlights, street signs and to maintain pedestrian footpath clearances and vehicle access and/or site lines.
- Improve the form of developing trees for structural integrity or health.
- Remove deadwood, dying, diseased, or pest infested limbs and branches.
- Remove overhanging branches considered to be hazardous to traffic or buildings.
- Trees will be pruned to maintain Western Power infrastructure as per compliance requirements.

All requests for pruning and maintenance must be submitted to the Shire in writing and will be assessed on an individual case by case basis.

The Shire may arrange for an arboricultural assessment if further investigation is required.

Tree Removal

Street trees are considered to be a significant asset to the Shire as they provide both aesthetic and environmental benefits to the streetscape and ambience of Peppermint Grove.

Applications for tree removal must be made in writing to the Shire.

Trees will only be considered for removal, under the following circumstances:

- Dead or in poor condition
- Diseased
- Identified for attention in the Shire's Street Tree Audit
- Structurally unsound

- Obstructing an approved works program, by either by the Shire or external utility providers
- Tree root damage to public and/or private assets when root barrier installation is not considered viable
- Damage by a declared storm event or mechanical means
- Identified as an invasive species
- Potentially hazardous to road reserve users and / or traffic safety

Any tree which is removed is to be replaced by a minimum of one (1) tree (*Agonis flexuosa*).

Trees will not be removed for the following reasons:

- The tree species is disliked
- The tree obscures or potentially obscures a view
- The tree causes allergy or health problems
- The tree shades private gardens, turf or solar panels
- The tree is in the way of non-essential crossover or verge paving option

Trees and Development

Developers will be encouraged to retain and protect existing trees on Shire land wherever possible to preserve the amenity of the streetscape.

Removal of Street trees for the placement of new crossovers will only be considered where all other design options have been sought. Crossovers should be located a minimum of 2m from a street tree less than 400mm in trunk diameter, and 3m for a street tree with a trunk diameter of 401mm and greater.

Tree protection Zone (TPZ) requirements at Development sites

For all construction works and or major renovations the developer/owner is to protect the Shire's street trees that are to be retained as part of the approval process.

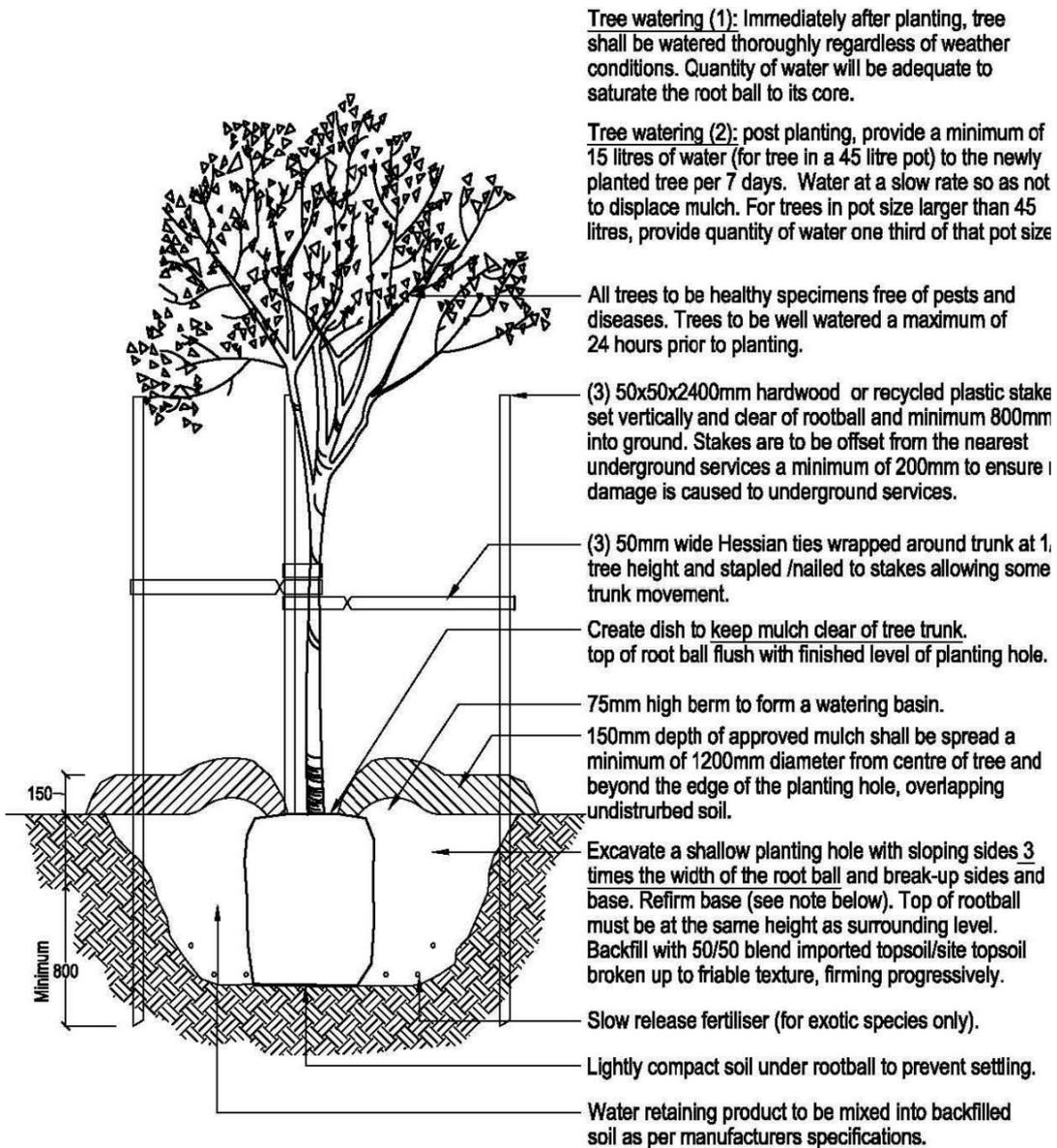
The following guidelines are to be adhered:

- A tree protection fence must be installed on the verge at the cost of the applicant. The type of fencing must be in line with the Australian Standard for Protection of trees on development sites AS4970-2009. At a minimum the TPZ fencing will cover 2m x 2m around the trunk due to available space (consisting of four panels of site fencing). Any less requires approval from the Shire. The TPZ fencing is not to obstruct roads or footpaths.
- If a street tree is damaged and requires removal during the development process, a replacement street tree is required and all costs associated with removal and replacement of the tree will be paid by the developer / owner. The replacement street tree will be of an *Agonis flexuosa* of a size that is acceptable to the Shire.

Bonds and Payments

Where a development or renovation has the potential to impact the Shires Street trees, a bond for the protection of the Street trees will be held through the Verge Bond Process prior to the development commencing.

Tree Planting Specification



Note: It is the responsibility of the contractor to confirm the location of all underground services prior to commencement of any excavation or staking works.

How to stake a tree

