
**ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
THURSDAY, 8 MAY 2025 AT 4:00 PM**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Confirmation of Minutes
- 3 Business Arising
- 4 Declarations of Interest
- 5 Items of Business
- CL01 Recommendation for Alternate Members Representing Soroptimists
- CL02 p7 Questions on Notice Report
- CL03 p9 Item Raised by Committee Member
- CL04 p11 Review of Playground Strategy
- CL05 p12 Review of Local Policies - Tree Policy & Tree Preservation Order
- 6 p32 Outstanding Action Report
- 7 General Business
- 8 Next Meeting

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Amy Renouf (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative), Brian Savage (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), Elizabeth (Will) Mead (Community Representative), Ema Munro (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), Kevin Taylor (Community Representative), Nicola Thoner (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Stephen Parker (Community Representative)

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King; Works Manager – Maintenance, Manjit Chugha; Works Manager – Construction, Shree Shrestha; Operations Assistant, Cheryl Tucker; Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo

Quorum = 3

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please notify the Minute Secretary prior to commencement of the meeting by email or by telephoning Council on 1300 176 077.

This Committee meeting may be attended remotely and recorded by audio or audio-visual means for administrative purposes. No other recording is permitted.

Acknowledgement of Country

Griffith City Council acknowledges the Wiradjuri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters, and their deep knowledge embedded within the Aboriginal community.

Council further pays respect to the local Wiradjuri Elders, past, present and those emerging, for whom we acknowledge have responsibilities for the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of the local Wiradjuri people.

**ROADS, PARKS & PATHWAYS ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
WEDNESDAY, 26 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 4:00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Shari Blumer (Chair), Councillor Mark Dal Bon, Councillor Jenny Ellis, Councillor Laurie Testoni (Observer), Amy Renouf (Community Representative), Anthony Kidman (Community Representative), Brian Savage (Community Representative), Carmel La Rocca (Community Representative), Elizabeth (Will) Mead (Community Representative), Jenna Thomas (Community Representative), Kevin Taylor (Community Representative), Nicola Thoner (Community Representative), Simone Murphy (Community Representative), Stephen Parker (Community Representative), Doreen Wood (Invited Guest)

Quorum = 3

STAFF

Director Infrastructure & Operations, Phil King, Works Manager - Maintenance, Manjit Chugha, Works Manager - Construction, Shree Shrestha, Parks & Gardens Manager, Peter Craig, Operations Assistant, Cheryl Tucker, Governance Manager, Leanne Austin and Minute Secretary, Antoinette Galluzzo.

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Ema Munro (Community Representative).

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

Members making a pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no pecuniary interests declared.

Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a significant non-pecuniary interest declaration are required to leave the meeting during consideration of the matter and not return until the matter is resolved.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

Less Than Significant Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members making a less than significant non-pecuniary interest declaration may stay in the meeting and participate in the debate and vote on the matter.

There were no significant non-pecuniary interests declared.

3 ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CL01 INDUCTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS - MANDATORY

Leanne Austin, Governance Manager, provided an overview of the Committee induction process which Committee members may access on Council's website. Committee members are required to read the Code of Conduct policy and procedures, Code of Meeting Practice policy, Statements to the Media Policy, Social Media Policy, Information Protection Principles and Child Safe policy. Committee members are also required to complete the online policy acknowledgment form. Explanation was provided in relation to the requirement to declare any Conflicts of Interest Committee members may have in their consideration of Committee matters.

CL02 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Amy Renouf that the Committee adopt the Terms of Reference attached to the report with the addition that representatives of the Dog Park and Sorooptimists have one voting right each but alternate representatives may attend if the adopted Committee member is unable to attend.

CL03 PROPOSED MEETING DATES 2025

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Shari Blumer and Councillor Mark Dal Bon that the following Committee Meeting dates for 2025 be adopted.

- Thursday, 8 May 2025.
- Wednesday, 25 June 2025.
- Wednesday 24 September 2025.
- Thursday, 6 November 2025.

CL04 CUSTOMER REQUESTS MANAGEMENT

Director of Infrastructure and Operations, Phil King provided the Committee with an explanation on the most appropriate methods Committee members can report an issue. This includes:

- See it, Report it - report an issue electronic form – Council website and QR Code.
- In person in Customer Service.
- Via telephone or email.
- After hours contact numbers.
- The Mayor and Councillors can also be contacted regarding issues.

Mr King explained the Customer Request Management system can be used to track service requests from customers.

CL05 PRESENTATION - GRIFFITH DOG PARK PETITION

Council has received a request for a number of upgrades to be considered for the Off Leash Dog Park located on the western end of Community Gardens on Coolah Street, Griffith. Mr King presented the Committee with a number of options to improve the Off Leash Dog Park including:

- Enlargement of existing park
- Installation of lighting

- Obstacles for the dogs
- Upgrade of Carpark

Mr King advised the Committee that maintenance and safety issues need to be considered in any proposed upgrades.

Will Mead entered the meeting, the time being 5:06pm.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Nicola Thoner and Carmel La Rocca that:

- (a) The Committee note the report
- (b) The Committee request Council to consider allocating \$50,000 in the 2025/26 budget to provide upgrades to the Off Leash Dog Park, Community Gardens, Griffith.

CL06 PRESENTATION - PETITION FOR THE CLEANLINESS AND REVITALIZATION OF OUR CITY

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 11 March 2025 a Petition for the Cleanliness and Revitalisation of Our City was presented to Council by Doreen Wood. This was referred to the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee for consideration. Mr King provided an overview of Parks and Gardens areas of responsibility advising 26 Staff maintain 42 playgrounds, 2 skate parks, 7 major sporting grounds, 349Ha of grass, 177 separate parks and reserves. The Committee discussed the state of the Plane trees in Banna Avenue. Council is conducting soil testings on the areas around the affected Plane trees and will apply appropriate fertiliser / nutrients to improve the health of the trees.

The Committee discussed the condition of some of the plants in Yambil Street. Mr King advised that some of the plants are recovering from the hot summer conditions and some will be replaced. Mr Taylor suggested Lomandra Cultivar as an alternative native grass which is more heat resistant.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that the Committee endorse the proposed horticultural actions proposed by staff.

CL07 INVIGORATE GRIFFITH

The Committee was advised that a community forum (Invigorate Griffith) has been organised on the 3 April 2025, at the Gem Hotel in partnership with the Griffith Business Chamber. All interested members are encouraged to register and attend.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Anthony Kidman that Doreen Wood be endorsed as a member of the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee.

Doreen Wood left the meeting at 5:55pm.

CL09 REVIEW OF GRIFFITH CBD STRATEGY

Councillor Blumer advised the Committee that the NSW Government had recently announced the NSW Sustainable Communities Program (NSW SCP) which will provide \$160 million to projects and initiatives for communities in the Southern Basin affected by water buy backs. Mr King advised Council is applying for grant funding under this program to upgrade Banna Avenue in line with the Griffith CBD Strategy. Councillor Blumer encouraged Committee members to review the Strategy and provide ideas for improvement.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that:

- (a) Council apply for funding for the upgrading of Banna Ave as reflected in the CBD Strategy.
- (b) Council review the CBD Strategy to identify the completed initiatives and consolidate the remaining recommendations into achievable projects with clear objectives and scope of works.

CL08 REVIEW OF POLICIES & STRATEGIES

Councillor Blumer provided an overview of the policies and strategies relevant to the Roads, Parks and Pathways Committee. The Committee nominated the Playground Strategy and Tree Policy to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr Savage raised an issue regarding traffic congestion at Crossing Street, Blumer Avenue and Macedone Road during peak travel times and enquired if Council has a strategy in place to manage future traffic congestion. Mr King took this on Notice.

Councillor Ellis left the meeting at 6:11pm.

Mr Savage also raised traffic issues at Farronato Road with vehicles performing U-turns, safety concerns at the St Francis bus drop off and pick up locations and turning lanes on Banna Avenue between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue. Mr King took these issues on Notice and will report back to the Committee and refer appropriate items to Traffic Committee. Councillor Blumer advised Committee members should report these type of issues by email to the Committee secretary or to Council's customer service.

Cheryl Tucker left the meeting at 6:15pm.

CL10 REVIEW OF PLAYGROUND STRATEGY

This clause is deferred to the next Committee Meeting due to time constraints.

4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr Savage stated his concerns with the seed pods dropping from the Plane trees in Kooyoo Street. Mr King advised Council staff will maintain this area.

5 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee is to be held on Thursday, 8 May 2025 at 4:00pm.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 6:20pm.

CLAUSE **CL02**

TITLE **Questions on Notice Report**

FROM **Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations**

TRIM REF **25/49577**

SUMMARY

Questions on Notice received during the Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee meeting held on 26 March 2025.

Mr Savage raised an issue regarding traffic congestion at Crossing Street, Blumer Avenue and Macedone Road during peak travel times and enquired if Council has a strategy in place to manage future traffic congestion. Mr King took this on Notice.

In general terms Council is not monitoring congestion throughout the Griffith urban network. There are two known peak times that occur with traffic building up and required to queue in order to pass through intersections. The first is the morning peak, this commences approximately at 8:30am and continues until approximately 9:15am. The second peak is the afternoon traffic peak at 3:00pm and continues generally until approximately 5:00pm.

The morning peak generally has traffic flowing from the housing precincts towards the CBD precinct. The afternoon peak is slightly different as the general source of traffic is around the various schools and then towards after school destinations.

Generally speaking, congestion on a local road network is measured by the volume of traffic on a road exceeding the capacity of the road. When considering the intersections and roads mentioned in the issue raised by Mr Savage the capacity of the intersections are exceeded for relatively short periods of time and there are alternate routes available.

One of the constraints on the Griffith Urban network are two distinct barriers across the urban area in an east-west direction. The first is the railway line, which has limited crossing points and is also closes from time to time when trains are given priority. The second is the irrigation Main Supply Channel. The channel also has limited crossing points.

It should be noted that there is expected to be less trains once the WR Connect Rail siding project is completed at Wumbulgal. This will result in Griffith railway yards being used much less and reduce the interruptions from trains crossing over roads in the Griffith CBD.

Council has previously investigated traffic modelling the Urban area. Unfortunately, there are limitations to staff availability to complete this model and funding would be required to engage a consultant.

Recommendation: Continue to monitor traffic and review traffic counts periodically.

Mr Savage also raised traffic issues at Farronato Road with vehicles performing U-turns, safety concerns at the St Francis bus drop off and pick up locations and turning lanes on Banna Avenue between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue.

Griffith City Council Local Traffic Committee has been advised and is currently reviewing the situation at Farronato Road.

The St Francis bus drop is not monitored by Council. The drivers of each vehicle are responsible to ensure that they are parking and manoeuvring safely. Further there is an obligation on the bus company completing the pick up to ensure that their bus drivers are able to safely pull over from the travelling lane and ensure that their passengers are able to embark and disembark the bus in a safe manner. Lastly, due to this particular bus run being a private contract bus run there is also a duty of care to the school to ensure that each nominated bus pick up area has been located safely.

The turning lanes on Banna Ave between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue have been incorporated into the CBD beautification project. This could result in the removal of all vegetation and replacing it with an alternative landscaping design. Currently Council are undertaking maintenance of the vegetation and median strips on behalf of Transport for NSW as Banna Ave is a state road along this segment between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue.

Recommendation: No further action on the three issues above.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

CLAUSE **CL03**

TITLE **Item Raised by Committee Member**

FROM **Antoinette Galluzzo, Governance Officer**

TRIM REF **25/47800**

SUMMARY

Please see attachment received from Committee member, Nicola Thoner on 26 March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

For discussion.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 1.1 Provide clear, accessible, relevant information.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Email - Nicola Thorner - 26 March 2025 [↓](#)

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Antoinette Galluzzo

From: Nicola [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 26 March 2025 6:16 PM
To: Governance Mailbox
Cc: Governance Workgroup
Subject: Re: Agenda - Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee - 26 March 2025

Hello

I'd just like to discuss next time where the dog park sits under policy - if it is under the cbd policy and "beautifying Griffith" with the \$3 mil potentially coming to council, can some of this money be used for the dog park upgrade - approx \$50k?

Thank you.



Sent from my iPhone

CLAUSE **CL04**

TITLE **Review of Playground Strategy**

FROM **Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations**

TRIM REF **25/47724**

SUMMARY

The Griffith Playground Strategy was prepared in 2013 and adopted by Council in March 2014. The Strategy guides the provision and management of playgrounds within the Local Government Area. The strategy aims to offer diverse, high-quality play experiences in a sustainable and cost-effective manner, recognizing the significant role of playgrounds in promoting physical health, social connections, and child development. Despite challenges like deteriorating equipment and financial constraints, the Council prioritizes clear direction in the design, provision, and maintenance of playgrounds. The strategy emphasizes community engagement and introduces nature-based and contextual play environments to enhance diversity and promote sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION

Council staff provide an achievement report to show what has been completed and which areas of the strategy are yet to be enacted.

REPORT

The strategy is now ten years old and almost all of the high priority parks have been upgraded in accordance to the recommendations from the strategic document. The data that was used for the statistical analysis is now more than 10 years old.

There were a large number of recommendations that were not high, and these ought to be reconsidered to determine if they are still relevant 10 years on from 2015.

The Roads, Parks and Pathways Enhancement Committee (RPPEC) has Parks as one of the key focuses of the committee and it is entirely appropriate for this strategy to be one of the first that the Committee commence to review.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards.

ATTACHMENTS

- (a) Playground Strategy (under separate cover)

CLAUSE **CL05**

TITLE **Review of Local Policies - Tree Policy & Tree Preservation Order**

FROM **Phil King, Director Infrastructure and Operations**

TRIM REF **25/48507**

SUMMARY

The Infrastructure & Operations directorate's local policies (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy have been reviewed by staff and are presented to the Committee for endorsement.

RECOMMENDATION

The revised (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order and (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy local policies be endorsed by the Committee.

REPORT

Council has a number of local policies (policies which relate to orders and approvals), these policies provide the framework from within which Council staff work and make decisions.

Section 165(4) of the Local Government Act 1993 states that "local policies will be automatically revoked at the expiration of 12 months after the declaration of the poll for the election of a new Council." Local policies will be automatically revoked on 23 December 2022. It is therefore timely to review Council's local policies, place them on exhibition for public comment and adopt them to ensure their currency.

Relevant Council staff have reviewed the attached Infrastructure & Operations local policies which are being presented to the Committee for comment and endorsement, after which they will be workshopped by Councillors and presented at a Council Meeting and placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days with submissions being received up until 42 days after the date of advertisement (in accordance with Section 160 of the Local Government Act 1993).

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item links to Council's Strategic Plan item 3.1 Undertake Council activities within a clear framework of risk management strategic planning, policies, procedures and service standards to enhance accountability resilience and informed decision making.

ATTACHMENTS

- | | | |
|-----|---|----|
| (a) | (PG-CP-401) Tree Preservation Order ↓ | 13 |
| (b) | (PG-CP-402) Tree Policy ↓ | 17 |



Tree Preservation Order PG-CP-401 (LOCAL POLICY)

1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	13 Aug 1996	499	13 Aug 1996
2	14 Jan 2003	25	14 Jan 2003
3	11 May 2010	0142	11 May 2010
4	13 Aug 2013	0255	13 Aug 2013
5	22 Aug 2017	17/205	22 Aug 2017
6	23 Aug 2022	22/209	23 Aug 2022
7			

2 Policy Objective

This policy allows for the removal of unsafe or unsuitable trees on public and non-rural land while encouraging replacement vegetation to ensure the tree canopy maintains visual amenity, special landscape characteristics, unique vegetation qualities, and the economic, social and ecological values within the Griffith LGA. For example, native vegetation supports the views and aspects that are important to our tourism industry and minimizes the risk of destabilisation of land, due to inappropriate tree removal.

The objectives of this policy are:

- ~~The protection and conservation of trees~~To protect and enhance trees and vegetation in non-rural area including street trees, park trees (including bushland) and trees on private property as an important community and tourism asset;
- ~~The conservation of the natural heritage~~To facilitate the removal or pruning of undesirable exotics, environmental weeds, noxious weeds, dangerous trees and any other inappropriate plantings e.g. that are causing damage to buildings or other infrastructure;
- ~~The promotion of a shady and comfortable living environment~~To facilitate the removal or pruning of vegetation for maintenance of existing infrastructure; and
- ~~The provision of environmental corridors for native fauna and flora~~To minimise impacts to vegetation with high environmental value eg threatened ecological communities, threatened species and their habitats



3 Policy Statement

3.1 What actions require Council approval?

The ringbarking, cutting down, lopping, topping, removing, injuring, [poisoning](#) or wilful destruction of any tree or trees within urban areas, including villages.

3.2 What is meant by 'tree'?

A 'tree' means a perennial plant more than ~~one~~[three](#) metres in height, having a permanent woody self-supporting main stem or trunk. For the purposes of this plan those trees requiring approval will have attained:

- height of ~~3-5~~[3.0](#)m, or
 - canopy diameter of ~~4m~~[3.0m](#), or
 - [trunk diameter of 200-400mm at the ground.](#)
- As per the definition of a tree

3.3 What is meant by lopping?

Reducing the height or branch spread of the tree by more than 10%.

3.4 What is excluded in this order?

- Removal or pruning of any fruit tree or pruning of any tree for regeneration.
- [Any tree which is dying or dead or which has become dangerous to human life or could cause significant property loss.](#)
- [Biosecurity Authorisation under the Biosecurity Act 2015](#)

3.5 If the tree/vegetation is a bushfire hazard can I remove it?

You are able to remove/interfere with a tree or vegetation on land when:

- (a) it is located within a recognised asset protection zone or fire trail and is a bushfire hazard, [and Rural fires authorisation has been obtained under the Rural Fires Act 1997 e.g. in accordance with the NSW Rural Fires Act 1997](#) and
- (b) you have advised the council in writing at least 14 days prior to your action to remove/interfere with the tree(s)/vegetation and council had previously advised you that
 - (i) the tree/vegetation was located within a asset protection zone or fire trail, and
 - (ii) the tree/vegetation was of a type that was likely to present a fire hazard

OR
- (c) such action would protect human life, buildings or other property from imminent danger from a bushfire burning in the vicinity.



3.6 Approval

Approval is obtained by completing the Tree Preservation Order (PG-FO-401) form at Council's Customer Service Centre, 1 Benerembah Street, Griffith. You should make sure that you include a diagram showing where the tree you want to remove or lop is located and list reasons for the lopping/removal. This will assist the inspector in deciding whether to approve the request.

3.7 Development Applications

Approval to remove trees as defined by this policy is granted whereby a Development Application has been approved, and the tree in question is located directly within the footprint of the proposed [building development](#). Other trees may also be removed where they have been indicated on the approved plans and not otherwise conditioned to be retained on the Notice of Determination.

3.8 Trees on Public Land

If you have issues with trees on public land phone Griffith City Council's Customer Service on 1300 176 077.

3.9 Trees on Neighbours Property

[Council has no power to order the owner of a tree to remove or prune a tree on their property apart from under the provisions of the Biosecurity Act 2015.](#)

[When a tree is growing on a boundary, ownership is determined by which side of the boundary the centre of the trunk originated, or which side of the boundary, the majority of the trunk's diameter exists \(at ground level\).](#)

If you have issues with trees on your neighbour's property, contact the Community Justice Centre (www.cjc.nsw.gov.au) on 1800 990 777 or via email cjc-info@agd.nsw.gov.au.

If all mediation attempts between neighbours fail, contact NSW Land and Environment Court (www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lec) on 02 9113 8200.

4 Definitions

None

5 Exceptions

~~None~~ [The removal or pruning of trees on Council owned/managed land authorised by Griffith City Council and provided that an assessment of the tree work is carried out in accordance with this policy or in accordance with a plan of management for the land.](#)



[The removal of vegetation by Council in accordance with Council's Tree Policy shall be recorded Council's Tree register.](#)

6 Legislation

[State Environmental Planning Policy \(Biodiversity and Conservation\) 2021](#)
[State Environmental Planning Policy \(Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas\) 2017](#)
[Section 629 of the Local Government Act 1993](#)
[Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979](#)
[Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016](#)
[Local Land Services 2013](#)

None

7 Related Documents

None

8 Directorate

Sustainable Development



Tree Policy PG-CP- 402 (LOCAL POLICY)

1 Policy History

Revision No.	Council Meeting Date	Minute No.	Adoption Date
1	9 Oct 2007	0357	9 Oct 2007
2	9 Sep 2008	0363	9 Sep 2008
3	11 May 2010	0142	11 May 2010
4	13 Aug 2013	0255	13 Aug 2013
5	22 Aug 2017	17/205	22 Aug 2017
6	23 Aug 2022	22/209	23 Aug 2022
7			

2 Policy Objective

2.1 Tree Policy Aims

Introduction

This policy (document) is designed to help residents, property owners, authorities, Council officers, contractors, developers and those working with Council to understand the City's requirements for tree management.

The Policy Aims

1. The aim of the tree policy is to improve the quality of streetscapes, parklands and private land in urban areas within the Council area:
 - (a) Establishing and maintaining maximum tree canopy cover within the City including an optimal level of age and species diversity.
 - (b) Promoting efficient and cost-effective management of the urban trees.
 - (c) Integration of tree management with corporate goals and other policy objectives.
 - (d) Maintaining trees in a healthy condition through appropriate and recognised current practices.
 - (e) Providing criteria for the selection of trees and parklands that provides a more cohesive approach throughout the City.
 - (f) Selecting, situating, and maintaining trees appropriately to maximise their benefit and minimise hazards, nuisance, infrastructure and hard surface damage and maintenance costs.
 - (g) Providing a framework to ensure retention of trees where appropriate through the development process.
 - (h) Residents are to be aware that, when planting trees and shrubs, some areas [within the Griffith LGACouncil](#) have a high salt table.



- (i) Soil erosion should also be taken into consideration at all times and steps taken to overcome it.
- (j) Providing a framework to ensure space for the planting of trees (especially large trees) within the suburban development process.
- (k) Defining a framework and criteria for the listing and management of significant trees.
- (l) Informing and educating the community in regard to public tree management.
- (m) Maintaining an up-to-date computerised tree management system for street trees and trees in public open space.
- (n) Provides a mechanism which places a monetary value on Council's street trees.

3 Policy Statement

3.1 Tree Establishment and Protection for Private Development Sites

The City **considers** trees and vegetation important elements of the physical environment and understands the range of benefits they provide the community.

A fundamental aspect to the successful establishment of the new trees and preservation and management of existing urban trees is the provision of sufficient space to allow trees to grow and develop without conflicting with surrounding infrastructure with private development sites. This includes the protection of established trees from damage when changes to their surrounding environment occur.

Private developers will be **required** to protect large healthy trees through the development process and to set aside landscaped areas for new tree planting.

- (a) Landscaped envelopes that provide sufficient space to facilitate successful tree planting and establishment and will form an integral component of maintaining a treed city. The requirement for landscaped envelopes will encourage developers and residents to provide adequate space and undertake tree planting on private sites.
- (b) To assist with the preservation of established elements of Griffith's urban trees, protection of trees suitable for retention within development sites and those trees adjacent to development sites identified as potentially being impacted by such development will require protection. Property owners therefore will be required to protect identified trees.
- (c) Council will develop and maintain a set of tree protection guidelines (and Development Assessment conditions) to assist with preservation of trees on or adjacent to development sites (refer to "*Tree Preservation Policy*"). The retention of trees identified for preservation will be facilitated by the requirement to establish a Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) during development works. Tree protection zones establish a buffer zone around established trees sufficient for successful tree retention.



- (d) Preparation of a *Tree Management Plan* (TMP) will be required for development applications where retained trees within the site or adjacent the site will potentially be impacted by the development. The development site Tree Management Plan will be required to demonstrate adequate tree protection measures for individual or groups of trees to be retained.

3.2 The Value of Trees

Trees are highly valued in the City of Griffith and there is overwhelming support for the provision of treed landscapes. Trees are important to the liveability and identity of the city and provide a fundamental contribution to the amenity of our streets and parks. Trees are considered valuable as they:

- (a) Soften the built environment and lessen the visual dominance of buildings, creating a more pleasing environment for pedestrians and motorists.
- (b) Provide aesthetic benefits creating seasonal interpretation, providing texture, form, colour and scents which bring our streets to life. Trees can attract fauna and provide wildlife corridors through our villages.
- (c) Add economic value to properties and increase the desirability of a neighbourhood. They increase the attractiveness of commercial areas and can moderate the otherwise stark appearance of industrial areas.

Council places the following monetary values on trees to protect the new and existing trees that are on Council's streets and road verges.

- \$7000 for large established tree over six metres.
- \$5000 for trees between four and six metres and
- \$3000 for smaller trees

Good tree management is based on an understanding of the dynamic nature of the resource, balancing aesthetic and safety requirements, public attitude and perception and Council's commitment to engaging and working with the community.

All trees have a finite lifespan eventually requiring removal and replacement where appropriate. As trees age they require increasing management to maintain them in a safe and attractive condition. Therefore in order to sustain the landscape, maintain safety and meet public expectations, a well managed and coordinated approach is necessary when trees are planted and established, maintained and removed and refer to *Best Practice Manual – Tree and Tree Root Management*



3.3 Tree Assessment

Upon receipt of a request to remove a tree, an authorised, **qualified** Council officer or approved person shall assess the tree for its condition, suitability and significance.

Assessment of condition shall be based on:

- Health
- Structure
- Form
- Useful life expectancy
- Safety
- Damage caused

Assessment of suitability will be based on:

- Compatibility with surrounding streetscape or landscape
- Compliance with any existing streetscape policy or management plan
- Potential to cause damage
- Suitability of species to growing space and conditions

Criteria which **will not** be considered as justifying action:

- dropping of leaves, twigs or other litter,
- overshadowing of property,
- obscures, or otherwise detracts from advertising signage.

A tree will be considered significant if it:

- Has a major impact on the streetscape or landscape
- Has outstanding visual appeal
- Is very large (more than 15 m high or 10 m wide)
- Is very old (more than 40 years)
- Is one of locally rare species
- Provides a habitat for native fauna
- Has historical associations
- Is a remnant specimen

Note: Refer to Best Practice Manual – Trees and Tree Root Management by Statewide and Australian Standard [AS4343-AS4373](#) – 2007: Pruning of Amenity Trees.

3.4 Tree Planting

Replacement of trees is an essential component of the management of Council's tree assets.

The planting of trees on nature strips is an activity which is generally well received by residents and one for which Council receives much praise and very little criticism.



Management issues associated with street tree planting are prioritising of planting sites, planting locations, species selection and post planting maintenance.

3.4.1 Tree Planting – General

Griffith encourages community ownership and pride in public spaces and promotes tree planting as a means of achieving this aim.

To ensure a high level of consistency in tree quality and to assist with tree management:

- (a) Consistent street tree themes are implemented to prioritise community based street tree plans.
- (b) Rationalise inappropriate plantings – remove trees and shrubs that are adhoc or contribute to a perception of an unsafe place.
- (c) All tree planting undertaken on public managed land throughout the City are to comply with the Council requirements contained in this document and other relevant documents (refer to Best Practice Manual - 'Trees and Tree Root Management' by Statewide).
- (d) Tree planting proposed for developments and new subdivisions are to generally comply with the City of Griffith recommended species list and the City of Griffith tree retention, planting and establishment specifications (refer to Best Practice Manual – 'Trees and Tree Root Management' by Statewide).
- (e) Where appropriate, Council will provide advice to community members wishing to plant trees on private land to complement the landscape character of the City.

3.4.2 Tree Planting by Property Owners and Residents on Council Land

- (a) Residents must first seek and obtain permission from Council before planting trees and shrubs within the nature strip, other sites within the road reserve, within a Council managed park or any other public open space.
- (b) Residents can request Council to undertake tree planting within their street or road reserve. Council officers will advise the appropriateness and priority for tree planting and designate suitable tree species based on any relevant site master plan or existing street tree theme.
- (c) Council may be obliged to remove unauthorised plantings in nature strips or other sites within the road reserve, within a Council managed park or any other public open space.



- (d) No compensation will be available to persons for the removal of trees or shrubs planted on Council land without consent.
- (e) Where unauthorised vegetation is required to be removed, Council will generally provide notification to allow residents to remove the vegetation themselves. If a request to remove vegetation is not actioned within four weeks, Council staff or contractors will remove the planted material without further notification.

3.5 Planting Location

Selection of an appropriate planting site is a crucial factor in determining the long term viability and cost effectiveness of a street tree. A poorly positioned tree has the potential to diminish the visual appeal of a streetscape, cause structural damage, become hazardous or require excessive spending on maintenance and pruning.

Planting sites should be chosen to comply with existing landscape character of the street and the preferences of adjacent residents, while allowing for the functional limitations imposed by the street environment.

3.6 Species Selection

Street Tree Species selection shall take into account and be based on the following:

- Existing streetscape character.
- Environmental conditions.
- Growing space and conditions.
- Traffic conditions.
- Scale of the street.
- Existing themes.
- Proximity of underground services.

3.6.1 Utilities and Services

Street Trees shall not be planted:

- Within 1 metre of a storm water drain pipe
- Within 1 metre of a sewer
- Within 1 metre of a residential water supply main including a water service or future connection to water mains.
- ~~Within 2 metres of a fire hydrant or drainage pit.~~
- Within 1 metre of a Utility Provider's inspection pit.
- Within 1 metre of underground electricity cables.
- Within 1 metre of a gas main
- ~~Within 2 metres of a fire hydrant or drainage pit.~~
- Within 3 metres of an electricity pole (except for species which at maturity, have a canopy spread of less than 4 metres and a potential height of no more than 4 metres).



• ~~Gas Mains within 1m.~~

3.7 Traffic Safety

- (a) Trees shall not be planted within 10 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossing.
- (b) Shrubs over 600mm in height shall not be planted within 10 metres of an intersection or pedestrian crossing.
- (c) Only trees with a clean trunk to 2 metres shall be planted at least 10 metres from an intersection or pedestrian crossing.
- (d) Only trees with a clean trunk to 2 metres or shrubs lower than 600 mm shall be planted within 5 metres of a vehicle crossover.

3.8 Planting in Parks

Tree planting in parks shall be in accordance with park management plans. Where no management plan exists and there is community pressure for tree planting in a particular park, the park shall be assessed by the Parks and Gardens Manager and prioritised according to:

- Existing tree cover
- Level of community interest
- Level of park usage

Where planting is deemed to be warranted and no management plan exists, species selection shall be made by Parks and Gardens Manager based on:

- Existing landscape character
- Environmental conditions
- Submissions by residents
- Effect on local fauna Fire Safety

3.9 Trees Planted by Residents

Planting of trees by residents should only be undertaken with the cooperation of Council officers as part of a community planting scheme.

Unauthorised planting of street trees by residents shall be discouraged but recently planted trees shall be allowed to remain provided they are:

- Of a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape,
- Good quality specimens.
- In a suitable location.
- Planted to Council standards.
- Species non-threatening to underground services.



Where a tree does not meet these conditions, the Council may remove the tree or arrange for its appropriate pruning in accordance with Clause 3.4.1(c).

3.10 Tree Pruning Goals

Council trees shall be pruned to:

- Maintain public safety through the removal of structurally unsound limbs.
- Maintain tree health through the removal of dead or diseased material.
- Maintain prescribed clearances from services and traffic thoroughfares.
- Maintain tree form through the removal of misshapen limbs.
- Minimise future work requirements through the removal of potential problems at an early stage.

3.11 Standard

Tree pruning shall be in accordance with Australian Standard *AS4373 - 2007: Pruning of Amenity Trees* for Tree Pruning

3.11.1 Tree Pruning

Griffith City Council will maintain appropriate tree management standards. Any operation that is known to be detrimental to long-term tree health would not be appropriate.

- (a) All pruning undertaken on trees within the Griffith Local Government Area will comply with [AS4343-AS4373 - 2007: Pruning of Amenity Trees](#). This Standard describes methods for pruning of trees and encourages correct and uniformed practices. It is for use on amenity trees and includes formative pruning, hazard reduction, selective pruning and thinning.
- (b) Council will maintain tree clearances in accordance with current and relevant State Government legislation and relevant standards.
- (c) Council will prune under and around electrical services, with overhead pruning to be carried out by the Utility Provider or their agent. Council will assist with clearing.
- (d) If a resident requires the pruning of a Council tree, residents or property owners are advised to request the pruning service be carried out by the Council.
- (e) Residents have the legal right to prune overhanging foliage and branches from a tree, whether public or private that overhangs their property line. However residents must endeavour to undertake any pruning of overhanging trees in accordance with AS 4373-~~1996~~[2007](#): Pruning of Amenity Trees. Council will request residents to notify Council prior to works being undertaken.



- (f) No resident is entitled to remove branches or foliage outside their property line on public land.
- (f) Should residents or property owner damage a Council Street or park tree, make a tree structurally unsound or compromise the aesthetics of the tree through inappropriate pruning, Council will seek reimbursement of the damage for lost amenity and value of that tree.

3.12 Pruning of Council Trees by Residents

Pruning of Council owned trees by anyone other than Council staff or contractors engaged by Council shall not be permitted.

3.13 Clearances

Trees shall be pruned to maintain the following clearances:

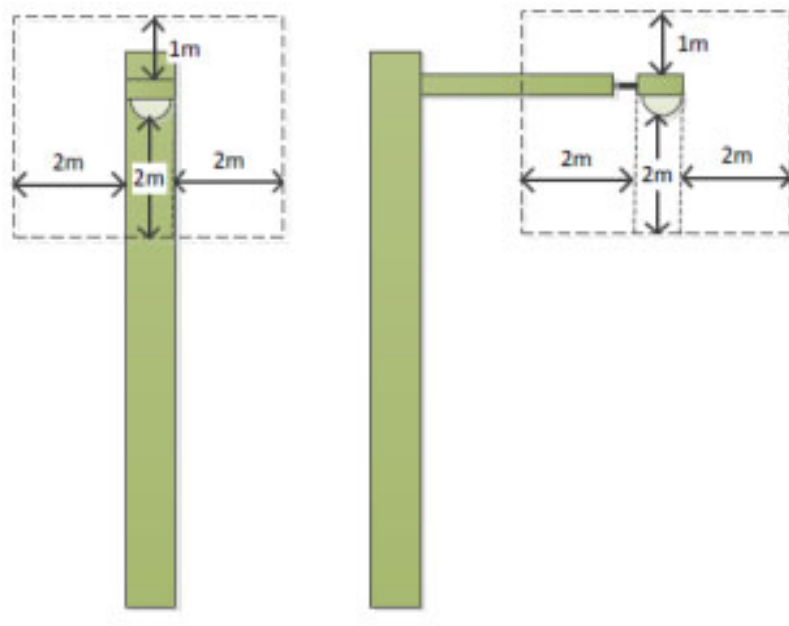
Powerlines:	As per the Utility Provider's Guidelines (see Appendix A).
Footpaths:	2.5 m to lowest foliage or limb.
Driveways:	3.0 m to lowest foliage or limb.
Roadways:	3.5 m at kerb, 4.5 m over road to lowest structural limb.
Street Names:	to be visible from 50 m in either direction.
Traffic Sight Lines:	vehicles approaching an intersection must be visible to pedestrians and other vehicles from the following distances:

Speed Limit (kph) Distance (m)

40	40
60	60
80	80
120	120

Road Signs: must be visible from the distance outlined above.

Street Lights: must be able to radiate clearly to ground level at 45 degrees.
Vegetation trimming clearances for street lights shall be in accordance with the requirement specified below.



Essential Energy Streetlighting Clearances

Maintenance of Vegetation surrounding streetlights is the responsibility of the streetlight owner. Where a streetlight is supplied electricity by an overhead cable, Essential Energy will ensure Vegetation is pruned at least 2m to the sides and underneath, and 1m above, the lantern. Reference – Essential Energy Vegetation Management Plan CEOP8008

3.14 Tree Removals - General

Griffith City Council will maintain healthy and aesthetically pleasing landscape by removing dead, poor performing, hazardous and inappropriate trees.

- (a) Council will only authorise the removal of trees when one or more of the Tree Removal Criteria in the *Best Practice Manual 'Trees and Tree Root Management' by Statewide* are met, [see section 3.3](#). ~~This may include but is not restricted to dead or dying trees,~~



~~trees that demonstrate an extreme public nuisance, trees included in the street tree rejuvenation programs and trees that pose a hazard to public safety.~~

- (b) ~~Residents will request~~ Requests for the removal of a tree within public land ~~by will be considered submitting when~~ a request for removal ~~is submitted to the~~ Council's Parks and Gardens Department. Council ~~will may~~ authorise resident and property owner requests for tree removal when one or more of the criteria set out in the "Tree Removal Criteria" in the *Best Practice Manual 'Trees and Tree Root Management'* by *Statewide* are met.
- (c) As appropriate to the scale of the works, Council may inform and consult with residents and affected persons on street tree removal decisions prior to the works being undertaken in a road reserve. In circumstances where Council decides to inform ~~friends of groups~~, the community **and** residents immediately adjoining or adjacent to the site ("visually" affected by the tree's removal) shall be given fourteen (14) days written notice of the proposed action.
- (d) Residents may make written submissions objecting to the decision to remove a tree, which will be considered before any works occur unless the tree is deemed to be hazardous.
- (e) ~~Compensation will be payable to Council for the economic value of a tree when a resident or developer is granted approval for If a resident or developer requests the removal of street trees on Council's road reserves and streets. to allow development then the~~ The following Table will guide the fee ~~may be~~ payable to Council if the removal is approved within the policy guidelines ~~or by resolution of Council.~~
- \$7000 for large established tree over six metres
 - \$5000 for trees between four and six metre and
 - \$3000 for trees under four metres.

3.14.1 Tree Removals in Parklands and Other Council Managed Land

- (a) As appropriate to the scale of the works, Council may inform and consult with residents and affected persons on the tree removal decisions prior to the works being undertaken in parklands and other Council managed land. In circumstances where Council does inform the community, residents immediately adjoining or adjacent to the site ("visually" affected by the tree's removal), Park Committees and Friends of Groups are to be given fourteen (14) days written notice of the proposed action.

3.14.2 Tree Removal – Dead or Dangerous

- (a) Where a street tree or tree in parkland or other Council managed land is determined by Council or an approved contractor to be dead or diseased Council is not obliged to inform affected residents. The rationale for this is that the tree may be dangerous and therefore pose a hazard to public safety.

3.14.3 Tree Removal Associated with Infrastructure Improvements by Council or Public Authority



There will be instances where utilities, Council and other public authorities require the removal of trees to facilitate the construction of new infrastructure or the maintenance of existing infrastructure.

- (a) When alternatives to tree removal cannot be established and the infrastructure works require the removal of the trees or the works will have detrimental impact on the health and structure of the trees the affected residents may be notified of the proposed tree removal.

3.15 Significant Trees

Significant trees within Griffith City Council will be identified by listing in [a Council's tree register](#) and appropriately managed. Once identified, protection for individual trees or groups of trees within the local government area will be provided as appropriate. Significant trees may include but not be limited to those trees that may be of environmental, historical or cultural, or botanical significance to the City of Griffith.

3.15.1 Significant Trees

Trees which are considered significant shall not be removed unless;

- They are dead or dying;
- They pose a hazard which cannot be alleviated through means other than removal;
- They are causing structural damage which cannot be alleviated through means other than removal.

AND

A thorough consultation process has taken place which shall include:

- Notification in writing to affected residents, community groups and landowners;
- Report to Council;
- A press release to local newspapers;
- An appropriate period for lodgement of objections.

Where the Parks and Gardens Manager has recommended that a tree be removed but has received objections from concerned parties, he/she shall attempt to allay the concerns of the objector or pursue alternatives to removal. If removal remains the preferred option but the objection remains, the matter shall be referred to Council for consideration.

4 Definitions

~~None~~ Street Tree – A tree planted within the road corridor



5 Exceptions

None

6 Legislation

[NoneState Environmental Planning Policy \(Biodiversity and Conservation\) 2021](#)
[State Environmental Planning Policy \(Vegetation in Non-Rural Areas\) 2017](#)

7 Related Documents

Tree Preservation Order Policy – PG-CP-401
[Statewide Best Practice Manual “Trees and Tree Roots”](#)

8 Directorate

Infrastructure & Operations

APPENDIX A – Essential Energy Trees and Powerlines

Trees and powerlines



Improving the way we manage vegetation near powerlines to improve how our communities look.

Why does Essential Energy need to manage trees?

Trees growing into or falling onto powerlines pose a significant safety and power supply risk to our community.

Essential Energy and landowners have shared responsibilities under the *NSW Electricity Supply Act 1995* for preventing trees from impacting electricity network operation.

How are trees trimmed?

Most trees near our powerlines network are trimmed using arborist techniques.

Why does Essential Energy require some trees to be removed?

Trees are only removed where:

- > It is necessary to protect the power lines or safety of persons or property near the power lines
- > Alternatives (such as undergrounding the powerline) are known to not be feasible (including economically feasible)
- > Acting in accordance with our Vegetation Management Plan.

Who will remove the tree?

Where a tree must be removed, Essential Energy employs qualified vegetation management specialists to consult with the tree owner to explain why and how the tree removal must occur.

Tree removal must be undertaken in a safe manner and sometimes this requires powerline de-energisation or road traffic control.

Examples of trees Essential Energy may seek to remove



Poor tree health posing safety risk.



Fast branch regrowth exceeding trimming frequency.



Tree physically unable to live outside of clearance space.




Does not respond to directional pruning techniques.



Aesthetics of the tree after pruning are unacceptable such that it would be more appropriate to fully remove.

APPENDIX A – Essential Energy Trees and Powerlines

Trees and powerlines



How often are trees near powerlines inspected?

Inspection cycle times are dependant upon factors such as rate of growth, possible fire risk, climate and type of vegetation.

Will I be notified if work is required?

Essential Energy will consult with the landholder if vegetation is identified as encroaching upon or has the potential to encroach upon minimum safe vegetation clearances.


Notification of intended vegetation works may include:

- > An initial site inspection to scope required works
- > Discussions with the landholder, either verbal or by Notification letter, advising the scope of work
- > Notification letters provide details of work required and include contact details
- > Landholder notification is provided for works involving tree removal and consent is sought prior to work commencing.

Managing street trees?

Essential Energy will work with Councils in a cooperative manner to ensure effective vegetation management in the best interests of the community as a whole.

Essential Energy will consult with councils where specific street trees are identified for removal.



Scan QR code to learn more.
More information on how and why Essential Energy manages vegetation near powerlines can also be found at essentialenergy.com.au/trees

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

For vegetation enquiries call **13 23 91**
For supply interruptions call **13 20 80**

If you see trees or tall growing vegetation touching or overhanging powerlines, please call Essential Energy on **13 23 91** so we can investigate.

If you see a tree in contact with powerlines following hazardous weather or any other incident, call us immediately and ensure all onlookers remain at least **8 metres clear**.

Comments:

TITLE Outstanding Action Report

TRIM REF 25/47788

RECOMMENDATION

The report be noted.

ATTACHMENTS

(a) Action Report - Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee [↓](#) 33

Roads, Parks & Pathways Enhancement Committee Action Report 26 March 2025				
Date of Meeting	Item	Action/Recommendation	Officer	Comment
26 March 2025	CL05 Presentation - Griffith Dog Park Petition	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Nicola Thoner and Carmel La Rocca that: (a) The Committee note the report (b) The Committee request Council to consider allocating \$50,000 in the 2025/26 budget to provide upgrades to the Off Leash Dog Park, Community Gardens, Griffith.	Phil King	29 April 2025 – Complete Report has been noted, and Council has included a budget bid for consideration in the 2025/26 budget process.
26 March 2025	CL06 Presentation - Petition for The Cleanliness and Revitalization of Our City	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that the Committee endorse the proposed horticultural actions proposed by staff.	Phil King	29 April 2025 – Complete Council staff to proceed with soil tests, fertiliser treatments for both soil and folia.
26 March 2025	CL09 Review of Griffith CBD Strategy	RECOMMENDED on the motion of Councillor Mark Dal Bon and Jenna Thomas that: (a) Council apply for funding for the upgrading of Banna Ave as reflected in the CBD Strategy (b) Council review the CBD Strategy to identify the completed initiatives and consolidate the remaining recommendations into achievable projects with clear objectives and scope of works.	Phil King	29 April 2025 – On Going Council staff have completed the funding submission. Further reviews will be completed of the CBD Strategy to consolidate remaining objectives
26 March 2025	CL08 Review of Policies & Strategies	Mr Savage raised an issue regarding traffic congestion at Crossing Street, Blumer Avenue and Macedone Road during peak travel times and enquired if	Phil King	29 April 2025 – Complete See Questions on notice report presented to

		Council has a strategy in place to manage future traffic congestion. Mr King took this on Notice.		RPPEC meeting 8 May 2025
26 March 2025	CL08 Review of Policies & Strategies	Mr Savage also raised traffic issues at Farronato Road with vehicles performing U-turns, safety concerns at the St Francis bus drop off and pick up locations and turning lanes on Banna Avenue between Crossing Street and Blumer Avenue. Mr King took these issues on Notice and will report back to the Committee and refer appropriate items to Traffic Committee.	Phil King	29 April 2025 – Complete See Questions on notice report presented to RPPEC meeting 8 May 2025