

SIGNIFICANT TREE PROTECTION POLICY

Policy Number:	4.1.8
Approved by	Council
Date Approved/Effective	17 December 2019
Date of Next Review:	1 October 2020
Related Policies:	Urban Forest Open Space
Applicable to Unit(s):	Whole Organisation
Responsible Officer:	Manager Natural Environment and Parks Coordinator Open Space Planning & Support Coordinator Parks Services
Statutory Reference:	Wellington Planning Scheme

OVERVIEW

To protect significant trees and remnant vegetation located in urban areas from the negative impacts of land development (sub-divisions).

THE POLICY

This policy aims to provide guidance to applicants in the design of development proposals to ensure that significant trees/remnant vegetation is assessed and incorporated into development design.

The policy refers to lots of less than 0.4 hectare. Lots larger than 0.4 ha will generally be protected by the native vegetation controls afforded by the Wellington Planning Scheme Clause 52.17.

Definitions

A significant tree is:

- Any tree of outstanding aesthetic quality.
- Any tree outstanding for its large height, trunk diameter or canopy spread.
- Any tree that is particularly old or venerable.
- Any tree which occurs in a unique location or provides a significant contribution to the landscape, streetscape or townscape, including remnant vegetation and important landmark trees.
- Any tree associated with a well-known public figure or ethnic group.
- Any tree commemorating or having association with an important historic event.
- Any tree that is rare to an area (e.g. beyond its normal range of distribution or common cultivation) or is of a rare species or variety generally, including endangered species.
- Any tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature including unusually pruned forms.
- Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock.
- Any tree which forms part of a recognised historic garden, park or town.

Remnant Vegetation is:

- Any patch of indigenous vegetation, around which most or all of the land has been cleared. The patches of vegetation can provide a repository for seed banks, habitat and corridors for animals, aesthetic and scientific values, soil stability, and a reduction in salinity.

Council's policy on the management of significant trees is supported by procedures/guidelines which may be accessed by staff via the Intranet. The responsibility to ensure that the maintenance and implementation of the guidelines accords with Council's policy position is vested in the Manager Natural Environment and Parks. Any matter specifically requiring a Council determination shall be reported by the General Manager Built and Natural Environment.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Wellington Shire Council is committed to upholding the Human Rights principles as outlined in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)* and referred to in Council's Human Rights Policy. The Human Rights Checklist has been completed and this policy accords with Council's policy commitment to uphold human rights principles.

Related Documents

Type:	Details:
Procedure:	
Strategy:	Open Space Plan 2014-2024