

Electricity

Integral Energy (the electricity provider) should be contacted for all trees affected by power wires on community land.

Trees on private property are the property owner's responsibility. Pruning to establish and/or maintain electrical clearances as per Electricity regulation 1995 does not require Council consent, however Council consent for complete tree removal is required.

Gas

Leakages of natural gas from subterranean pipes can cause death of trees and shrubs. Trees nearest the leak are killed first, and as the gas spreads slowly through the soil more plants are killed. Such a problem should be referred immediately to your local gas company.

Septic Tanks

Septic tank effluent can contain toxic substances. Overflow or leakage from septic tanks can water log soils and kill trees. Trees generally die suddenly.

Swimming Pools

Water from swimming pools enters the soil from leaks in the pool or from splashing over the sides. In poorly drained soils this water can 'drown' tree roots, leading to tree stress and consequent insect attack. Addition of chemicals to the water can result in releases of chlorine which can damage the foliage.

Careful consideration must be given to the siting of a pool. Arborists have the expertise to evaluate any impacts a pool may have on existing vegetation and recommend plants suitable for future landscaping.

Trees on public land

All enquires for trees on public land should be directed to Council's Customer Service Centre on 4227 7111. This includes street trees, bushland trees and trees located within parks and reserves.

Trees on private property

Council may only grant consent for tree pruning or removal to the owner of the property on which the tree is growing. The owner is responsible for the maintenance of trees on their property and Council cannot be held responsible. For enquires regarding the Wollongong City Council's Tree Management Permit contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 4227 7111.

Trees on Department of Housing Land

The Department of Housing is responsible for trees on their property, contact your local Department of Housing office for details. All pruning or removal on such land requires Council consent, should a tree or trees require inspection the Department of Housing will apply to Council requesting pruning/removal consent.

Roots in Pipes

State Forests, NSW can assist in identification of roots in drainage and sewerage systems. For details contact telephone: 02 9872 0111.

Consideration should be given to replacement of earthen ware pipes with PVC plastic pipes in order to retain trees.

Bee hives in trees on private property

Contact the Illawarra Amateur Beekeepers Association on 02 9542 3251 for further information on removal.

Trees and boundary fences

Where a tree is growing along a boundary and a new fence is to be constructed consideration should be given to retaining the tree without damaging it and building the fence either side of the tree. If the tree is to be removed Council consent will be required.

Trees on neighbouring property

The owner of a neighbouring property may seek Council consent, on the appropriate form (inspection fee applies), to prune a neighbour's tree back to the boundary if it overhangs their property or if roots invade their property. Consent is required for all pruning, however above ground pruning must conform to AS4373 Pruning of Amenity trees and below ground pruning is subject to tree stability. Legal advice should be sought regarding liability for damage caused by the tree/s or cost of maintenance to the trees. Council will not become involved in neighbourhood disputes. Conflicts may be resolved through the Community Justice Centre on phone number 1800 990 777.

Tree disputes between neighbours are a civil matter and should no agreement between yourself and your neighbour be possible, the matter should be referred to the Land and Environment Court – "Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours) Act 2006". Please refer to the following website for further information.

[http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lec/ll lec.nsf/vwFiles/Trees Information Sheet April revision.pdf/\\$file/Trees Information Sheet April revision.pdf](http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/lawlink/lec/ll lec.nsf/vwFiles/Trees Information Sheet April revision.pdf/$file/Trees Information Sheet April revision.pdf)

Further advice can be obtained from LawAccess NSW, a free government telephone service that provides legal information, advice and referrals for people who have a legal problem in NSW. Call LawAccess NSW on 1300 888 529 between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays).

Noxious Weeds

For noxious weeds growing on private or public land contact the Illawarra Noxious Weed Authority on telephone 4233 1129.

Clothes Lines

When choosing the position of a clothes line, consideration should be given to existing vegetation. Where possible clothes lines should not be sited under tree canopies to avoid insect and bird droppings and sap dripping on clothes. Tree canopies may also promote shade. If a tree is encroaching over a clothes line necessitating regular pruning it may be more economical to relocate the clothes line than to continually prune tree.

Wasps

The native paper wasp is common to the Illawarra region. They are found regularly in gardens on low hanging foliage. Nests are often disturbed by passers-by, ie, when mowing the lawn. The wasp is capable of inflicting multiple stings.

Note: The presence of paper wasp nests in trees is not considered criteria for tree removal. For further information on paper wasps, contact the Department of Agriculture on 02 6272 3933.

Pesticides

Regulation of pesticides at the point where they are applied is a key factor in ensuring that people, property and the environment are protected. Any concerns regarding pesticides should be directed to the Environment Protection Authority on 02 4224 4100.

Disclaimers

This information was believed to be correct at the date of its publication.

This Fact Sheet is for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon for legal advice.