

Wollongong City Council is committed to providing trees to the community through its Green Plan initiative in accordance with its Tree Management Control Plan and Bushcare program.

The right tree in the right place

With good planning and consideration, a tree planted in the right place can be an asset. However a tree planted without adequate planning and consideration for space required by it when fully grown or poor species selection can become a costly liability.

Do I really want a tree?

It is worth considering that the right tree in the right place can provide shade and colour, screen unsightly views, frame pleasant views, provide habitat for birds and animals, provide shelter for other plants, reduce temperatures around homes and other buildings on hot days, reduce mowing maintenance, provide clean filtered air, regulate the water table, control erosion and can increase the value of a property.

Responsibilities for planting a tree

It is responsible to plant the right tree in the right place. Trees should always be planted so that at maturing no branches overhang other properties. Consider that some species of trees are long lived and during the life of these trees ownership of neighbouring properties may change several times. Often overhanging branches may be of no concern to some neighbours however to some they are a source of annoyance and frustration resulting in neighbouring conflict.

Depending upon species selection and soil type, trees should never be planted too close to a house and other buildings. As a general rule a tree should not be planted within three (3) metres of any property boundary, or within five (5) metres of any building, or further away, depending on the species selected to allow for sufficient canopy and root development.

Utilities

Consider the location of drainage and sewer pipes, electrical wires, gas pipes, and water pipes, prior to planting any trees.

Trees rarely break pipes but may take advantage of broken or leaking pipes. Pipes must always be fitted correctly and the location of pipes must be considered before planting a tree. Planting trees under wires is never a good idea, unless the height of the tree when fully grown is known. The tree canopy must not encroach upon electrical clearances when fully grown.

Tree maintenance

Tree pruning work must be in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373-1996 Pruning of Amenity trees. This is to ensure that unnecessary work is not undertaken and that any pruning work proposed is done using sound Arboricultural techniques.

Pruning, pest and disease diagnosis, fertilizing or hazard assessment should be undertaken by a qualified Arborist.

Planting trees on public land

Street tree planting, planting in parks and reserves or bushland requires special care and consideration and is controlled by Council.

Contact the Council's Customer Service Team on 4227 7111 to discuss street, park or reserve planting or the Natural Area Coordinator on 4227 8112 for planting in bushland. Bushcare encourages planting the right indigenous tree in the right place.

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.