

Regulated Tree Maintenance Rebate Guidelines



What is the Regulated Tree Maintenance Rebate?

The City of Marion has many Regulated/Significant trees across its landscape with the majority of these located on private property. These trees offer a range of benefits to the community, support a diverse range of wildlife, cool our streets, provide a connection to our history and contribute to the character of our neighbourhoods.

Accordingly we have established a program to assist and encourage property owners in the City of Marion to maintain these trees. The program recognises that there is much community interest in preserving these trees and provides financial assistance to enable this.

What can the rebate be used for?

The Regulated Tree Maintenance Rebate provides financial assistance for property owners to take action that helps maintain their Regulated/Significant tree. The rebate covers the following

- Arborist report, when works are subsequently undertaken on the tree
- Tree Pruning
- Pest and Disease Control

Who can apply?

Applications for the rebate can only be submitted by property owners of Regulated and Significant Trees as defined by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, *General Regulations 2017* and *Planning and Design Code* within the City of Marion.

Tenants and residents occupying neighbouring properties are not eligible to apply.

What Funding is available?

You can receive up to 50% of the combined costs of the Arborist report and the maintenance works conducted on the tree, capped at \$1,750 per tree.

The rebate comes in the form of a reimbursement payment once the tree report and subsequent works have been **paid in full** and a copy of this payment (Tax receipt) is provided to council from the property owner.

Repeat applications may be considered if they demonstrate that the work being undertaken is required maintenance outlined in an on-going tree management plan.

If you have any questions, please contact the council to discuss your application. This will ensure that you are fully aware of the eligibility of your application and all relevant information is included.

What is ineligible for the rebate?

You cannot get a rebate for:

- Removing a tree
- Works which have previously occurred or commenced prior to approval of your rebate application.
- Repairs to infrastructure, private property or vehicles for damage caused or suspected to be caused by the tree
- Works that have not received Planning consent (if required) or would be considered tree damaging activities as defined by the regulations.
- Arborist report where no subsequent maintenance work on the tree is undertaken

How do I make an application?

The application process involves the following steps

Step 1: Expert Assessment of the Tree

Arrange for an expert Arborist to inspect the tree and provide a tree report.

The report must clearly:

- a) Identify the tree by species and location on an aerial photography map
- b) Describe the immediate work to be undertaken and its effect on the health and safety of the tree
- c) Detail the maintenance/management plan for the tree
- d) Demonstrate that the work is necessary to minimise the risk to life or property, and/or will be beneficial to the long term health of the tree.
- e) State whether development approval is required for the work to occur and why
- f) State the qualifications and experience of the Arborist providing the advice (arborist must hold a minimum qualification of Certificate V in Arboriculture).

Step 2: Seek Development Approval if required

If planning consent is required to undertake works on the tree, please submit a request for approval via the Plan SA Portal. <https://plan.sa.gov.au/>. You must seek approval before you undertake works on the tree.

Step 3: Seek quotes to undertake the works outlined in the tree report

Seek quotes from businesses with a qualified arborist or tree-maintenance specialist that are capable of undertaking the work.

Step 4: Complete the Application Form

Complete the Regulated Tree Maintenance Rebate form available on the City of Marion's website at <https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/regulated-tree-maintenance-rebate-application>. The form requires you to attach the tree report and quotations.

Step 5: Application assessment

Your application will be reviewed by the Arboriculture Coordinator and Open Space Unit Manager. You will be notified of the outcome via email.

The decision is at the discretion of staff and is final with no right of appeal.

Step 6: Undertake the tree works

Once you receive approval from council and Planning consent (if required) you can begin works. All work should be completed by the end of financial year in which the rebate approval notification was provided otherwise funds may be forfeited unless the applicant requests in writing an extension of time which is granted by council staff in writing.

Step 7: Funding payment

Once the works have been completed, submit a copy of the paid tax receipt for both the report and associated works and council will provide the approved funding reimbursement.

Rebate Approval Conditions

The following grant approval conditions apply:

- All work funded by council through this program must be undertaken by suitably qualified and licenced contractors. Funding is not available for tree removal or inappropriate lopping, pruning or works deemed to be 'Tree Damaging Activity' as defined by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*, *General Regulations 2017*, *Planning and Design Code*
- Approval of the funding does not confer any other form of approval (including Development Approval)
- Council reserves the right to inspect and photograph the tree before and after the maintenance/management work is completed and may add it to Council's Tree Management System (Forestreet)
- Any liabilities arising from the works that is financially supported by the council shall attach to the funding recipient and not to the council.