

Why street trees are important

Street trees are valued by our community and will increasingly play an important role in contributing to canopy across our neighbourhoods that will reduce the impacts of urban heat island from increased extreme weather days. They are also important to improving the amenity of our streets and are valued assets to Council.

Integrating street trees with your development

When planning to undertake a development, it is important that you identify the location of any street trees at the outset and factor this into the siting and design of your proposal.

As a general rule your development should:

- not require the removal of a street tree; and
- maintain at least a 2 metre clearance from the base of the tree to any proposed driveway crossovers, stormwater disposal pipes or other underground services located within the Council verge (note Regulated / Significant street tree criteria below); and
- not encroach into any part of a Structural Root Zone of a Regulated or Significant Street Tree (these will vary according to tree size and species); and
- ensure any encroachment into a tree protection zone of a Regulated or Significant Tree does not exceed 10%

A proposed development which does not satisfy the above will be referred to Council's Arborist for an assessment once lodged with Council.

Get preliminary advice first!

Before you spend money designing a development on your land, Council encourages you to understand the limitations on your land and development, if any, imposed by street trees.

You can seek preliminary advice on a street tree prior to designing a proposal by:

- lodging a request online (my.marion.sa.gov.au); or
- calling customer Service on 8375 6600

Please allow a 10-business day timeframe for a response to your query.

Assessment as part of your development application

If a street tree is proposed to be removed (as indicated on any plans) or has the potential to be impacted by a development (due to proximity of infrastructure or a driveway), then the application will be sent to Council's Arborist for advice and recommendation.

Where the removal is deemed acceptable as part of the assessment, Council will advise of the estimated cost of removal and replacement of the tree, so you can make an informed decision on whether to proceed with the current design.

Note that where your property has a Regulated or Significant street tree potentially impacted by your development, then it is in your interest to get an independent Arborist's report to do a detailed assessment of the potential for tree-damaging activity to be caused by the proposed development; and provide a Tree Protection Plan detailing how the tree will be managed and protected during construction.

This will aid Council in understanding the tree's condition, Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and whether the works / level of encroachment can be supported. Reference to the [Australian Standards \(AS 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites\)](#) is essential in any assessment.

Where an approval is issued

Where approval for the removal of a street tree is approved as part of a development, you will need to make contact with Council's Open Space Unit to arrange payment for the relevant replacement tree.

Note that removals will only occur once a Development Approval has been issued for the development (not just a Planning Consent) and the payment has been made. This is to protect you from unnecessary costs and to protect the tree from being removed if the development does not proceed.

You must not remove the tree yourself. Removal and replacement of street trees may only be done by council and it is an offence to remove or damage any street tree.

Council's preference is for replacement planting in front of the property or if not possible, an alternative location (such as a nearby reserve).

Note that for Regulated or Significant Trees, replacement trees are mandated by legislation and this is typically done through payment into the Urban Tree Fund as it is often not possible to plant all replacement trees in front of the property.

Once the Invoice is paid, Council will remove the tree with timing subject to scheduling

(you will be given an approximate timeframe).

Where approval is not issued

Where the removal of a street tree is not supported, Council's planners will advise as such and seek amendments to your proposal that retains the street tree.

If you disagree with the decision and cannot reach agreement on an alternative design or access arrangement with Council's planners, you can write to the Unit Manager, Open Space Operations (council@marion.sa.gov.au).

Your obligations during construction

If a street tree exists in front of your property, then you are obligated to ensure that it is not damaged during the construction of your development. The includes damage arising from:

- removal or breaking of any limbs
- damage to the trunk
- compaction or cutting of root systems

To avoid this, Council recommends that no works occur within the road verge, and there is no parking of vehicles or placement of equipment in proximity of the tree or within the road verge.

Learn More: Street Tree Policies and Resources

- [Interactive Tree Map](#)
- [Tree Management Framework](#)
- [Urban Tree Warriors](#)

Need to know more?

Please contact council for further clarification 8375 6600 or email at devadmin@marion.sa.gov.au