

**Summary of Public Comments and Associated Amendments -
Draft Tree Management Policy**

Comment	Relevant Section	Resolution
<p>Support for a 50% canopy cover target to be endorsed and mentioned at the start of The Policy, as well as support for annual/bi-annual targets and audits of targets</p>	<p>PURPOSE</p> <p>1.5. "Urban Canopy Enhancement"</p>	<p>Council has endorsed the 40% urban canopy target outlined in the Greater Sydney Regional Plan's Green Grid. As such, a point amended in the Objectives to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "To increase and enhance the extent of urban tree canopy throughout the City to the achievable 40% minimum by 2038 set by the Greater Sydney Regional Plan through planting of appropriately selected trees in streets, public spaces and bushland areas." <p>A Section 1.5. was also added detailing Urban Canopy Enhancement, including the 40% target and imminent Canopy Enhancement Program, as well as the chance for pushing a 50% canopy objective upon review of The Policy.</p>
<p>One tree height definition for LGA. Most residents support the 3m Hurstville definition, 1 indicated preference for the 3.5m Kogarah definition.</p>	<p>SCOPE</p>	<p>Currently, the 2 separate DCP's call for separate definitions, when a combined DCP is worked towards from February 2019, one definition of 3m will be discussed at the working group stage.</p>
<p>Include further ecological habitat values for dead trees and especially large, hollow-bearing native trees.</p>	<p>1.1. "Environmental and Ecological Benefits"</p> <p>2.3. "Issues for Consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works"</p>	<p>Added bullet points to encompass hollows for habitat, old, large trees, whether the tree is providing hollows for habitat and the possibility of retaining or 'hat-racking' mature trees.</p>
<p>Confusion around definition of 25sqm in relation to complying development and trees</p>	<p>2.2. "Complying Development and Trees"</p>	<p>Removed conflicting definitions and made the uniform description of '25m2'</p>
<p>Removal of references to transplanting undesirable species and Noxious Weeds Act 1993 (repealed)</p>	<p>2.2. b) Exempt Works</p>	<p>Removed reference to transplanting weeds in first point.</p> <p>Replaced mention of Noxious Weeds Act 1993 in the third point to:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Trees recognised as Appendix 1 and 2 Priority weeds for the Greater Sydney Local Land Services Region under state legislated Biosecurity Act 2015”
Add point advising not to perform tree works due to natural use of tree from bird or bats	2.2. c) “List of Works to Trees That the Council May Not Grant Approval”	Point added reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce litter from fauna naturally inhabiting the tree.
Concern that old, dead trees are always removed instead of retained, where possible. Reference to “Removal of dead wood and dead trees” as a Key Threatening Process” in NSW causing loss of biodiversity.	2.3. “Issues for consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works”	Two bullet points added or amended, reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any contribution the tree makes to the local ecosystem and biodiversity, such as providing hollows for habitat. • Where hollows are present in expired native trees, the possibility of retaining the brunt of the tree’s form is explored in suitable areas such as public reserves.
Reference old, dead trees and wildlife corridors and prioritising old-growth trees	2.3. “Issues for Consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works” 3. “TREES IN STREETS”	Added or amended bullet points to encompass wildlife corridors identified in Council’s Vegetation Mapping Report 2018 and importance of old-growth trees.
More frameworks for what happens towards the end of a tree’s life when excessive branches are dropping and tree is partly dead. Reference made to mature Eucalypts in median of Kitchener St, Oatley.	2.2. “List of Works to Trees That the Council May Not Grant Approval” and 2.3. “Issues for Consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works”	Point added or amended in 2.2., now reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce litter occurring through the shedding leaves, fruit, bark and small branches as part of a normal living function of the tree 2 bullet points amended or added in 2.3., now reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size, health and age of the tree and whether the tree shows poor shape and shape/vigor typical of the species and whether this poor shape is a result of inappropriate pruning by an external authority.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to the tree following a significant storm event and whether this damage compromises the integrity and structure of the tree.
<p>Support for the clarification and creation of a Significant Tree Register to tie in to the monitoring and compliance in illegal removal of mature trees. This STR is suggested to be included as a mapping layer with GPS co-ordinates for trees.</p>	<p>2.3. b) Compliance</p> <p>Mention also made throughout document.</p>	<p>The creation of a STR has been approved and its creation has commenced. Will be completed prior to the 12 month review, preferably also prior to the Georges River DCP.</p>
<p>More methods suggested for enforcing compliance, incl: community notification (letterbox drops with letter notifying neighbours of vandalism and replacement measures), on-site investigation by TMO's or Compliance, follow-up auditing and maintenance of Significant Tree Register.</p>	<p>2.3. "Issues for Consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works"</p> <p>b) Tree Vandalism and Penalties</p> <p>c) Compliance</p>	<p>Note added to 2.3. b) reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Where a street tree is recognised to have been vandalised, Council will circulate nearby letter box drops, informing the community of the vandalism as well as steps to preventing and reporting tree vandalism." • Section 2.3. c) added titled 'Compliance' with detail on approved compliance measures including further on-site investigations and desktop monitoring of digital mapping software and Significant Tree Register. Reference to be made back to this section in the document, particularly under • Section 4.4. 'Tree Replacement Program' and Section 5.5. 'Conditions of Consent for Trees'.
<p>Support for view-blocking Tree Vandalism signage to be erected where vandalism is proven, as well as foreshore protection zones.</p>	<p>Potential 'Compliance' section following 2.3. b) Tree Vandalism and Penalties</p>	<p>An expansion of Foreshore Scenic Protection Zones into the previous Kogarah LGA is being currently explored by consultants. The possibility of Tree Vandalism Signage is being discussed with Assets and Infrastructure and will be potentially added as part of the policy review following the new DCP.</p>

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<p>Very large street trees need attention due to their impact on sunlight, footpaths, fences, underground utilities and leaf litter. Reference made to mature Eucalyptus in Carwar Avenue, Carss Park.</p>	<p>3.2 "Street Tree Pruning and maintenance"</p> <p>2.3. "Issues for Consideration in the Assessment of Tree Works"</p>	<p>Bullet point added to 'risks' stating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "damage to public and private infrastructure, including footpaths, boundary fences and underground utilities." <p>Reference also made to existing point in Section 2.3. reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Whether the tree is the identified cause of structural damage to a building, ancillary structure, water main or sewer and if all alternative options of remedying the damage have been considered"
<p>Add measures to inform surrounding residents of intent to remove street tree/s.</p>	<p>3.3. "Request for Tree Pruning and Removal"</p>	<p>Conference with Tree Management Officers resolved that signs on trees are already used for single street tree removal, and letter box drops are used for co-ordinated street removals. In some cases, such as mass street tree removal undertaken by AusGrid, public notification and local newspaper articles are pursued.</p> <p>In any case, two points were added to 3.3., reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Notification of residents in the street will be undertaken via a letter-box drop in the event that a co-ordinated removal of numerous street trees is approved. Notification will take place 10 days prior to the scheduled removal to allow for comment." • "Notification via a sign placed on the tree is undertaken where a single street tree is approved for removal."

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Include mention of Council's stance and role in neighbourly requests for tree removals similar to City of Sydney's TMP	4. "TREES ON PRIVATE LAND"	Added note to Section 4, reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Applications for the removal or pruning of a tree in a neighbouring property will not be accepted without the tree owners' written consent, as a signatory on the Tree Permit. The City does not resolve disputes between neighbours."
Specific area measurements needed instead of the vague 'sufficient' for the bullet point: <i>"Sufficient landscape area and deep soil planting areas must remain to allow for replanting of replacement trees"</i> as well as a point mandating retention of soft surface cover on DA sites	4.2. bullet point 4	Discussion of specific areas to be had with Council staff during working group phase of the new Georges River DCP. Suggestion will be made for 20% of the property or 10% of the building footprint, whichever is higher. Will be potentially added upon 12 month review of the Policy.
Support for 4:1 tree replacement ratio for both private land and development sites.	4.4., 5.2. & 5.5.	Council has supported the 2:1 replacement ratio at this time. Therefore, Section 4.4. was amended with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Replace the tree at a ratio of 2:1 with advanced approved species (45L or greater) with at least one to be established on the property and maintained to maturity. The remaining tree may be planted elsewhere using the offset fee described in the following point." Section 5.2. was amended with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "A separate tree plan clearly showing all trees to be retained, removed and/or transplanted at the required 2:1 ratio and each tree numbered"
Add methods to expand and enforce Tree Protection Zones on complying development sites to include the extent of the canopy drip-line.	4.2. "Development and Trees" 5. "TREES AND DEVELOPMENT SITES" 5.2. "Information Required for the Assessment of Trees on Development Sites"	Appendix 2 has detail on Aust. Standards of Tree Protection Zone's on development sites as being "12 x trunk diameter (DBH) when measured at 1.4 metres from ground level" however this detail is not reflected in other Sections of the Policy.

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		<p>Thus, amendments have been respectively added, reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing prominent trees should be retained and incorporated as part of the design within an enforceable Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) being 12 x trunk diameter (DBH) when measured at 1.4 metres from ground level. • Details and estimates of Tree Protection Zones (TPZ's) being 12 x trunk diameters (DBH) when measured at 1.4 metres from ground level and Minimum Setback Distances for each numbered tree • “..where there is an encroachment into the calculated Tree Protection Zones (TPZ's) being 12 x trunk diameter (DBH) when measured at 1.4 metres from ground level.”
<p>Higher penalties for destruction of trees: \$8,500 per tree, being: \$6,000 + \$2,500 proposed cost, as well as enforced tree replacement of 2:1 ratio</p>	<p>Georges River Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges 2018/19, not listed in The Policy.</p>	<p>Currently Penalty Notices are issued under the Environment Planning and Assessment Act NSW 1979 which range from \$1,500 for an individual up to \$6,000 for a corporation. Any damage or vandalism to a tree is classified as unauthorised works. This does not take into account the age or size of the tree and whether it is a significant species to the area.</p> <p>The imminent Significant Tree Register will alleviate some of this difficulty by having a tree on the Register defined as an Asset requiring a Development Application for works, and thus will be treated as such in the case of unapproved works.</p>

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		<p>The \$2,250 offset fee is taken from the current fee: 1.21 'Deposits for damage during construction' for security against compliance with tree preservation requirement /conditions. As this fee stands, it will apply for the 2018/19 FY, with discussion to be had increasing it for FY 19/20 upon the 12 month review of The Policy.</p>
<p>Reference wildlife and vegetation corridors and the importance of engaging residents and stakeholders in assisting in vegetating/preventing de-vegetating these corridors</p>	<p>1.5. 'Urban Canopy Enhancement</p> <p>3.5. 'Role of Street Trees as Wildlife Corridors'</p> <p>3.6. 'Trees in Parks'</p> <p>4.7. 'Role of Community Engagement in Urban Canopy Enhancement'</p> <p>5.7. 'Protection of Trees within Development Sites in Identified Biodiversity Corridors'</p>	<p>Numerous sections added to also be in-line with recommendations from the Vegetation Mapping Report 2018, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referencing the 40% minimum urban canopy target and methods to attain it. • The role of street and park trees in vegetation and wildlife corridors. • The role of private landowners in targeted areas and what these areas are, plus how they will be targeted and assisted in vegetating their properties. • Additional importance of trees in identified corridors on development sites and protection measures for them, including a Significant Tree Register.