



Maribyrnong
CITY COUNCIL

Significant Tree Register (Nomination) Policy 2021



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Introduction

Maribyrnong City Council is committed to protecting its significant trees, safeguarding its natural and cultural heritage and growing the City's urban forest to capture the many benefits of trees in the urban landscape. Ongoing growth and development has resulted in the removal of some large trees in private open space which if continued has the potential to change the character of the landscape and reduce the aesthetic, social and environmental benefits that trees provide.

Growth and development in the City makes it timely to further consider the protection of significant trees on private land in Maribyrnong.

A register to protect significant trees and tree canopy in the city for future generations is vital to safeguard the city's natural and cultural heritage and preserve and enhance the many benefits of trees in the urban landscape.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Establish Maribyrnong City Council's strategic direction for protecting significant trees.
- Provide a technical framework for decision making and documentation to ensure consistency in the identification of significant trees.
- Outline an effective community engagement process for seeking nominations to the Significant Tree Register.

Scope

This policy applies to all trees on private land within the City that meet the National Trust's Significant Tree Criteria (Detailed in Table 1).

Definitions

Term	Definition
Private land	Any land not under the control of Council, State or Federal Government.
Tree Protection Zone	A specified area above and below ground and at a given distance from the trunk set aside for the protection of a tree's roots and crown to provide for the viability and stability of a tree to be retained where it is potentially subject to damage by development.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for this policy belongs to:

- Director Corporate Services
- Manager City Places
- Manager Operations and Maintenance

Policy

Maribyrnong City Council is committed to providing a high-quality living environment for ratepayers, residents and visitors and is taking action to increase tree and vegetation cover across the City. A significant tree register will protect trees, preserving canopy cover on private land and maintaining the character, heritage, environmental and landscape characteristic of the neighborhood.

Some trees, through age, size, and rarity of planting or association with aboriginal, cultural and historical events achieve a higher level of importance than others on private land, and Council is committed to acknowledging their significance.

Key Stakeholders

- Residents/Property Owners
- Developers and Planning Consultants
- City Planning and Strategic Planning Units
- Operations and Maintenance Unit
- Environment and heritage groups

Related Legislation

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Maribyrnong Planning Scheme – Heritage Overlay

Maribyrnong Planning Scheme – Clause 55.03 Site Layout and Massing (Landscaping Objectives)

Related Documents and Procedures

Significant Tree Register 2021

Street Planting Strategy 2013

Open Space Strategy 2014

Urban Forest Strategy 2018

Policy Procedure

The policy will support the Significant Tree Register. The Register lists significant trees on private land that have been assessed against the National Trust's Significant Tree Criteria.

Any person can nominate a tree located on private land within the municipality. Trees can be nominated in writing at any time. Trees on public land cannot be nominated.

Following a public nomination period, Council will, when necessary, conduct a survey of potentially significant trees through a specialist expert to ensure a comprehensive coverage of trees is considered.

Nominated trees will be assessed by an independent expert who will determine whether the tree meets the specified criteria (Table 1).

The independent expert will determine whether the tree is worthy of inclusion; assessing condition, risk and useful life expectancy of the tree within the landscape.

Once a sufficient number of suitable trees have been identified, Council will consider controls to protect the trees from inappropriate pruning and development.

The Significant Tree Register will be reviewed every 4 years to assess any new nominations for inclusion on the register, and to remove trees from the register, if required.

Table 1: Significance Criteria – based on National Trust Significant Tree Criteria

Criteria	Description
Horticultural or genetic value	<p>Any tree which is of horticultural or genetic value and could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure. This could include Australian native, locally indigenous or exotic tree species.</p> <p>A tree or group of trees that are of ecological or environmental significance. These trees may provide habitat value or contribute significantly to a greater habitat corridor.</p>
Unique location or context	The tree or trees occur in a unique location or context, providing a unique contribution to the landscape.
Rare or localised distribution	Any tree of a species or variety that is rare, or is of very localised distribution. This could include a threatened indigenous or endemic

	species within its locality, end of natural range, disjunct community or a rare exotic specimen
Particularly old specimen	Any tree that is particularly old or venerable.
Outstanding size	The outstanding size of a tree will relate specifically to the tree species and may vary considerably depending on height, canopy spread or diameter at breast height.
Aesthetic value	The tree is a particularly well-formed example of the species that is in a location that makes it striking in the landscape. The loss of a tree in this category would result in a substantial change to the local landscape.
Curious growth habit	Any tree which exhibits a curious growth form or physical feature such as abnormal outgrowths, natural fusion of branches, severe lightning damage or unusually pruned forms.
Historical significance	The tree is of importance in the culture and natural history of the City of Maribyrnong. Any tree commemorating a particular occasion, individual or associated with an important historical event may be considered in this category.
Connection to Aboriginal culture	A tree associated with aboriginal activities or culture. For example scarred or corroboree trees.
Outstanding example of species	Any tree that is an outstanding example of the species at an international/ national/ state/ regional/ local level or of particular aesthetic value.
Remnant	Any tree that is likely to predate European development of the area. This puts the trees in the region of 100-200 years old.
Outstanding habitat	The tree is observed to have significant hollows for avian fauna or is clearly being used as a major food source for fauna.

Nominations Process

Nominations can be made in writing at any time by sending a nomination to:

Manager City Places
Maribyrnong City Council
PO Box 58
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Or by email to cd@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

The nomination should provide as much information as possible, including contact details of the nominee, the property address and location of the tree (e.g. front or rear yard), photograph, tree species, approximate age and why the tree is being nominated (in accordance with criteria outlined in Table 1).

Review of Policy

The Significant Tree Policy shall be reviewed every 4 years from the date the register is finalised/adopted in line with a review of the Significant Tree Register. The review will also consider the recommendations of the Planning Panel Report for Maribyrnong Planning Scheme Amendment C163.