Policy W16 – Street Tree Removal

1. Policy Intention

Trees are an asset which contributes to the wellbeing of the community and the natural environment. This policy focuses on the protection of trees and provide guidelines to provide a process to be followed when evaluating the need for street verge tree removals in the urban areas, within the Shire of Murray (Shire).

2. Policy

(a) Street trees are a valuable asset of the Shire, that should only ever be removed as a last resort.

(b) Before trees are removed, an evaluation will be undertaken on the road condition or its location in the road reserve. Only trees that present a safety hazard or are causing significant deterioration to the road pavement shall be removed, and only after all avenues have been explored to contain and direct root growth.

(c) Wherever possible, where roots encroach into the road pavement, roots shall be root ground or root pruned using sound arboricultural practices'.

(d) Trees will not be removed unless authority has been given by the Chief Executive Officer or the Director Infrastructure Services.

(e) Where tree removal is necessary, properties within twenty metres of the tree shall be informed via a letterbox drop.

(f) Where it becomes necessary to remove the tree, a replacement tree may be planted and where practical the adjoining landowner shall be asked to care for it until it is established.

If a replacement cannot be planted in the immediate vicinity the replacement tree will be planted as close to that location as practically possible.

(g) Where development occurs, it is expected that all necessary measures will be undertaken to preserve street trees when designing access ways to lots. In instances where the design does not permit retention of the street tree, and all retention attempts have been exhausted developers will bear the full removal and replacement cost.

- Options such as transplanting and replacements with advanced trees will be considered by the shire at the cost of the developer.

(h) Requests for removal of street trees from the public will only be considered when submitted in writing to the Director Infrastructure Services. Trees will not be removed for the following reasons:

- leaf, flower, nut, twig and generally naturally occurring litter;
- to establish or enhance views;
- personal species preferences; or
- to enable additional sunlight for Solar Panels.

(i) Tree pruning of street trees from power lines is undertaken to meet statutory

requirements.

(j) Tree pruning carried out as required to remove branches overhanging private property.

(k) Trees will not be pruned to prevent shading of Solar Panels.

Policy Detail		
Responsible Directorate	Infrastructure Services	
Responsible Department	Engineering	
Responsible Officer	Manager Engineering	
Next Policy Review / Schedule	2026 (3-yearly)	
Council Adoption	**Date / Resolution**	29 April 1999 (OCM99/129)
Amendment Record	**Date / Resolution**	27 March 2003 (OCM03/058)
		22 February 2007 (OCM07/023)
		29 April 2010 (OCM10/077)
		26 July 2012 (OCM12/149)
		26 June 2014 (OCM14/077)
		19 December 2019 (OCM19/270)
		23 June 2022 (OCM22/070)