NEW OR REPLACEMENT STREET AND NATURE STRIP TREES

COUNCIL POLICY NUMBER 106

Date Adopted 17 October 2017
Scheduled for review November 2018

PURPOSE

To provide appropriate criteria to assess the planting of new or replacement street and nature strip trees within the Shire of Campaspe’s commercial and public park and recreation and urban and rural-residential zones, as defined by the Campaspe Planning Scheme.

In order to sustain streetscapes, public park and recreation areas, trees need to be planted, established, maintained and sometimes removed. Planning and consultation is required to facilitate each of these processes. This document provides an overview for the management of streetscape, nature strip and open space areas that will include guidelines for

- Species selection and maintenance
- Procurement,
- Pruning, AS 4373 / 2007
- Removal & root management
- Consultation & inclusion

To establish and maintain policies and procedures for the effective and efficient planting of new or replacement street and nature strip trees in commercial, public park and recreation and urban and rural-residential zones. It is not intended to apply to trees on private property or reserves.

Generally, this policy will be the mechanism through which trees removed under Policy 46–Removal of Street and Nature Strip Trees are replaced. The provisions of this policy are intended to allow for the maintenance and managed increase of the Shire’s tree population.

Trees are valuable community assets that positively impact the amenity and wellbeing of the Campaspe community. Trees are the most significant form of vegetation used in the urban landscape. They benefit residents, commuters and visitors visually, emotionally and physically by defining and softening streetscapes, trees also provide shade and protection to pedestrians and infrastructure. Trees take considerable effort, cost and time to establish. The Shire of Campaspe tree planting policy seeks to enhance amenity by demonstrating strategic thinking, to provide and maintain functionality, reinforce sustainability and to involve the community.

Wherever possible trees should be replaced and new plantings in Council’s commercial and public parks and recreation zones should be planned for by Council’s Parks and Gardens team on an annual basis. Trees should not be removed without significant justification.

POLICY STATEMENT

1. Constraints to be Considered

The following practical constraints impact on the planting of new or replacement street trees:

a. Annual budget allocations for all tree planting will generally be spread across the Shire towns on the basis of requests received.
   i. If all funds are not fully allocated by the cut-off date, remaining funds will be distributed in accordance with the waiting list on basis of the date the application was received
   ii. If all funds are fully allocated, and more than one tree is requested, the customer can fund the supply and planting of the additional tree/s providing that the application meets all other requirements under this policy

b. Physical Location:
   i. Size of nature strip
ii. Presence of overhead power lines or underground services
iii. Sight distances at intersections
iv. Applicable Streetscape Plan requirements
v. Any Heritage Overlay requirements
vi. Specific avenue of species in nominated streets – subdivision requirements, established tree avenues, etc.

c. Cut-off date for requests for the current year’s planting cycle is February, to allow our trees to be ordered.
d. Planting period: Optimum planting time is May to August.
e. Suppliers: The quantities, available size and species will depend on available stock from suppliers in any season. Two (2) months is the recommended lead time for ordering winter stock.
f. Budget: This will be considered in determining the total number of trees to be planted annually.
g. Watering of **nature strip** trees will be the responsibility of landowners who, when making an application for a new or replacement nature strip tree commit to water the tree on a weekly basis, or as required for the establishment period of at least 12 months. This is particularly important to ensure that tree losses and replacement costs are minimised.
h. Council’s Parks and Gardens team will maintain responsibility for the watering and care of all **street trees within Council Parks and Commercial areas**. This is particularly important to ensure that tree losses and replacement costs are minimised.
i. Street and nature strip trees will be provided to replace dead or damaged trees, thereby continuing to improve the character, image and amenity of the shire, consistent with the philosophy of this policy.
j. Notification of trees identified for replacement may come directly from the public or be identified by Council staff through the course of their duties.

2. **Request Process for Nature Strip / Street Trees**

Generally one tree will be planted per normal frontage and two per normal sideage, unless special circumstances exist as determined by the Arboriculture Officer.

Applications requesting a new or replacement nature strip / street tree:

a. Can be made at any time of the year;

b. Will be dealt with in date order of receipt;

c. Should be made on Council’s official Application Form, “New or Replacement Street Tree”;

Formal notification is to be provided to applicants in writing.

Applications received by the end of February will be prioritised for inclusion in the current year’s planting program. Where stock is not available the application will be deferred to the planting program for the future year.

3. **Street Tree and Nature Strip Tree Planting Program**

When it has been established that the street tree or nature strip tree request meets the relevant requirements, the following process shall apply:

a. The Arboriculture Officer will compile an Annual Street / Nature Strip Tree Planting Program, considering applications for either the current Planting Program or the Deferred Planting Program based on the date the application is received by Council.

b. The Arboriculture Officer will assess the site suitability for the requested tree species. A recommendation will then be made with regard to the species and suitable numbers. When planting new/replacement nature strip trees a single species avenue planting will be considered for optimum aesthetic value. Where the new/replacement tree is a nature strip tree the Arboriculture Officer will notify resident of site assessment and conformation of tree species and the number that are to be planted.

c. Where the new/replacement tree is a nature strip tree the Arboriculture Officer will provide formal notification to the owner and occupier if their tree request has missed the current program advising of the deferred status or declined status. Council reserves the right to refuse planting based on constraints outlined.
d. Relevant Planning Approval shall be obtained by the Arboriculture Officer (when required), e.g. Cultural, Environmental & Heritage area controls.

e. Where available Trees will be planted out as semi advanced stock.

f. Information regarding the care of your tree will be left in your letterbox on the day of planting.

4. **Street Tree Risk Management**

Council recognises its duties and responsibilities in the management of risk associated with its street tree assets and this will be conducted in accordance with council’s risk management policies and strategies as per AS/ NZS 31000:2009 “Risk Management”

Public safety will be maintained through the use of generally accepted professional practices of tree assessment and treatment in order to reduce risk associated with hazardous trees to an acceptable level. A program utilising a systemic tree assessment and “best practice” management to mitigate risk will be actioned along with the continued collection of accurate & current documentation.

5. **Other Considerations**

If any street or nature strip tree is required to be removed, follow the requirements of Policy 46 – Removal of Street Trees.

When Council removes a street tree the requirements of Policy 46 will be met.

A replacement tree will be planted in an appropriate location to ensure that tree numbers are maintained throughout our commercial and public park and recreation areas.

Quarterly articles are to be placed in Council’s newsletter / weekly newspaper supplements advising of the Street Tree Planting Program. A follow up article to advise of finalised program and the total number of trees to be planted.

6. **Forms**

Forms to be used with this policy:

- Application for New or Replacement Nature Strip / Street Tree.
- Approved Nature Strip Trees

**EXCLUSIONS**

This policy is not intended to apply to trees on private property or reserves.

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

This report has considered and complies with the Human Rights and Responsibilities contained in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Street Trees**

trees that form part of the street scape within the commercial and public park recreation zones

**Nature Strip Trees**

trees that are planted on the nature strip in the urban and rural residential zones within the municipality

**Commercial, Public Park and Recreation and Urban and rural-residential zones**
as defined by the Campaspe Planning Scheme

**RELATED LEGISLATION**

**Related Policies**

Policy 46 Removal of Street and Nature Strip Trees

**ATTACHMENTS**

Application for New or Replacement Street Tree
Approved Nature Strip Trees
REVIEW PERIOD

One year

APPROVAL HISTORY

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<th>22 March 2007</th>
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<td>12868 (item 9.5)</td>
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Chief Executive Officer

Dated 25/10/2017

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Public Environments Manager