



FAQ SHEET - STREET TREES AND PRUNING

OVERVIEW:

This information sheet answers some of the common questions posed to the Town about the pruning of street trees. It will also provide some insight into the reasoning behind Council's decisions in this area.

1. A tree out in front of my house needs a prune, can just anyone do this? Can I do it myself?

No. As each street tree is a Town asset, much like a footpath or a road, only authorised persons can prune it. The Town invests large amounts of time, effort, and money into its street trees and ensures that only qualified horticulturalists or arborists work on them. This is important, because if not done correctly, this can damage the health of the tree by introducing disease, stunting growth, or ruining the future shape of the tree.

2. Will the Town come out and do the pruning for me?

At present, the Town only prunes trees for ongoing survival of the tree, and safety of the public, not necessarily for its looks. While this is the goal, sadly in the past, trees have been poorly looked after, or damaged, and it takes a long time to bring the tree back to good health and its proper shape, if at all. To do that, we manage our large number of trees in a sustainable, and affordable manner; including pruning trees growing under power poles and conducting 'under pruning' to clear branches above footpaths, as well as general 'dead-wooding' which is the removal of older and/or dead branches. These activities typically happen once to twice a year depending on growth and potential risk.

3. If the Town won't do it for me, can I get someone in to do it?

Yes, and the process is quite simple. All that needs to happen is for you to contact Town in the form of a request that includes your reasons for wanting to prune the tree the extent of pruning you believe is necessary. We will review this, and if deemed acceptable, and is in keeping with our efforts to promote the future growth of the tree, we will give conditional approval and share with you contact details for our nominated contractors from whom you can gather quotations. While there is no requirement to use these particular contractors, if you have another company you would like to engage, this must first be approved by the Town to check qualifications, insurance cover, and past work.

4. I hear other Councils fine residents for tampering with trees, does Mosman Park do this?

A tree is as important to the community as a footpath or any other public asset, and as such, removing, cutting or damaging trees would be considered as damage of public property, and yes legal action may occur. While this has happened in the past, it is not in the best interest of the community, and is avoidable if we all do the right thing. We do, however, take action against companies that illegally operate on the Town's trees, or remove them without permission.

5. I have watered and looked after the tree since it went in, shouldn't I have a right to prune it?

We of course appreciate everyone who helps out and takes pride and care in their own streets, but as the Town is ultimately responsible for the tree in the long term, any measures to cut, water, prune or change the tree or the surrounding verge should be approved by the Town beforehand.

6. I would like a new street tree, how do I go about this?

We are more than happy to promote a green, leafy suburb, and look for opportunities to plant trees in both streets and parks. Please contact us for more information.

7. I don't like the street trees in my street, or the one proposed to be planted outside my house, what else can I chose?

For consistency, we try to have only a select variety of native trees throughout the Town – no more than one or two types for each street. This is to create avenues, and to ensure that maintenance can be done on a systematic basis. Trees are outlined in the Street Tree policy, and attempt to draw a link with the history of the area, their aesthetic appearance, their water and pruning demands, and overall growth rate. Trees are long term assets, and changing tree types continually means that substantially sized trees never grow, as people and their preferences change. As such streets, are essentially 'locked-in' to certain tree types, species and spacing's for the long term, and should only be reviewed every 30 or so years. That being said, it is unlikely you will be able to have a different species on your verge, other than those in the policy and guidelines.

Tree species selection

Native and non-native trees have been selected based on their attributes and offering to the streetscapes across the Town. More detailed information on tree species selection is available in the Street Tree Masterplan.

The native tree species proposed for use as street trees within the Town of Mosman Park are:

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Agonis flexuosa	(WA Peppermint)
Callistemon sp.	(Bottlebrush)
Eucalyptus nicholii	(Narrow Leaf Peppermint)
Melaleuca raphiophila	(Paperbark)
Melaleuca quinquinervia	(Paperbark)
Corymbia ficifolia	(Red Flowering Gum)
Corymbia maculata	(Spotted Gum)
Casuarina	(Casuarina)

The exotic tree species proposed for use as street trees within the Town of Mosman Park are:

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Pyrus sp.	(Ornamental Pear)
Erythrina sykesii	(Flame Tree)
Platanus acerifolia	(Plane Tree)
Sapium sebiferum	(Chinese Tallow)
Liquidambar styraciflua	(Liquidambar)
Jacaranda mimosifolia	(Jacaranda)
Delonix regia	(Poinciana)

8. I would like to remove a tree from my verge for a new driveway or similar, how can I do this?

You will need to apply to the Town by filling out a **Request for Tree Removal Form**. On this you will be asked some information regarding the tree, and reasons behind your request. Approval is granted on a case by case basis, and approval may also require planting of a new tree elsewhere to compensate for the loss. This form can be found on the Town's website at www.mosmanpark.wa.gov.au, or from the Town's Administration Centre.

9. I can't wait for the Town of prune my verge tree through power lines, what else can I do?

When you have an urgent concern regarding a street tree on Council verge that may require power line clearance. Western Power can be contacted directly to escalate the pruning of the street tree on Council verge and leave the branches in situ, the Town will then have the pruning's removed. Please visit Western Power's website for further information: <https://westernpower.com.au/>

More Information?

If you would like further information, please contact the Town of Mosman Parks Technical Service Department on 9383 6600 or email admin@mosmanpark.wa.gov.au