

CITY OF GREATER DANDENONG COUNCIL TREE REMOVAL/RETENTION CRITERIA

The City of Greater Dandenong's trees are important for our future: to help adapt to climate change, provide much needed shade and provide habitat for our wildlife. Council has set a vision to establish and manage a healthy, green and resilient urban forest that is well managed, protected and provides benefits to the community.

Greater Dandenong's current tree canopy is one of the lowest in Melbourne so Council have committed to planting more trees in public spaces, retaining as much existing canopy as possible and establishing a clear criteria for tree removal for both Council and developers.

However, there are times when a trees needs to be removed. Council have now set some clear guidelines about when it is acceptable for Council to remove a tree and when it is not.

Council **will not** remove trees for the following reasons:

1. Reducing/eliminating leaf litter or tree debris
2. To establish and maintain turf on nature strips
3. To reduce overshadowing and/or preservation of solar access
4. To satisfy unjustified private property damage claims.

Council **may** remove trees for the following reasons:

1. If the **tree is declining or dead** - to maintain a healthy urban tree population or for ecological restoration.
2. If the **tree is dangerous** - when trees pose an unacceptable risk to human health and safety or infrastructure.
3. If the **tree is causing excessive damage**, which cannot be rectified with contemporary arboricultural techniques, or to facilitate approved development and infrastructure improvements.
4. **As a response to emergency**, such as a burst water main, or storm events

Council's qualified arborists will assess the need to remove a tree based on the presence of one or more of the following criteria:

1. The tree is dead or in severe decline (low useful life expectancy).
2. The tree or tree group poses a very high risk potential that cannot be corrected by pruning, transplanting or other contemporary treatments. In this case, the tree risk assessment qualification or equivalent tree risk assessment method used by qualified arborists must identify that the tree or tree group pose an unacceptable level of risk.
3. All efforts to develop a technical solution to preserve the tree or tree group are considered, and a cost-benefit analysis is completed showing that the implementation of the technical alternative will not be cost effective.
4. After appropriate investigations, the tree is found to be substantially contributing to damage to public or private property and no other viable means are available to rectify the situation.
5. The tree or tree group is infected with an epidemic insect or disease where the recommended control is not applicable and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission.
6. The tree or tree group is recognised as an environmental woody weed species.
7. The tree or group of trees is included in Council's street tree renewal program action plan.

For further information visit greaterdandenong.com/trees