



<b>Policy Title</b>	Tree Management Policy
<b>Policy Category</b>	Operational
<b>Number &amp; Version</b>	SVC – ENG – PO - 065
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Asset, Planning & Design
<b>Approval by</b>	
<b>Effective date</b>	
<b>Date for review</b>	September 2020

### 1. STRATEGIC PURPOSE

The Tree Management policy establishes an intent for the management of trees on Council managed public space, property and reserves.

### 2. POLICY STATEMENT

Snowy Valleys Council (council) has a duty of care to take reasonable measures within budgeted resources, to manage risks arising from trees under Council control.

The Tree Management policy provides direction to ensure a balance between managing the risks to the community's safety and infrastructure, and acknowledgement of the significant benefit trees have within the landscape to the social, environmental, economic and cultural wellbeing of the community.

### 3. DEFINITIONS

**Tree** - Any tree or large shrub that is a long-lived woody perennial plant, greater than (or potentially greater than) three metres in height with one or relatively few stems

**Tree Management** - Includes all activities for the planting, maintenance, replacement of trees both in physical work and administration

### 4. CONTENT

#### 4.1 Value of Trees in Communities

- i. Council recognises the high value trees contribute to the urban and rural landscapes
- ii. Council will seek to retain and preserve trees that add value to the communities amenity and identity where it can
- iii. Priority will be given to public safety over amenity and environmental issues
- iv. Council will seek to register significant trees within the national tree register

- v. Council will identify areas of significance and develop a tree management strategy identifying significant trees within the community

#### 4.2 Tree Management

- i. Council resources to permit inspection and risk rating of trees on a proactive basis
- ii. Council will respond to customer requests regarding tree defects through assessment of tree health and prioritisation on a risk assessment basis
- iii. Assessment of tree condition will be undertaken utilising the international Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) methodology
- iv. Determination of priority of identified defects of trees will be based on Council's *Risk Management Framework*
- v. Pruning works are a preferred management option to preserve trees where hazards can be addressed in such a manner
- vi. No maintenance of council managed trees is to be undertaken without the consent of Council
- vii. Council will not be obliged to treat pests and disease, including termite infestations, within land under Council control
- viii. Council will not remove trees solely for the retention or provision of solar access to, or views from, dwellings, or if someone feels the tree/s inappropriate'
- ix. Council will develop and maintain a *Tree Management Procedure* detailing
  - Methodology for rating the risk from each tree
  - Methodology for determining if works are required
  - Methodology for determining how works are to be prioritised
  - Notifications of works with the community
  - System for recording all actions relating to tree management

#### 4.3 New Trees

- i. Planting of new trees will consider appropriateness of the species to protect the wellbeing of the community as well as protection of property and infrastructure
- ii. No planting of new trees within Council public space, property or road reserves is permitted without the consent of Council
- iii. Council will develop and maintain a *Tree Management Strategy* outlining approved species list ensuring appropriate planting suitable for the area

### 5. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION

Local Government Act 1993  
Roads Act 1993  
Civil Liability Act 2002  
Civil Aviation Safety Regulations 1998, MOS part 139

### 6. ASSOCIATED COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

Snowy Valleys Council Development Control Plan – Draft  
Enterprise Risk Management Framework - SVC –RM – Pln – 002 - 01  
Tree Management Strategy – Draft  
Tree Management Procedure - Draft

## 7. HISTORY

Date	Action	Name	Policy Number	Resolution Date	Resolution Number
8/8/19	Superseded	Tree Management Policy ( Former Tumut Policy)	Road.15 v1.0		
8/8/19	Superseded	Street and Open Space Tree Management Policy (former Tumbarumba)	TSC-ENV- Plan_022-01		