



Draft Tree of Significance Fund Guidelines 2024/2025

Introduction

The City of Vincent (City) Strategic Community Plan 2022 – 2032 (SCP) sets the strategic direction, priorities and aspirations for the City. A key objective of the SCP includes ensuring “*our urban forest and canopy is maintained and increased.*”

The Trees of Significance Inventory, adopted in 1999, aims to protect trees of significant value within the City of Vincent and is an important strategic initiative in achieving the objective of the Strategic Community Plan to maintain and enhance the natural and built environment.

The function of the Trees of Significance Inventory (Inventory) is to provide an active document for the City to recognise a valuable natural resource and to establish long-term plans for the conservation, enhancement, maintenance and integration of this natural resource into Vincent's inner urban fabric. The Trees of Significance Inventory is linked to the City's Local Planning Scheme No.2 (LPS2) which provides for the protection of trees that are considered worthy of retention.

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide a comprehensive framework relating to the application and administration of the Tree of Significance Fund (Fund).

Statutory Authority

Trees that are listed on the Inventory require development approval for any works in accordance with LPS2 (see below).

61. Development for which development approval not required

- 1) *Development approval is not required for works if-*
 - a. *the works are of a class specified in Column 1 of an item in the Table; and*
 - b. *conditions are set out in Column 2 of the Table opposite that item - all of those conditions are satisfied in relation to the works.*

	<i>Column 1 Works</i>	<i>Column 2 Conditions</i>
1A.	<i>Works to remove, destroy or interfere with any tree(s).</i>	<i>(a) The tree is not listed on the City of Vincent Trees of Significance Inventory.</i>

Definitions

All terms used in this Policy are defined in the *Planning and Development Act 2005, Planning and Development (Local Planning Schemes) Regulations 2015* (Regulations), Residential Design Codes (R Codes) and the City's LPS2, unless stated otherwise below.

Arborist Report means a report produced by a person who has obtained a minimum of Australian Qualification Framework Level 5 Certification in Arboriculture (AQF5 Arborist) or equivalent qualification. The arborist report has information that concerns the health, value and general state of the tree, the structural root zone and tree protection zone, and a Tree Management Plan that outlines the methodology to preserve the tree.



Maintenance pruning is the pruning that:

- a. Involves removing dead or diseased wood only; or
- b. Is the first pruning of the tree in the calendar year and affects less than 10% of the canopy, not altering the overall shape of the canopy; or
- c. Is of a fruit tree and done for fruit production; or
- d. Does not include removing limbs with a diameter of 100mm or more; or
- e. Is otherwise minor maintenance or thinning of the crown that does not adversely affect the health or general appearance of the tree, or is to balance the tree; and
- f. Is undertaken in accordance with the standard for Pruning Amenity Trees ASNZ4373.

Owner of a Tree of Significance is the owner/s of a property for which the tree is located. This can include the trunk, canopy or root zone.

Primary Owner of a Tree of Significance is the owner of the land that contains the majority of the structural root of the zone of the tree.

Qualified Arborist means a person who has obtained a minimum of Australian Qualification Framework Level 5 Certification in Arboriculture (AQF5 Arborist) or equivalent qualification.

Structural root zone means an area specified in Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites (and its successive Australian Standards updates), around the base of a tree required for the tree's stability in the ground.

Tree Protection Zone is an area specified in Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites (and its successive Australian Standards updates). This is the area above and below ground for the protection of a tree's roots and crown from development, to provide for the viability of a tree that is to be retained.

Trees of Significance/Significant Tree means any tree(s) listed in the City's Trees of Significance Inventory.

Eligibility Criteria

All **Owners** of trees listed on the Trees of Significance Inventory are eligible for financial assistance for work associated with the listed tree through the City's Trees of Significance Fund. This can include:

- Remedial pruning;
- Crown thinning, pest control or the like;
- Advice from the City's arborist; and
- The provision of advice from qualified arborist.

Operation of the Tree of Significance Fund

The Fund is managed by the Community Development Policy and supported by these Guidelines. The City runs the Fund throughout each financial year, at its discretion, until funds are exhausted.

Unless listed as exempt under **Local Planning Policy: Trees of Significance**, all works to a Tree of Significance require development approval. Refer to the Policy for further information.

For the **2024/2025 financial year**, the City will pay for and undertake works associated with the maintenance of a tree listed on the Inventory, provision of DRP advice and the preparation of an arborist report.

Where the City pays more than \$1,000 for any tree, the owner must enter an agreement to repay the City if the tree is removed within a 5 year period and in the City's opinion the tree could have been retained.



Relevant Legislation

[Planning and Development Act 2005](#)

[Planning and Development \(Local Planning Schemes\) Regulations 2015](#)

[City of Vincent Local Planning Scheme No. 2](#)

Local Planning Policy: Trees of Significance

Do you have any more questions?

Applicants can discuss their proposal with the City's Urban Design and Strategic Planning team.

They are available to talk at the City's Administration Building Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm, in person or on the phone.

Phone: 9273 6000

Email: mail@vincent.wa.gov.au

Address: Main Administration Building, 244 Vincent Street, Leederville 6007, WA