

FAQ: Pruning for tree health, structure and longevity

Local Government Tree Management Guidelines – March 2019

The Native Vegetation Council has developed guidelines to help local government to better manage trees on council owned and managed land in accordance with the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017. This includes managing trees to maintain their health and longevity.

Note: These guidelines do not apply to clearance associated with road safety. For clearance in these circumstances, please refer to the Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation.

Regulation 11(25) – Ecological restoration and management of vegetation.

Under the guidelines, local councils are permitted to undertake pruning works to maintain the trees health, structure and longevity. Prior to pruning, the local council must address the following questions.

When is pruning considered?

- To preserve the long term structure of the tree (reducing potential for significant structural collapse).
- To promote formation of lower secondary canopy.
- To enable the long term retention of trees with very high biodiversity value within urban / peri-urban landscapes.
- To promote the elite individual *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* trees within areas of dense germination. *Note: Only applies in instances where trees are less than 10 years of age, irrespective of size.*

What must be assessed?

- veteran tree status
- regulated / significant tree status
- culturally significant status
- potential canopy reduction points
- existing habitat for hollow dependent fauna
- opportunity for installing further hollow habitat
- long term retention value
- ability of the tree to respond positively to veteran pruning works
- a maximum of 50% of an area containing dense *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* germination less than 10 years old (irrespective of size) in previously developed parkland and other urban areas.

How will the pruning be done?

- selective clearance of upper and mid canopy
- vascular restricting action for the purpose of managing epicormic response growth
- removal of heartwood for the purpose of crafting nesting hollows
- selective clearance of inferior *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* progeny for the purpose of promoting the elite individual.

Reporting to the Native Vegetation Council

An annual clearance summary is to be provided to the Native Vegetation Council at the end of each calendar year.



For more information

Refer to: Native Vegetation Council Local Government Tree Management Guidelines

Visit: www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation

Contact: nvc@sa.gov.au



**Government
of South Australia**