

# Council Tree Removal/ Retention Criteria

Frankston City Council



*Lifestyle Capital of Victoria*



Council is committed to protecting and maintaining a healthy and resilient urban forest. The urban forest enhances the liveability of our City and fosters strong community connections with nature. Trees provide many local benefits helping us adapt to climate change, providing much-needed shade and providing habitat for our wildlife. Council has set a vision to achieve a healthy and diverse urban forest that is well-planned and well-maintained.

Council has adopted an Urban Forest Action Plan, which sets the target of achieving a treed canopy cover of 20% across the municipality by 2040. Council has 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.

It is important to understand there will be circumstances where tree removal is an acceptable management option. Tree removal may occur due to poor tree health and human safety, to protect existing infrastructure, to facilitate approved development or rejuvenation of an area, to maintain a healthy urban forest or for ecological restoration.

Council have now set clear guidelines about when it is appropriate for to remove a tree and when it is not.

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

1. Reducing/eliminating fallen leaves, twigs, fruit and flowers. These are considered normal and expected tree behaviour.
2. To establish and maintain turf or other plantings beneath the tree
3. To reduce overshadowing and/or preservation of solar access
4. To satisfy unjustified private property damage claims.
5. Perceived nuisance created by use by wildlife

Council’s qualified arborists will investigate the request to remove a tree on Council land or in response to an application based on the following criteria:

1. The tree is dead or in severe decline (low useful life expectancy) and provides no recognisable wildlife habitat benefits.
2. The tree exhibits 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 poses an unacceptable level of risk.
3. All efforts to develop a technical solution to preserve the tree has been considered, and a cost-benefit analysis is completed, showing 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 is infected with an insect or disease where the recommended control is not applicable and removal is the recommended practice to prevent transmission.
6. The tree is recognised as an environmental or noxious weed species.
7. The tree is included in a street tree renewal program.

