

Tree Retention and Protection

This Information Sheet is intended to assist with the requirements of Arboricultural reports during land use change.

An Arboricultural Report and/or Tree Protection Plan (TPP) may be requested by the City of Armadale as part of its role administering the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Planning Development Act 2005*. Reporting is to be in keeping with the processes identified in the Australian Standards AS4970 'Protection of Trees on Development Sites' 2009.

Arboricultural reports and TPP's are used to support the retention and protection of trees and/or provide the rationale for tree removal. They can assist the developer determine if the removal of trees elicits any environmental legislation.

The report/s assist in achieving the model Subdivision Condition EN2 which states; "Measures being taken to ensure the identification and protection of any vegetation on the site worthy of retention that is not impacted by subdivisional works, prior to commencement of subdivisional works".

As well as demonstrating compliance with *Local Planning Policy PLN 2.4 Landscape*

Feature and Tree Preservation, Council policies *ENG 6 Street Tree Management*, *ENG 21 Strategic Environmental Commitment* and the *Local Government Guidelines for Subdivisional Development* (DPLH, 2017).

Note: Other surveys may also be required to achieve model Subdivision Condition EN2.

When are Arboricultural Reports Required?

A Preliminary Arboricultural Report (PAR) may be requested in response to the following circumstances.

- Following identification of environmentally significant pocket of vegetation within the development area.
- as a condition of a development approval (DA) or subdivision application.
- to support an on-ground works applications (such as bulk earthworks or civil works).

- To achieve subdivision clearances.
- to support the removal of a street tree or trees otherwise marked for retention.
- to support the removal of remnant vegetation protected under Town Planning Scheme No. 4 (TPS4).

Steps for tree retention and protection

1. Engage an AQF Level 5 Arborist (or international equivalent qualification) to complete a tree survey and PAR to inform design.
2. Submit the PAR with relevant plans to the City for review and approval.

Tree Retention

3. Liaise with City Officers as early as possible to discuss proposed tree retention and / or removal.
4. Where there is native vegetation and / or native trees, an Environmental Consultant may need to be engaged to ensure compliance with EP Act 1986 and EPBC Act 1999.
5. An AIA and TPP must be submitted and approved by the City where there are trees to be retained within the development.
6. Install TPZ fencing as per TPP and Arborist directions.
7. Request City Officers to inspect fencing.
8. Ensure compliance with the TPP by all contractors on site.

9. Appropriate tree care must be provided for retained trees to maintain tree health.

Tree Removal

10. If trees are required to be removed, investigate opportunities for salvaging timber or transplanting of trees.
11. Prior to the removal of trees or the clearing of vegetation, a Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan must be submitted to the city for approval.
12. The supporting documentation is also required to provide City officers with confidence that the legislative framework associated with native vegetation removal in this region (EPBC Act 1999 – as relates to MNES – Black Cockatoo habitat or Potential Breeding habitat, BC Act 2016, EP Act 1986) has been addressed.

Types of Arboricultural Reports

Arboricultural reports and TPP's must be prepared by an AQF Level 5 Arborist (or international equivalent qualification) and must comply with Australian Standard AS4970-2009.

1. Preliminary Arboricultural Report (PAR)

A PAR is the minimum requirement when submitting a DA, sub-division and/or civil works application, or tree/s removal request.

The report must include:

- All trees on site or those with Diameter Breast Height (DBH) > 200mm.
- Genus, species, and common name.
- Health and structural condition.
- Habitat potential
- Amenity value and significance in the landscape.
- Estimated retention value.
- Calculated Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) and Structural Root Zone (SRZ).

It should also consider how the trees can be incorporated into the development design and provide the rationale for removal.

2. Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) details the potential impacts of a development on the retained trees.

The AIA should include strategies to minimise the risks of negative impacts during the sequential stages of development that the trees may be subjected to and include a Tree Protection Plan (TPP).

It should provide guidance and instruction to all parties to assist in the protection of trees for the course of the development.

3. Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

A TPP is a drawing showing the TPZ's and protection measures for all the retained trees.

- TPP is required to be submitted in support of Civil / Landscape Design applications.
- It is required **before** work commences on site.
- The TPP must be displayed on-site and include the name and contact details of the Project Arborist (PA).
- The TPP must be included in all development and construction documentation.
- The TPP can be submitted as part of the Construction Environment Management Plan (CEMP).

Submission of Arboricultural Reports

Reports must be submitted and approved by the City prior to any works commencing on site.

Ensure all trees and vegetation are marked on all plans.

Evidence of tree retention and protection measures will be required. This can be submitted during and after construction for a streamlined clearance process.

Protection of Trees on Development Sites

Tree protection measures include a range of activities and structures.

The tree protection zone is an area that is designated for protecting retained trees during construction and development.

TPZ's should be created in accordance with the standard unless otherwise determined by the PA.

Fencing

Fencing of retained trees should be in accordance with *AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites*.

Fencing should be installed prior to any machinery or materials being brought on site and remain until the completion of works.

Signs identifying the TPZ should be placed on the fencing visible from within the development site.

Activities restricted in the TPZ

- Storage of materials, equipment, or vehicles
- Unauthorised excavation or trenching
- Wash down or cleaning of equipment.

Refer to AS4970-2009 for a complete list of restricted activities.

Works within the TPZ and SRZ

A Project Arborist (PA) must be consulted prior to any incursions into the TPZ. Any works or access within the TPZ should be guided by the PA.

The PA doesn't necessarily need to supervise every incursion into the TPZ, although a logbook of incursions may be required to be on site for the duration of the development.

Photos may also be required depending on the advice for the PA.

Any canopy or root pruning required within the TPZ **must** be approved and supervised by the PA.

Ensure pruning of roots, and / or canopy is correctly pruned in accordance with AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees.

