



**MORNINGTON
PENINSULA**
Shire

COMMITTED TO A
SUSTAINABLE
PENINSULA



Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy



Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy

This policy is a tool developed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to specify appropriate and consistent vegetation management guidelines for road reserves under Council control. It applies to streets within the township environment and complements the Mornington Peninsula Shire Road Management Plan (2005).

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Ensure that the community's needs for access, amenity and safety are met.
- Ensure that vegetation in a road reserve is compatible with infrastructure.
- Protect the ecological, landscape and cultural heritage significance of existing vegetation.
- Improve the long term management of trees and vegetation on road reserves under Council control.
- Enhance the local landscape character of townships.
- Ensure existing roadside vegetation is maintained and kept in a healthy and safe condition.
- Provide clarity for Mornington Peninsula Shire staff, Service Providers and the community with regard to the management of vegetation within Council controlled road reserves.

This policy was adopted by Council on September 11, 2006, following a period of public exhibition and community consultation, beginning in February, 2006.

The primary responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Infrastructure Maintenance Unit, although the assessment of requests and the enforcement of this policy rest with a number of different units of the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Corporate Framework

Vision

This policy is consistent with Council's vision for the municipality. Mornington Peninsula Shire is committed to a 'Sustainable Peninsula' by achieving outcomes that are environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. The Shire's Sustainability Framework provides guidance to ensure sustainable outcomes are delivered through Shire policies and strategies.

The Shire values the unique characteristics and community lifestyles of the Mornington Peninsula and this policy will ensure that these distinctive features are maintained and enhanced through;

- Promoting a safe and healthy community.
- Improving water, soil and air quality.
- Reducing impact on climate change.
- Encouraging active citizenship and inclusive local democracy.
- Further improving the ecological value of roadside vegetation.

Mission

The policy's primary role is to provide a framework to ensure that vegetation planted within road reserves under Council control is done so in a controlled and sustainable manner. It will assist Council in undertaking its mission to:

- Provide sustainable services and infrastructure that respond to the needs of our diverse communities; and
- Sustain and enhance the biodiversity of our unique natural environment, whilst managing and accommodating appropriate development.

Values

Consistent with the Shire Values this policy will assist Council towards:

- Open and effective community consultation.
- Ecologically sustainable development and resource management
- Caring for diverse communities.
- Responsible stewardship in managing community assets.
- Demonstrating its accountability to the community.

Policy Context

This policy operates in a legislative environment which recognises the importance of protecting cultural and environmental heritage characteristics of vegetation within townships, whilst at the same time minimising public exposure to unacceptable risks. Relevant legislation and reference documents for the policy are as follows.

Related Legislation

- o Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (1999)
- o National Heritage Trust of Australia Act (1997)
- o Heritage Act (1995)
- o Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (1988)
- o Road Management Act (2004)
- o Electrical Safety Act (1998)

Related Documents

- o *'Protection of Significant Trees'*, National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (2005)
- o *'Landscape Assessment Guidelines for Cultural Heritage Significance'*, Heritage Victoria (2002)
- o *Advisory List of Rare or Threatened Plants in Victoria*, Department of Sustainability and Environment (2005)
- o *'Australian Natural Heritage Charter: Standards and Principles for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance'*, Australian Committee for IUCN (1997)

- *Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance*, Australia ICOMOS (1999)
- *AustRoads Guide to Traffic Engineering Practise, Part 5: Intersections at Grade*, Austroads (2005)
- *VicRoads Traffic Engineering Manual, Volume 2: Signs and Markings*, VicRoads (2004)
- *Revegetation and Landscaping with Indigenous Plants* (Series of seven brochures), Mornington Peninsula Shire (2005)
- *Guide to Indigenous Plants and Problem Weeds of the Nepean Peninsula*, Mornington Peninsula Shire (2001)
- *Indigenous Plants of the Mornington Peninsula*, Mornington Peninsula Shire (2001)
- *Weeds of the Mornington Peninsula*, Mornington Peninsula Shire (2001)
- *Mornington Peninsula Shire Road Management Plan*, Mornington Peninsula Shire (2004)

Key Policy Statement

Through this policy Council and residents will be able **to provide and manage street trees and indigenous vegetation in road reserves that reflect the character of townships while being compatible with community needs and localised infrastructure.**

Key outcomes of the policy include the development and implementation of clear management processes that coordinate all Shire officers and residents who have a direct role in managing and modifying Township street trees and indigenous vegetation. This will in turn ensure that the long term management of vegetation within road reserves under Council control will be enhanced.

Scope

This policy applies to all Council controlled road reserves within the Township environment as defined by the urban growth boundary identified in the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme. It specifies appropriate and consistent street tree and vegetation management guidelines and is related to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Road Management Plan (2005). The policy will provide direction and clarity for Shire Officers, Service Providers and the local community and will ensure that the community's needs for access, amenity, safety and sustainability are met.

Strategy

Strategic Objective 1

To ensure that roadside vegetation will enhance the local character of townships.

The selection of the 'right' street-tree or vegetation stands may be based on many issues including neighbourhood and landscape character, conservation and heritage values, defining township entry points and pedestrian precincts.

- Action 1.1** All planting of street trees and vegetation, undertaken by residents, Council officers or Service Providers within Council controlled road reserves, shall be done so in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines contained within this policy.
- Action 1.2** Residents may be permitted to "step outside" these guidelines in exceptional circumstances. Permission from Council in the form of a permit is required for those residents seeking to undertake works which are not in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy. Please refer to Attachment 2: Permit for Landscaping/Planting on Nature Strips or Road Reserves.
- Action 1.3** No resident shall plant and landscape (create 'nature strip gardens') within the road reserve.
- Action 1.4** Action 1.3 does not apply to established gardens within the road reserve. However, where the free access of pedestrians and other road reserve users is restricted by inappropriate planting or landscaping, Council officers shall where necessary, and at their discretion, act to ensure that safe zones for pedestrians are reinstated.
- Action 1.5** Prepare and implement an annual street tree planting program, which includes a specific program for replanting high profile roads.
- Action 1.6** Identify existing tree avenues and significant landscape units within township road reserves to ensure appropriate management practises are undertaken.
- Action 1.7** Continue to map all high value indigenous and remnant understorey vegetation to improve maintenance practises and outcomes.

Strategic Objective 2

To ensure Mornington Peninsula Shire staff, Service Providers and the wider community are aware of the content and rationale of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy.

- Action 2.1** Development and distribution of a series of fact sheets relating to the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy to increase community awareness of the requirements and processes to be followed.
- Action 2.2** Provision of information through Peninsula Wide and the Shire's website.
- Action 2.3** Provision of information to the community through the activities of Infrastructure Maintenance and Service Providers.

Strategic Objective 3

To ensure that street trees and roadside vegetation are compatible with infrastructure.

The potential exists for street trees to damage local infrastructure, such as underground pipes, overhead powerlines, and footpaths. Often this occurs because an inappropriate tree species has been planted in an unsuitable location. Likewise, building infrastructure can damage existing street trees and their root zones if the infrastructure is established in an inappropriate location.

- Action 3.1** Ensure that all planning applications relating to vegetation and street trees within Council controlled road reserves, including applications for cross over installations, are assessed in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines contained within this policy.
- Action 3.2** Annually review and update those components of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy that relate to street tree location.
- Action 3.3** Develop a program for the removal and replacement of unsuitable trees impacting on overhead powerlines in accordance with the Electrical Safety Act (1998).

Strategic Objective 4

To ensure that existing roadside vegetation is maintained and kept healthy allowing the ecological, landscape and cultural heritage values of the vegetation to be retained.

This requires consideration of the age and health of the vegetation, and appropriate management of pests and diseases. The ecological, landscape and cultural heritage significance of the vegetation should be assessed at the time that maintenance and replacement programs are planned with local communities.

- Action 4.1** Commence a Tree Risk Audit program and establish and maintain an asset register of street trees which may pose a significant risk to public safety.
- Action 4.2** Establish and maintain a register of ecologically and/or culturally significant street trees and/or ecological vegetation classes. This may include indigenous trees, or trees significant because of their cultural and/or heritage value.
- Action 4.3** Develop and maintain an annual works program based on the outcomes of actions 4.1 and 4.2.

INDEX OF ATTACHMENTS

DEFINITIONS.....	8
TOWNSHIP STREET TREE AND VEGETATION GUIDELINES	10
1. Tree Planting by Residents.....	10
2. Street Tree Species Selection	11
3. Street Tree Location	12
4. Street Tree Maintenance - Pruning.....	14
5. Street Tree and Vegetation Removal.....	17
SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS	21
PERMIT FOR LANDSCAPING WORKS	23
Mornington Peninsula Shire Urban Growth Boundary	24

DEFINITIONS

Alternative Tree Species	A species that is not indigenous to the area that it grows in. Includes plants native to Australia (but not indigenous to the local area) and exotic species.
Cultural Heritage Significance	This significance of an individual tree, group or avenue of trees for past, present or future generations, based on an assessment of heritage values. A tree, group, avenue etc may have cultural heritage significance even if not listed as a heritage tree. For example, it forms part of a listed place, or has not yet been formally assessed.
Ecological Vegetation Class	Categories of distinct vegetation types based on differences in broad landscape features and environmental regimes. EVC's can consist of one or a number of floristic communities that exist under a common regime of ecological processes within a particular environment at a bioregional or broader scale.
Environmental Weed	Environmental weeds are weeds that threaten natural ecosystems (e.g. reduce biodiversity). They are capable of invading native plant communities and out-competing native species - resulting in a reduction of plant diversity and loss of habitat for native fauna.
Exotic Tree Species	A species occurring in an area outside its historically known natural range as a result of intentional or accidental dispersal by human activities.
Grass	Includes grasses, sedges, rushes. Have a large number of leaves arising from a common base or clump.
Ground Cover	These plants generally have stems which lie flat on the ground. Also includes herbaceous plants (a plant with very little or no wood).
Heritage Tree	A tree whose cultural heritage significance has been recognised by inclusion on one of the following lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- National Heritage List- Victorian Heritage Register- National Trust of Victoria Significant Tree Register- Heritage Overlay, Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme (individually listed tree)- Heritage Overlay, Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme (tree control)- Mornington Peninsula Shire Significant Tree Register

Heritage Values	One or more of the values that make up cultural heritage significance: aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, cultural, historical, scientific or social.
Indigenous (species)	A species which is a part of the original fauna or flora of the specific site being considered and which resides within the ecological vegetation classes of the Mornington Peninsula.
MAPS	Mornington Peninsula Attributed Maps System.
Remnant Vegetation	Any patch of native vegetation around which most or all of the native vegetation has been removed. It may include corridors or islands of vegetation located on land with a variety of tenure.
Nature Strip	The primary function of a nature strip includes movement of people, provision of property access, and as linear alignment for the provision of utilities and drainage; they also provide a significant network of ecological corridors enhancing the isolated and fragmented remnant bushland.
Shrub	Includes woody plants that are less than 5 metres in height. Often multi stemmed.
Streetscape Amenity	Aesthetical values of the street environment which, when combined, distinguish the overall amenity of a road or group of roads. These values include streetscape character, structure, existing and potential view lines, provision of shade and shelter and colour characteristics of the vegetation within the road reserve.
Township Environment	That area of the Mornington Peninsula Shire contained within the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme Urban Growth Boundary as indicated on the map included on page 26 of this document. This includes land within the Residential 1 Zone, Low Density Residential Zone, Business 1, 4 and 5 Zones and Industrial 1 and 3 Zones, and to all other land within the township areas of the Mornington Peninsula.
Tree	A plant that has a height of greater than 5 metres, and generally a single trunk.

TOWNSHIP STREET TREE AND VEGETATION GUIDELINES

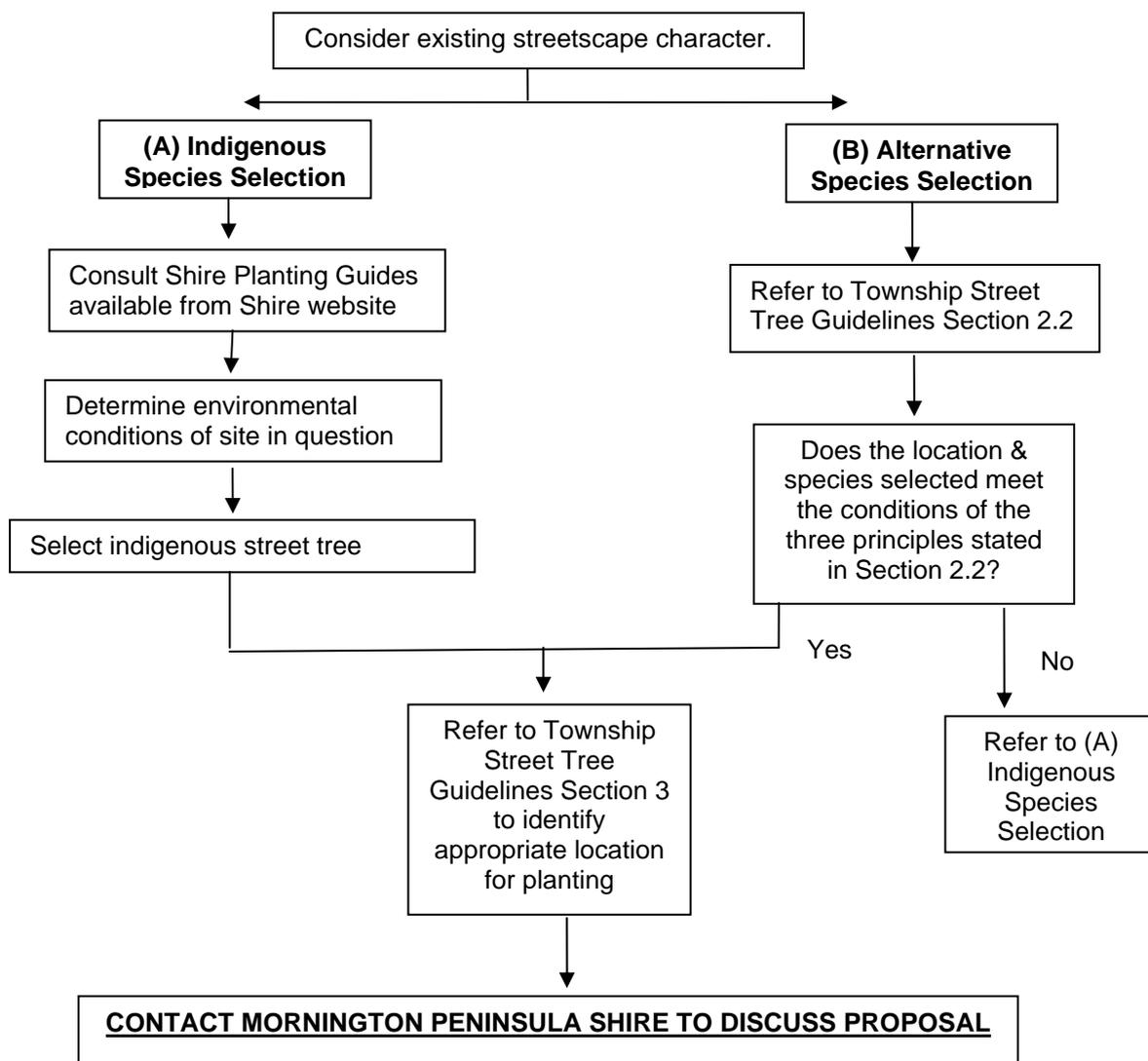
1. Tree Planting by Residents

Planting of trees by residents within the road reserve should only be undertaken in accordance with this Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy and following consultation with the Mornington Peninsula Shire. The Figure below indicates the process which must be followed. Street trees and vegetation planted *before* the adoption of this policy by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council shall be allowed to remain provided they are:

- Of a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape;
- In a suitable location;
- Planted to Council standards;
- Of a species non- threatening to streetscape amenity, services or the environment; and
- Good quality specimens.

Where the street tree and/or vegetation do not meet the above conditions, the Council shall request its removal or modification.

Procedure for Street Tree Planting by Residents



2. Street Tree Species Selection

2.1 *Indigenous Street Tree Selection*

The planting of street tree species indigenous to the local area in question shall and will be encouraged wherever possible. For selection of indigenous plant species the Mornington Peninsula Shire's colour coded Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) Maps shall be used to assist Council officers and residents in selecting the most appropriate species.

In addition to the consideration of the EVC Maps, species selection shall also take into account and be based on the following:

- Existing streetscape character, including existing view lines
- Environmental conditions
- Growing space and conditions
- Traffic conditions
- Proximity of underground services
- Potential impact to existing infrastructure or streetscape amenity

2.2 *Alternative Street Tree Selection*

At select locations throughout the Mornington Peninsula Shire it may be the case that alternative street tree species, not indigenous to the local area in question, are the most appropriate for planting.

In such circumstances, the following three principles must be met before alternative tree species can be planted.

a) *It is demonstrated that the alternative tree species is culturally appropriate.*

Consultation will be undertaken with residents, the Mornington Peninsula Shire Heritage Officer and Strategic Planners, and where appropriate with other organisations like Heritage Victoria to determine if a proposal is culturally appropriate.

In some circumstances, alternative street tree species may be selected for a commercial streetscape to develop the centre's unique character.

Similarly, a residential street with an aging exotic/non indigenous planting of landscape or cultural heritage significance may be replanted with exotic/non indigenous species to preserve this significance.

b) *It is demonstrated that the alternative tree species will cause no known damage to existing infrastructure or impact on existing streetscape amenity.*

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Parks and Roadsides team will determine through the historical performance of a species whether or not it is suitable to be planted adjacent to existing infrastructure.

Impacts on infrastructure that will make a species unsuitable include:

- Roots damaging pavement, fences, and underground services like drainage.

- An extensive canopy that will quickly grow through powerlines requiring frequent clearance.
- A wide canopy that overhangs roads obstructing both vehicle access and driver vision.
- Prone to structural failure.

c) *The species is not an environmental weed.*

Mornington Peninsula Shire Officers will determine and advise if a species is an environmental weed. An environmental weed – in the context of street trees – is a species that has the capacity to self seed in local bushland reserves. Examples are listed in ‘Weeds of the Mornington Peninsula’ and include Sweet Pittosporum and Cape Wattle. Shire Officers may make exceptions to this clause provided that the species and location in question are of such cultural heritage significance that replanting of a similar species will retain the existing amenity.

2.3 *Planting of Entire Streets - Community Consultation and Agreement*

As street trees help create our home environment by defining the landscape, selection of species can be a very personal choice. Therefore, it is accepted that there can probably never be complete agreement on species selection.

There are, however, attributes about street trees that a local community can reach consensus on. For example, residents of a street may be in agreement that a tree is desired that creates a canopy avenue, and at the same time has minimum potential to drop leaves and heavy branches or impact on existing streetscape amenity, including existing view lines.

Shire Officers, together with local residents, will work together to identify agreed growth characteristics for a street tree. Officers will also work with residents to reach consensus on a species where possible.

3. Street Tree Location

3.1 *Existing Vegetation*

In the case of nature strips/road reserves that consist of remnant indigenous vegetation the following shall be taken into consideration:

- Tree and understorey vegetation shall be maintained in good condition.
- Species listed by Council as environmental weeds shall be removed as part of the annual roadside vegetation management program. Shire Officers may make exception to this clause provided that the species and location in question are of such cultural heritage significance that replanting of a similar species will retain the existing amenity.
- Regeneration of indigenous species shall be promoted.
- Where the minimum pedestrian access (**1.8 metres**) is not achievable a clear zone of **1 metre** within the nature strip shall be maintained to allow safe passage by users of the road reserve.

- The creation of car parking areas within/across the nature strip is prohibited in accordance with Local Law No. 5 (2005) Streets and Roads unless written approval has been provided by Council. This applies to the creation of both formal and informal parking bays within/across the nature strip.

No tree shall be planted within **5 metres** of an existing nature strip tree unless:

- It is proposed to remove the existing tree in the long term.
- Close informal plantings or remnant indigenous vegetation is consistent with the character of the streetscape.

3.2 *Hard Structures*

Tree species with a mature height greater than **6 metres** must be planted in accordance with the distances outlined in the following table.

Mature Height of Tree	Minimum Distance from Structure	Structure
6 metres	1.5 metres	vehicle crossover
		pedestrian pathway
		nature strip

3.3 *Utilities and Services*

Trees shall not be planted within the distance of the utility or service specified below.

Minimum Distance	Utility or service
1 metre	Stormwater property outlet
	Residential water service
	Telstra inspection pit
	Underground electricity cables
2 metres	Fire hydrant
	Drainage pit

3.4 *Traffic Safety*

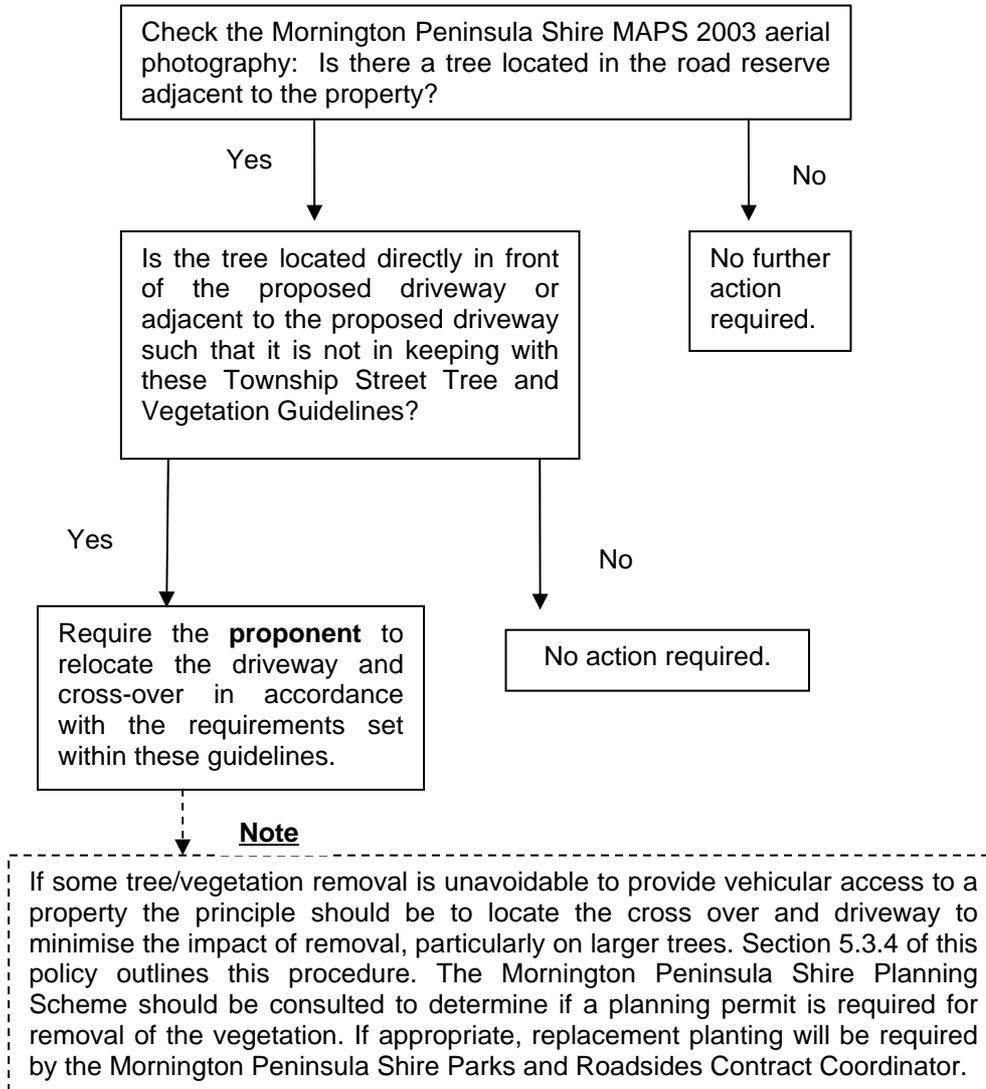
Trees or shrubs shall not be planted within the specified distances of the traffic treatments outlined in the following table. specified from the traffic intersection type.

Vegetation Type/Height	Minimum Distance/s	Traffic Treatment
Tree	7 metres	intersection
		pedestrian crossing
Shrub >600 metres	10 metres	intersection
		pedestrian crossing
Tree: Clean trunk to 2 metres	5-10 metres	intersection
		pedestrian crossing
Only clean trunk tree to 2 metres	5 metres	cross over
Only shrubs <600 millimetres		

3.5 Vehicle Crossover Location

The following procedure must be used by *Shire Officers* before a vehicle crossover location is approved.

Procedure for Vehicle Crossover Location



4. Street Tree Maintenance - Pruning

An essential component of the management of the Shires tree assets is the maintenance of individual trees in a safe and visually appealing condition. Once established, the major maintenance requirement of a tree is pruning. As a general rule, the pruning of trees should be minimised as all pruning cuts are potentially injurious and trees look more appealing when left to develop into their natural state. Therefore, trees should only be pruned to achieve specific goals. Activities relating to Street Tree Maintenance will be managed by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Parks and Roadsides Coordinator.

4.1 Tree Pruning Goals

Council trees shall be pruned to:

- Maintain public safety through the removal of structurally unsound limbs.

- Maintain tree health through the removal of dead or diseased material.
- Maintain prescribed clearances from services and traffic thoroughfares.
- Maintain tree form through the removal of misshapen limbs.
- Minimise future work requirements through the removal of potential problems at an early stage.

4.2 Tree Pruning Standard

Tree pruning shall be in accordance with Australian Standard 7373-1996 Pruning of Amenity Trees.

4.3 Pruning Programs

Pruning within Township shall be carried out on a programmed basis, with each tree being visited as necessary as part of an ongoing program. In addition, individual trees shall be pruned as necessary in response to complaints from residents or reporting of faults by Council officers or external authorities.

4.4 Clearances

Tree shall be pruned to maintain the following clearances:

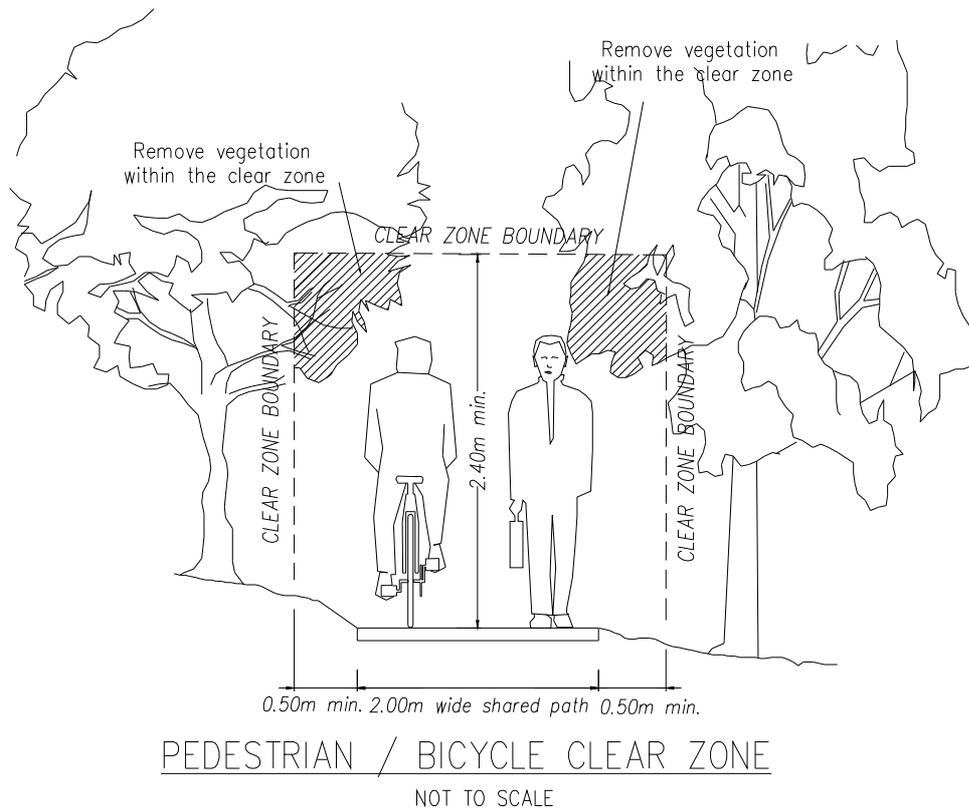
Powerlines	See Code of Practice for Electric Line Clearance (Vegetation)
Footpaths	2.5 metres to the lowest foliage or limb. Refer <i>Standard Drawing 1</i>
Driveways	3.0 metres to lowest limb or foliage.
Roadways	Required clearance varies according to road classification, speed zone and traffic volumes. Refer <i>Standard Drawing 2</i> for Mornington Peninsula Shire standard road classifications. For a Local Urban Access Road with a speed zone of 50km/h the required clearance is 1.0m from the edge of seal or back of kerb. For all other circumstances the Mornington Peninsula Shire Traffic and Road Safety Team should be consulted to confirm required clearances.
Traffic Site Lines	Vehicles approaching an intersection must be visible to pedestrians and other vehicles from distances indicated in the following table (where SISD = safe intersection sight distance).

Speed Limit	SISD – Urban (m)
50 km/h	80
60 km/h	105
70 km/h	130

Road Signs Within the township environment must be visible from the distance outlined in the table below.

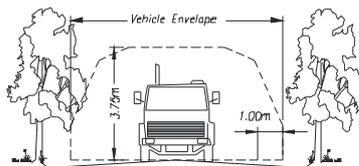
Speed Limit	Distance sign visible from (m)
< 70 km/h	80-120

Standard Drawing 1: Clearances required for footpaths / shared pathways

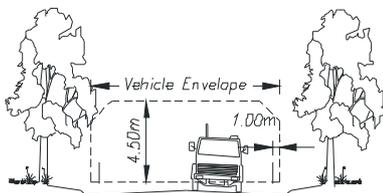


Note: width of pathway may vary depending on use and location

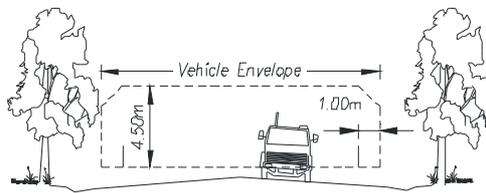
Standard Drawing 2: Clearances required for roadways



Local Access Road



Local Collector Road



Local Arterial Road

4.5 Pruning of Council Trees by Residents

Pruning of large limbs on Council owned trees by anyone other than Council staff or Service Providers engaged by Council shall not be permitted, without prior written agreement.

4.6 Pruning to Maintain and Enhance Views

Pruning of Council owned or controlled trees to provide or maintain views from private properties shall be undertaken only where a specific written agreement exists **or is established** between Council and the property owners. Each application received by Council would be assessed according to the guidelines presented within this policy. Further information relating to this clause may be obtained by contacting Mornington Peninsula Shire. Where such an agreement exists, this pruning is to be undertaken at no cost to Council.

5. Street Tree and Vegetation Removal

Council regards all trees and vegetation to be important to the character of each neighbourhood and township. However, there may be circumstances where the removal of trees or vegetation is warranted. This section sets out the factors that must be considered in this decision making process.

Removal of trees from nature strips/road reserves is potentially the greatest cause of conflict in the management of Council owned trees. Prudent vegetation management requires Council to consider that every tree, no matter how insignificant it may appear, is important to someone.

It is sometimes necessary to remove trees, either because of a problem with the tree itself, or to facilitate development of adjacent properties or installation of infrastructure. It is important that where possible proper consultation with any affected stakeholders takes place prior to works commencing. Decisions regarding tree removal become necessary in response to applications by residents, developers and external authorities or through observations of problem trees by Council officers and Service Providers.

5.1 Street Tree and Vegetation Assessment

Upon receipt of a request to remove a tree or vegetation stands, a suitably qualified and duly authorised Council officer or approved Service Provider shall assess the tree or vegetation stand for its condition, suitability and significance to determine if removal is appropriate.

Assessment of **condition** shall be based on:

- Health
- Structure
- Form
- Useful life expectancy
- Safety
- Damage caused

Assessment of **suitability** will be based on:

- Compatibility with surrounding streetscape amenity or landscape form

- Compliance with any existing street tree policy or management plan
- Potential to cause damage
- Potential to cause nuisance
- Suitability of species to growing space and conditions

A tree shall be considered **significant** if it:

- Has a major impact on the streetscape or landscape
- Has heritage and cultural significance either as an individual tree, as a group of trees or as part of an avenue
- Has outstanding visual appeal
- Is very large (more than 15 metres high or 10 metres wide)
- Is very old (more than 40 years)
- Provides habitat for native fauna
- Is a remnant indigenous species

5.2 Street Tree and Vegetation Removal Authorization

A decision regarding the removal of or retention of street trees or vegetation stands will be made on the basis of the assessment criteria outlined above and shall adhere to both the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme and the Tree Removal Guidelines as defined below. Unless otherwise stated, authority for removal rests with Council's Parks and Roadsides Contract Coordinator.

5.3 Street Tree and Vegetation Removal

5.3.1 Non-Significant Trees and Vegetation

- Dead or dying trees or vegetation may be removed by Council Officers or the Shire's Service Providers following written or verbal notification of the resident immediately adjacent to the site.
- A tree which is in poor condition and not suited to its location may be removed by Council. Prior to such removal, notification to the residents affected by the removal shall be notified.
- A tree which is in good condition and suited to its location shall not be removed, except in the circumstances outlined in Section 5.3.2.
- A tree which is in good condition, but not suited to its location, but is not causing damage or nuisance shall only be removed as part of a scheduled replacement program.
- Trees which are in good condition but not suited to their location because they are causing damage or nuisance may be removed by Council only after the affected residents have been notified in writing or verbally the reasons for the removal
- Where more than 3 trees are to be removed by Council from a street for any of the reasons outlined herein, all residents of that street (or section of street between intersections) shall be notified in writing.

- A tree which is less than 3 metres in height or less than 10 years old (and otherwise not significant) may be removed by Council following written or verbal notification of the resident immediately adjacent.
- A tree which is suited to its location but in poor condition may be removed providing its condition cannot be improved through other means and affected residents have been notified either verbally or in writing. This category shall include trees which are causing structural damage.

5.3.2 Hazardous Trees

- Trees which pose an immediate hazard which cannot be alleviated through means other than removal shall be removed at the discretion of the parks and Roadsides Contract Coordinator, following assessment by an inspecting arborist.

5.3.3 Significant Trees

Trees which are considered significant shall not be removed unless:

- They are dead or dying
- They pose a hazard which cannot be alleviated through means other than removal
- They are causing structural damage which cannot be alleviated through means other than removal
- A thorough consultation process has taken place which shall include:
 - Notification in writing to the affected residents and community groups
 - Report to Council
 - Press release to local Newspapers
 - An appropriate period for lodgement of objections (14 days)

Where a significant tree poses an immediate and extreme hazard, it may be removed under the authority of Parks and Roadsides Contract Coordinator.

5.3.4 Installation of Vehicle Crossovers

Where an application is made to remove a street tree for the installation of a new vehicle crossover, the guidelines for the removal shall be the same as those for other street trees, except that a tree which is in good condition and suited to its location, may be removed provided that:

- No alternative site for the crossover is available
- Affected residents have been notified in writing and have an opportunity to lodge an objection. The Mornington Peninsula Shire Parks and Roadsides Contract Coordinator will be responsible for managing this objection process.
- A suitable replacement tree will be provided and maintained at the cost of the property owner (if an appropriate planting site is available).
- The cost of the removal and associated works will be borne by the property owner who has requested the removal.
- The requirements of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Planning Scheme have been followed, including any required public exhibition process and/or native vegetation offsets.

Should trees in close proximity to the newly installed crossover die and it is determined that the works caused the tree(s) to die the cost of removal and replanting shall be borne by the property owner.

5.3.5 Installation or Upgrading of Infrastructure

Where an application is made to remove a tree(s) for the installation or upgrading of Infrastructure (e.g. drainage, sewerage, and road construction), the application may be approved providing:

- Affected residents are adequately consulted.
- Alternatives to removal are not available.
- Appropriate replacement trees are provided and maintained as part of the project budget.
- All costs associated with the tree removal are to be provided in the project budget.
- All relevant planning permits have been obtained.

5.3.6 Consultation

Where the Project Supervisor has recommended that a tree(s) be removed but has received objections from concerned parties, he/she shall attempt to allay the concerns of the objector(s) or pursue alternatives to removal. If removal remains the preferred option but the objection remains, the matter may be referred to Council for consideration.

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

Objective	Action	Justification	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Timeframe for Completion	
1. To ensure that roadside vegetation will enhance the local character of townships.	1.1	All planting of street trees shall be done so in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines	The Township Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines specify appropriate and consistent vegetation management guidelines to ensure vegetation within Council controlled road reserves is managed in a sustainable and safe manner.	Infrastructure Maintenance	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
	1.2	Permission from Council in the form of a permit is required for those residents seeking to undertake works which are not in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy.	In exceptional circumstances, exemptions may be required for these guidelines. Limited nature strip width, topography, gradient and the presence of high quality vegetation may fall within this category. Written consent must be obtained from Council officers in the form of the Permit for Landscaping/Planting on Nature Strips or Road Reserves prior to the commencement of works.	Infrastructure Maintenance	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
	1.3	No resident shall plant and landscape (create 'nature strip gardens') within the road reserve.	Landscaping nature strips prevents pedestrian access and interferes with driver sightlines. Environmental weeds may be planted which can invade nearby bushland reserves. Residents who landscape a nature strip are legally liable for any damage caused by their landscaping. Consultation prior to street tree planting will provide an opportunity for residents to influence the planting themes of the road reserve within their street.	Environment Protection Unit	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
	1.4	Where the free access of pedestrians and other road reserve users is restricted by inappropriate planting or landscaping of established gardens, Council officers shall where necessary, and at their discretion, act to ensure that safe zones for pedestrians are reinstated.	Council has the responsibility to provide and maintain safe public access for vehicles and pedestrians on roads and road reserves.	Environment Protection Unit & Infrastructure Strategy	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
	1.5	Prepare and implement an annual street tree planting program, which includes a specific program for replanting high profile roads.	This action strengthens current planting practises. Commercial streetscapes, major through roads and township entries all make a major contribution to the character of a township. Developing a program of street plantings will ensure that trees create and enhance distinct Townships. Programmed plantings of residential streets will allow tree planting to be prioritised according to need and will also accommodate the Shire's budget process.	Infrastructure Maintenance	\$50K per annum	2010/2011
	1.6	Continue to identify existing tree avenues and significant landscape units within Township road reserves.	In order to prioritise street tree plantings accordingly, existing tree avenues within Township road reserves must be identified.	Infrastructure Maintenance	\$80K per annum (Actions 4.1 & 4.2 are included in this cost)	Ongoing
	1.7	Continue to map all high value indigenous and remnant understorey vegetation to improve maintenance practises and outcomes.	Streets which contain indigenous and remnant vegetation within their road reserves possess significant ecological and cultural landscape values. Mapping this vegetation will allow important values to be recognised and ecological quality to be protected and enhanced.	Strategic Planning	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
2. To ensure Mornington Peninsula Shire staff, Service Providers and the wider community are aware of the content and rationale of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy.	2.1	Development and distribution of a fact sheet relating to the Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines to increase community awareness of the requirements and process.	Compliance and effectiveness of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy will be maximised if Shire Officers, Service Providers and the community are aware of and understand both the need for such a policy and of the way in which it is to be implemented.	Infrastructure Maintenance & Infrastructure Strategy	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	End 2006
	2.2	Provision of information through Peninsula Wide and the Shire's website.			Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	End 2006
	2.3	Provision of information to the community through the activities of Infrastructure Maintenance and Service Providers.		Infrastructure Maintenance	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing

Objective	Action	Justification	Responsibility	Approximate Cost	Timeframe for Completion	
3. To ensure that street trees and roadside vegetation is compatible with infrastructure.	3.1	Ensure all planning applications relating to vegetation and street trees within Council controlled road reserves, including applications for cross over installations, are assessed in accordance with the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Guidelines.	Planning applications, particularly Greenfield developments, often require the preparation of landscape plans that include Council controlled road reserves. This action ensures that the development of all new Greenfield estates includes consideration of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy. Incremental tree removal as a result of crossover installations has a negative impact on the street landscape and is at odds with the community expectations for tree planting and maintenance.	Statutory Planning	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
	3.2	Annually review and update those components of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy that relate to street tree location.	It is important to regularly review the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy to ensure changes in community expectations and best practises are reflected in the document. It is in this way that the ongoing success of the strategy can be assured.	Infrastructure Strategy	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Annually
	3.3	Develop a program for the removal and replacement of unsuitable trees impacting on overhead powerlines in accordance with the Electrical Safety Act (1998).	This action ensures the Shire's legal requirements in relation to the Act are met.	Infrastructure Maintenance	Action to be incorporated into existing operating budgets.	Ongoing
4. To ensure that existing roadside vegetation is maintained and kept healthy.	4.1	Commence a Tree Risk Audit and Eestablish and maintain an asset register of street trees which pose a significant risk to public safety.	A Significant street tree register that is regularly updated ensures the Shire can appropriately maintain trees and manage community risk. The register will enhance the ability to establish a priority street tree planting program. Data collected as part of the Tree Risk Audit program will be utilised to keep the register up to date.	Infrastructure Maintenance	Refer to Action 1.6	Ongoing
	4.2	Establish and maintain a register of ecologically and/or culturally significant street trees.	This action will ensure that all street trees of ecological or cultural significance will be identified. This register will serve as a reference tool for Shire officers, Service Providers and the community.	Infrastructure Maintenance	Refer to Action 1.6	Ongoing
	4.3	Develop and maintain an annual works program based on the outcomes of actions 4.1 and 4.2.	The combined outcomes of Actions 4.1 and 4.2 will be employed to develop an annual works program for street tree management. This will allow the objectives of the Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy to be achieved in a planned and controlled manner.	Infrastructure Maintenance	\$100K per annum	2011/2012



PERMIT FOR LANDSCAPING WORKS ON ROAD RESERVE/NATURE STRIP

Property owner/s
Postal Address
Contact phone No
Location of Work

(By signing this application you agree to be bound by the following conditions)

CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

Liability

1. Council accepts no liability for damage to property or injury sustained as a result of the construction of garden beds/ hard structures/plants upon the nature strip/road reserve.
2. On completion of the works, as per the agreed permit, all assets will become the property of Mornington Peninsula Shire.
3. The Council is not liable for damage to plants, hard structures or garden beds for any reason, including damage caused as a result of Council works.

Location and Maintenance

4. All works must be undertaken in accordance with the Location Guidelines as set out in the Council’s Township Street Tree and Vegetation Policy
5. Trees/shrubs must be planted in alignment with existing street trees, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Council.
6. The garden beds/ plants must not cause a hazard to pedestrians or road users. In particular, the property owner must ensure that pedestrian and road users have uninterrupted access along the road reserve. A minimum clearance of 1.8metres in width for the length of the nature strip is required. Where road reserve consists of remnant indigenous and pedestrian access is not possible a minimum clearance of 1.0m within the road reserve shall be maintained at all times.
7. The garden beds/ hard structures/plants must be maintained by the property owner to the satisfaction of the Shires Parks and Roadsides Maintenance Team. The Council may at any time call for the removal or pruning of any plant, shrub or garden bed. If the work is not done within the time allowed, the Shire may undertake the work at the property owner’s cost.

Please attach a site plan, indicating location/dimensions of proposed garden beds/species of intended Council approved plants or trees.

.....
Signature of Property Owner

.....
Parks and Roadside Coordinator

.....
Date submitted

.....
Date approved

**Pleas return to: - Parks and Roadsides Maintenance Services –Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, Private Bag 1000, Rosebud 3939
 Permit not approved until property owner receives signed copy of this document**

