

City of Hobart

# Policy

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**Title:** Council Tree Compensation

**Category:** Recreation, Parks, Bushland and Reserves

**Date Last Adopted:** 26 April 2021

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## 1. Objectives

The purpose of this policy is to outline the framework for the charging of a compensation fee for the loss of public trees that are approved for removal for the benefit of private development.

## 2. Background

The City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy 2017 outlines that the City should require remuneration for the removal of a public tree of a monetary value that includes both the estimated amenity value of the tree and the cost of the replacement planting (Section 7.4.3).

Street and park trees are essential public assets that require public funds to install and maintain. Unlike most other public assets, the value of an established tree is greater than the cost to purchase and install a replacement tree. A large tree provides significantly more amenity and value to the community than the tree that would be planted to replace it as it has been growing in the landscape for decades.

Trees provide amenity that enhances the image of the city and the experience of the community. This policy recognises that the value to the community of a tree cannot be adequately compensated for by the purchase and installation costs of the replacement tree alone but must also include an amenity value fee.

At the Council meeting 18 February 2019, the Council resolved that:

1. *In line with the City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy, a compensation fee be charged when a public tree is approved for removal that is associated with a private development, at the discretion of the General Manager.*
2. *The compensation fee comprise:*
  - (i) *the amenity value of the tree; and*



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(ii) *the replacement fee for a tree that includes the purchase cost of an advanced size and the planting and establishment costs*

3. *The amenity value fee be determined using the City of Hobart Tree Amenity Formula*

This Policy document captures the Council decision.

### **3. Policy**

That:

1. The City has the discretion to charge a compensation fee when a public tree is approved for removal that is associated with a private development.
2. The fee comprises the amenity value of the tree, the cost of a replacement tree of an advanced size, and the planting and establishment costs.
3. The City will determine the amenity value fee of the tree using the City of Hobart's Tree Amenity Valuation formula.
4. The City will determine the purchase, planting and establishment fee for the replacement tree.
5. The fee determined by the City is final.
6. The fee must be paid prior to the removal of the tree.
7. The money will be directed to City's tree planting budget
8. The applicant is responsible for all works and costs associated with the removal of the tree, including acquiring any road opening or other permits

### **4. Legislation, Terminology and References**

- City of Hobart Street Tree Strategy 2017 Section- 7.4.3 and Sections 7.1.3

*To regulate application of the AS 4970, the City should impose, as a condition of approval, a bond for the protection of all public trees that may be impacted by a proposed development.*

*The condition should note that failure to conduct works in accordance with AS 4970 will result in the loss of all or a portion of the bond. The size of the bond should be based on:*

- *the estimated value of the tree (see Section 7.1.3); and*



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- *the cost of a replacement tree:*
  - o *of an advanced size (say a 200L bagged tree or equivalent);*
  - o *of a species that will attain the mature height expected from the tree to be removed; and*
  - o *installed in line with the City's planting procedures.*

*In determining any discretion to allow removal of an established tree, the City should require replacement, as above, in a suitable location and/or remuneration for the value of the tree.*

*In no case should the City allow removal of trees for the construction of site hoardings.*

- Section 23 Protection of Vegetation, *Public Spaces By-Law 2018:*

*A person must not, by any act, wherever performed, cut, prune, pluck, destroy or injure any tree, shrub, flower or other vegetation growing in a public space unless authorised to do so by permit.*

<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Director City Amenity
<b>Policy first adopted by the Council:</b>	24 July 2017 (with the approval of the Street Tree Strategy) formalised into a policy document 23 September 2019
<b>History</b>	
Approved by Council	23/9/2019
Biannual Policy Review	26/04/2021
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	April 2023
<b>File Reference:</b>	F19/146329

