

 <p>City of Mount Gambier</p>	<h1>T120 TREE POLICY</h1>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- (a) This document sets out the policy of the City of Mount Gambier (“Council”) for the management of trees situated on Council property as set out below:
- (i) streets; and
 - (ii) parks, gardens, reserves, and playgrounds.
- (b) It is the policy of Council that all streets be planted according to a defined street scaping plan and planting be aimed at beautifying the street, rather than individual properties.

Individual tree requests by residents shall be assessed on a case by case basis with consideration of a future Street Tree Program in streets that have no trees or trees that have passed their Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE).

2. PURPOSE

The benefits that trees provide throughout the City include environmental, social, health and wellbeing, economic and visual amenity. They also assist in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in an urban environment by providing habitat to bird life as well as improving our air quality.

Trees greatly benefit the people living around them by having a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing, reducing stress and encouraging outdoor exercise. This is in addition to the benefits they will receive from an improved environmental quality and improved amenity which comes with planted areas.

Trees can have a symbolic importance for identity and connection to a City.

3. STREET TREE PLANTINGS

- (a) Council has resolved that, where applicable, to plant streets with the same species of tree, but the species may vary from one side of the street to the other.
- (b) In some streets, it may be necessary to remove a small number of existing trees to try and maintain uniformity within a street.
- (c) Should a resident wish to maintain an existing street tree adjacent to their property the tree will be required to be assessed on a case by case basis taking into consideration the aesthetics of the street as well as an assessment of the tree to measure its health and structural integrity prior to its retainment being considered.
- (d) A list of tree species suitable for planting in the City has been adopted and is outlined in Section 17 of this Policy.
- (e) The list provided will be reviewed annually so that preferred species may be added or removed as trial trees are assessed and as set out by the SA Power Networks and SA Water guidelines.

 <p>City of Mount Gambier</p>	<h2>T120 TREE POLICY</h2>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

- (f) In selecting the type of tree suitable for a particular street, the following criteria should be taken into consideration:
- (i) The character and amenity of the individual street.
 - (ii) The actual width of the footpath, or if a footpath width is less than 1.5 metres between the back of the kerb and the boundary, a tree is not planted.
 - (iii) The location of species as set out by individual utilities outlined in the species list in Section 7.
- (g) On footways, Council permits the development of footpaths adjoining residential allotments through the planting of approved trees and or lawn by residents subject to:
- (i) A clear trafficable pedestrian way of 1.5 metres width by 2.5 metres height being retained at all times along the footpath.
 - (ii) No vegetation (except lawn) to be planted within 6.0 metres of the intersection of the junction of two or more streets.
 - (iii) Planting being in accordance with an approved Streetscape Plan in accordance with 2(d).
- (h) Notification to Residents:
- (i) Where Council undertakes street tree plantings, whether the street has been selected by Council, or letters received from residents of a particular street, all residents will be informed in writing prior to the commencement of the plantings.
 - (ii) Council invite comment on the proposed plantings of trees within each individual street with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue, in accordance with Council's Public Consultation policy.
 - (iii) Council to notify residents of Council's conditions and feedback of the consultation.
 - (iv) Should Council resolve not to adopt a particular street to be included in an annual street tree program due to popular demand from a majority of residents, those willing to have a tree planted will still be supplied with a tree.
- (i) Notification to Authorities:
- (i) Council invites comments on the proposed plantings of trees as outlined on the annual street tree program, with comments to be received up to four (4) weeks from the date of issue to the following authorities:
 - APA Group
 - SA Power Networks
 - SA Water
 - Telstra
 - NBN

 City of Mount Gambier	T120 TREE POLICY	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

- (j) Council is to review previously planted streets and individual trees that have been vandalised and replaced with the species originally planted. If the specific cultivar is not available then replace with one that is of similar characteristics i.e. flower colour, size, shape etc.

4. TREE REMOVAL

- (a) Where Council grants approval for the removal of a tree for the benefit of a resident, and the tree is in a healthy state, removal and where applicable replacement will be at the ratepayers expense. This may apply where a tree is located in an area where a resident wishes to remove a tree for a supplementary driveway.
- (b) Council is frequently requested to remove street trees. The reasons for seeking the removal can vary considerably and each case is to be assessed on its merits.
 - (i) A resident may seek removal of a tree in writing to the City Arborist, stating their name, address, location of the tree and the reasons for the request for the removal of the tree.
 - (ii) For each request for removal of a street tree, an assessment of the tree is to be undertaken and a recommendation submitted to the General Manager City Infrastructure, or in their absence the Chief Executive Officer.
 - (iii) If the tree is diseased to the point that it is unlikely to recover, is too big for its location (based on size of tree in relation to footpath width, vehicle sight distance or power lines) or is causing or is likely to cause damage to adjoining property infrastructure the City Arborist, or in their absence the General Manager City Infrastructure or the Chief Executive Officer, may grant approval to remove the tree.
 - (iv) Removal of a sound tree of appropriate size and location for reasons of appearance, overshadowing or dropping of foliage etc. is generally not supported and any recommendation to remove a tree on this basis is to be referred to Council for a final decision.
 - (v) This Policy does not apply to dead trees, which may be removed on the authority of either the City Arborist General Manager City Infrastructure or Chief Executive Officer in their absence

5. DEBRIS FROM COUNCIL TREES

- (a) Council recognises that trees may create some nuisance or inconvenience which will impact property owners in different ways and degrees as resident's views differ.
- (b) Common issues include but are not limited to.
 - (i) Autumn leaf fall from deciduous trees
 - (ii) Regular leaf fall or bark fall from Australian native trees
 - (iii) Fruit, Berries, and nuts falling from trees onto pedestrian footpaths, roads, and private gardens

 City of Mount Gambier	T120 TREE POLICY	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

(iv) Pollen

- (c) As stated in 3 (iv), Council does generally not support the removal of trees for such reasons. However, Council is mindful that certain residents do have a varying tolerance for such issues and endeavours to help implement solutions on a case by case basis. This will be conducted by considering the amenity value provided by the tree, the health and structure of the tree with any remedial action to be taken to be carried out consistently.
- (d) Action taken may include but is not limited to the following.
- (i) Street sweeping programs may be developed in such a manner to have an increased presence in streets which are prone to seasonal leaf drop over streets whose vegetation is not determined by seasonal variations.
 - (ii) In areas of where properties adjoin a reserve, Council may provide a service whereby residents collect leaves or debris leaving them in a manageable pile for Council employees to collect in periods of seasonal variation.
 - (iii) Council may sweep footpath areas whereby the fall of seasonal fruit/berries are swept until the season has finished.

6. PRUNING

- (a) All trees are to be pruned in accordance with Australian Standard AS 4373/2007 and the Arboriculture Australia Handbook MIS308 Tree Pruning.
- (b) Trees are to be pruned along trafficable areas to provide safe and clear access and visibility to both pedestrians and vehicles.
- (c) Council's objective is to provide a minimum vegetation clearance of 1.8m along pedestrian paths.
- (d) If an adjoining resident or property owner has requested Council to carry out vegetation clearance from Council trees the minimum vegetation clearance above any boundary fence adjoining Council maintained land shall be 500mm and 1.0m in height clearance from any roof over private property. Should the property owner request a greater clearance the extent of the work will be assessed on a case by case basis considering any significant risk of damages to the property and the structural integrity, health or aesthetic value to the tree.
- (e) Pruning will not be undertaken to accommodate scenic views or to clear for commercial advertising signage if it will cause significant damage to the tree or its aesthetic value.
- (f) In the case of vandalism tree pruning techniques for formative pruning to repair physical damage where possible shall be used to ensure healthy tree growth and recovery. Tree removal shall be the last resort if pruning techniques can not be used to remediate the integrity of the vandalised tree.

 City of Mount Gambier	T120 TREE POLICY	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

7. HERITAGE TREE PRESERVATION

The objective of trees in heritage precincts is to conserve, protect and enhance these trees. All tree enquiries in heritage precincts shall be referred to the City arborist and or Council's planning department for consideration upon resident or developer requests.

8. PERMIT FOR FOOTWAY AND RESERVE PLANTING OF VEGETATION

Should residents wish to plant the footway with vegetation other than what is permitted in accordance with 2(g) a written request must be submitted and approved by Council prior to any planting being undertaken. Permit applications will be assessed on a case by case basis and if the application is approved Council may issue a permit under Section 221 of the Local Government Act to the applicant. The permit holder must always maintain the conditions of the approval or Council may revoke the permit should a breach occur.

9. TREE ROOTS GROWING FROM TREES ON COUNCIL LAND

- (a) Tree roots are frequently considered to be the cause of damage to nearby infrastructure such as driveways, crossovers, paved areas, boundary fences and underground pipes including water, sewerage, and drainage.
- (b) Council will not accept responsibility of affected infrastructure purely because a Council tree is nearby and could be the possible cause of any damage or loss. In these instances, the claimant will be required to provide Council with some form of evidence of the cause before it will take some form of action. Evidence may include a written letter from SA Water indicating they have camera evidence of tree roots obstructing underground pipes, or the claimant exposing roots under damaged infrastructure for Council to inspect.
- (c) The extent of Council's decision will be dependent on the findings upon request from an affected resident/party and each request will be assessed on a case to case basis which may lead to the pruning of roots in minor cases or tree removal in extreme cases.

10. TREE DAMAGE DURING STORM EVENTS

Council will respond to any private tree that is creating an immediate safety hazard to pedestrians or traffic and requires removal from a public area due to storm events The extent of the work will be focussed on making the public area safe of debris for this purpose only.

11. TREES AND POWERLINES

- (a) Council will maintain an agreement with SA Power Networks which sets out their obligations regarding line clearance responsibilities.
- (b) Any unauthorised planting/s on Council land that are in breach of SA Power Networks planting schedule becomes the responsibility of Council. Council may elect to maintain the unauthorised planting/s or alternatively remove any unauthorised plantings should the tree be in breach of SA Power Networks clearance standards as outlined within their schedule of approved trees for planting under powerlines.

 <p>City of Mount Gambier</p>	<p>T120 TREE POLICY</p>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

- (c) Council will notify residents of unauthorised planting/s and make them aware of Council's decision and the reasons behind the decision.

12. BOUNDARY ROADS

- (a) Routine Maintenance on boundary roads is carried out by way of agreement between the City of Mount Gambier and District Council of Grant. Typically, such work includes tree maintenance, grass cutting and weed control along boundary roads at full cost to the City of Mount Gambier.

13. DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT (DIT) ROADS

- (a) Council shall be responsible for the trimming of trees along DIT roads. Generally, on roads where the speed limit is less than or equal to 60 km/h vegetation will be maintained to a height of 5.0m starting from the edge of any dedicated parking lane and the travelling lanes.
- (b) Trees outside of trafficable road areas are also to be maintained by Council.

14. DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS WOOD

- (a) Council, in the course of its normal maintenance function, quite often is involved in tree pruning and/or removal that results in a supply of surplus timber that is suitable for firewood.
- (b) Council will make surplus wood available to local service clubs/organisations on the provision that the club/organisation be a "not for profit" club/organisation and that the club/organisation be responsible for all activities associated with the surplus wood (e.g. cutting, splitting, loading and cartage).
- (c) The surplus wood will be stored at a location specified by Council.
- (d) Any wood accessed by a club/organisation in accordance with this policy must not be sold or used for private purposes. The intention of this policy is that such wood will be provided to needy families free of charge by the club/organisation, or the wood can be sold as a fund raising activity by the Club.
- (e) Access to the wood to be on a "first in, first served" basis and applications to be made to Council, in writing, for access to surplus wood.
- (f) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate wood supplies in accordance with this policy.
- (g) Any organisation participating in this activity must indemnify the Council against any actions that may result as a consequence of this policy.
- (h) The Chief Executive Officer and/or General Manager City Infrastructure to have the authority to allocate any surplus wood supplies not utilised by local service clubs/organisations under this policy, to be made available for sale to the public at the Mount Gambier Reuse Market.

 <p>City of Mount Gambier</p>	<h2>T120 TREE POLICY</h2>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

15. RESERVES

- (a) Botanic Park - Commemorative and Memorial Trees
 - (i) Approval is granted for service clubs to place plaques at the foot of each of the existing lemon scented gums at Botanic Park to commemorate deceased members of the Clubs from within Mount Gambier.
 - (ii) Clubs to provide (or bear the cost) of the plaques, plinths, installation thereof, future maintenance and replacement of plaques etc.
 - (iii) Council will provide, as and when required, further advanced growth lemon scented gums as a boulevard to Botanic Park and as a perimeter planting to this entire area to which further commemorative plaques may be placed in the future.
 - (iv) An area be set aside at Botanic Park for the placement of suitable tree species which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.
- (b) Hastings Cunningham Reserve - Memorials
 - (i) An area be set aside at Hastings Cunningham Reserve for the placement of suitable tree species, which may be planted by persons, including a special plaque, in remembrance of other persons or groups.
- (c) Marist Park
 - (i) An area of Marist Park, to the east side of the roadway from Shepherdson Road, be set aside to allow the planting of a tree and placement of a plaque by Rotary Exchange students to celebrate their time on Mount Gambier.

16. TRANSPORTATION, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL OF INFECTED OR DISEASED WOOD MATERIAL

- (a) When pruning/removing trees with fungi/disease:
 - (i) all infected or diseased prunings and felled trees should be destroyed by burning;
 - (ii) the material should not be mulched or carted to the greenwaste pile, but cut into manageable pieces and carted away to the designated burn site;
 - (iii) stumps should be ground out as soon as practicable after the tree is felled and the material carted away to the designated burning site;
 - (iv) establish the safest route to transport the material to the designated burning site to help minimize the spread of disease during transport.
- (b) Sterilise pruning equipment if the disease is present, or suspected to be present, on the tree being pruned/felled.
- (c) All remaining plant material such as chips and sawdust should be swept and removed from site and transported to the designated burning site.

 City of Mount Gambier	<h2>T120 TREE POLICY</h2>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

(d) Common symptoms of diseased trees include:

- (i) leaf yellowing and death
- (ii) fruit distortion
- (iii) stem, root and flower rot
- (iv) stem cankers
- (v) dieback within a tree
- (vi) leaf curl etc.

(e) If in doubt about the health of a tree or the request to implement this policy, contact the Engineering Technical Officer.

17. PROPERTY OWNER VEGETATION

(a) Pursuant to Section 299(1) of the *Local Government Act 1999*, Council may issue notice to the owner or occupier of adjoining land to remove or cut back vegetation which has encroached onto any street, road or footpath.

(b) Should there be no response to this request within seven (7) days from the issue date of the notice, Council may undertake the work and seek to recover the expenses incurred for the relevant works.

18. ADOPTED TREE SPECIES PLANTING SCHEDULE

	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SA POWER	SA WATER SCHEDULE	PLANT ORIGIN	PLANT TYPE	COMMENTS
1	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood		2	N	E	Grows Well, Good Structure
2	<i>Acer buergeranum</i>	Trident Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3	<i>Acer Campestre</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	Grows Slow
4	<i>Acer Campestre</i> <i>'Evelyn' Queen Elizabeth</i>	Hedge Maple			E	D	
5	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Maple		2	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
6	<i>Acer palmatum sp.</i>	Japanese Maple	2		E	D	Grows slow
7	<i>Acer rubrum sp.</i>	Canadian Maple			E	D	Grows Well, Slow
8	<i>Acmena smithii</i>	Lillypilly			N	E	Grows Well, Moderate
9	<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
10	<i>Betula pendula</i> <i>'Dalecarlica'</i>	Cut Leaf Birch		2	E	D	Grows Well
11	<i>Betula platyphylla var. Japonica</i> <i>'Whitespire'</i>	Asian White Birch			E	D	Grows Well

T120 TREE POLICY

Version No: 5.0

Issued: 19 April, 2022

Next Review: April 2025

1 2	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> 'Harkness'	Gawler Hybrid Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
1 3	<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping Bottlebrush	2	1	N	E	Grows Well
1 4	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Frans Fontaine'	Common Hornbeam			E	D	
1 5	<i>Cercis canadensis</i> 'Forest Pansy'	Purple-leafed Eastern Redbud	2		E	D	Grows Well, But Slow
1 6	<i>Corymbia eximia</i> 'Nana'	Dwarf Yellow Bloodwood			E	N	
	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Lemon Scented Gum			N	E	Grows well and fast
1 7	<i>Eucalyptus platypus</i> var <i>heterophylla</i>	Round Leaved Moort	P	2	N	E	Grows Well
1 8	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> subsp. 'Euky Dwarf'	Euky Dwarf	2	2	N	E	Moderate Growth tends to grow on a lean if not formative pruned
1 9	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxylon</i> var. <i>Megalocarpa</i> 'Rosea'	Yellow Gum	2	2	N	E	Grows Well
2 0	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i> 'Meczek'	Flowering ash	P	2	E	D	Grows Slow, But Outstanding Form & Structure
2 1	<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Australian Willow	2	1	N	E	Grows Vey Slow
2 2	<i>Geijera salicifolia</i>	Scrub Willow	P		N	E	Grows Very Slow
2 3	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> var <i>inermis</i> 'Sunburst'	Honey Locust		2	E	D	Grows Slow
2 4	<i>Hakea Laurina</i>	Pincusion Hakea	2	1	N	D	Grows Well, Fast, Blows Over in Heavy Winds
2 5	<i>Hymenosporum</i> <i>flavum</i>	Native Frangipani		2	N	E	Grows Well In Some Areas, Slow
2 6	<i>Koelreuteria</i> <i>paniculata</i>	Golden Rain Tree	2	2	E	D	Very Slow
2 7	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> sp	Crepe Myrtle	2	1	E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
2 8	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x . <i>Fauriei</i> "Biloxi"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
2 9	<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i> x . <i>Fauriei</i> "Sioux"	Crepe Myrtle	2		E	D	Vey Slow, Grows Well
3 0	<i>Liriodendron</i> <i>tulipifera</i>	Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
3 1	<i>Liriodendron</i> <i>tulipifera</i> 'Fastigiatum'	Upright Tulip Tree		2	E	D	Grows Well
3 2	<i>Lophostemon</i> <i>confertus</i>	Brush Box			N	D	Grows Well
3 3	<i>Liquidamber</i> <i>styraciflua</i>	Liquidamber		2	E	D	Grows Slow
3 4	<i>Malus ioensis</i> 'Purpurea'	Crab Apple	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3 5	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese Pistachio		2	E	D	
3 6	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	London Plane			E	D	Grows Slow
3 7	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Nigra'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum	2	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate
3 8	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i> 'Oakville Crimson Spire'	Purple Leaf Cherryplum					
3 9	<i>Prunus fruticosa</i> 'Globasa'	Designer Cherry	P	1	E	D	Grows Well, Moderate

 City of Mount Gambier	<h1>T120 TREE POLICY</h1>	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

4 0	<i>Prunus persica</i> sp.	Flowering Peach	2	1	E	D	Attracts Leaf Curl, Very Slow
4 1	<i>Prunus 'sekiyama'</i> syn. 'Kanzan'	Flowering Cherry	2	1	E	D	
4 2	<i>Prunus serrulata</i>	Japanese Flowering Cherry		1	E	D	
4 3	<i>Pyrus betufoia</i> 'Southworth Dancer'	Southworth Dancer Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
4 4	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Aristocrat'	Aristocrat Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
4 5	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Capital'	Capital Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
4 6	<i>Pyrus calleryana x betulaefolia</i> 'Edgedell'	Edgedell Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
4 7	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Glen's Form' Chanticleer	Callery Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
4 8	<i>Pyrus fauriei</i> 'Westwood'	Korean Sun	P		E	D	Grows Well, Slow
4 9	<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i> 'Pendula'	Willow Leaf Pear	2	2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast
5 0	<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian Pear		2	E	D	Grows Well, Fast, Prone To Limb Failure
5 1	<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pinoak			E	D	Grows Slow
5 2	<i>Sophora japonica</i>	Pagoda Tree		2	E	E/D	
5 3	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Linden		2	E	D	
5 4	<i>Tilia Cordata</i> 'Shamrock'	Linden		2	E	D	
5 5	<i>Ulmus glabra</i> 'Lutescens'	Golden Elm			E	D	Grows Moderate
5 6	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chines Elm			E	D	
5 7	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> 'Todd'	Chines Elm			E	D	
5 8	<i>Zelkova serrata</i> 'Green Vase'	Green Vase Japanese Zelkova			E	D	Grows Well, Slow



Trial Trees

These trees only to be planted in large road reserves or nature strips

(P) - Not listed but ok to plant under powerlines

ETSA List 1 - Species with expected height between 2 and 3 metres

ETSA List 2 - Species with expected height between 3 and 6 metres

In South Australia a great deal of research has been done to determine the suitability of various trees for planting near sewers. Some of the results of this research have been incorporated into Regulation 24 of the Sewerage Act.

This contains two schedules which list over 200 trees and shrubs, the planting of which in streets is controlled, but which may be planted on private property without the need to obtain prior approval from SA Water.

 City of Mount Gambier	T120 TREE POLICY	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

Schedule 1 lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 2 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

Schedule 2 lists those which may be planted in streets but not closer than 3.5 metres to any sewer or connection without written approval from SA Water.

Provisionally Classified Schedule 2

Any tree which is not listed in these schedules may not be planted in any street in any declared drainage area without the prior approval in writing of the South Australian Water Corporation.

In addition to Schedule 1 and 2, approximately 400 trees and shrubs have been *provisionally* classified into the same two groups. The distinction between the trees listed in Schedule 1 and 2 and those which are only provisionally

classified is that the latter may not be planted in streets or roads without the prior written approval of the South Australian Water Corporation for home gardens.

The Schedules quoted are for guidance only as Regulations 24 does not apply to private property.

In addition under Regulation 37 of the Waterworks Act, trees and shrubs must not be planted in a public street or road closer than one metre to any water main or service connection. Approval may be obtained by submitting in writing details of proposed planting to the contact detailed above.

19. REVIEW & EVALUATION

This Policy is scheduled for review by Council in April 2025, however, will be reviewed as required by any legislative changes which may occur.

20. AVAILABILITY OF POLICY

This Policy will be available for inspection at Council's principal office during ordinary business hours and on the Council's website www.mountgambier.sa.gov.au. Copies will also be provided to interested members of the community upon request, and upon payment of a fee in accordance with Council's Schedule of Fees and Charges.

 City of Mount Gambier	T120 TREE POLICY	Version No:	5.0
		Issued:	19 April, 2022
		Next Review:	April 2025

File Reference:	AF11/1747
Applicable Legislation:	Local Government Act 1999
Reference: Community Plan	Goal 2: Our Location
Related Policies:	
Related Procedures:	
Related Documents:	AF11/1259 http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/ AS4373-2007 (Pruning of amenity trees) AS 4970-2009 (Protection of trees on development sites) Local Government Act 1999 Electricity Act 1996 (SA)

DOCUMENT DETAILS

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