

COUNCIL POLICY

Vegetation Management	Adopted By Council:		
	Date/s Revised:		
	Next Review Date:		
	Document No:	CP057	
	Directorate:	Infrastructure and Environment	
	Responsible Officer:	Manager Infrastructure and Environment	

CONTEXT

The existing landscape in the Borough of Queenscliffe is complex and diverse. Remnant indigenous vegetation is a living reminder of the pre-contact landscape of the Bellarine and critical to the survival of the environmental eco-zones between land and water.

The existing plantings of exotic trees, shrubs and groundcovers are a visible link to our post-contact heritage and frame streetscapes that contain valued built form heritage.

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to maintaining this diversity and enhancing our natural, urban and formal green spaces.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a principle-based framework to guide a planned and integrated approach to managing vegetation in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

The policy applies to all public land managed by the Borough of Queenscliffe.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Council's vegetation management are to:

- maintain and enhance the distinct character of the Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff townships
- promote liveability and cultural integrity
- create healthier ecosystems and improve environmental outcomes
- adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- establish sustainable management practices

PRINCIPLES

Council's vegetation management practices will be underpinned by:

- communication and engagement with community
- an understanding of our ecological and cultural context
- the alignment of management practices with the Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*
- the protection of significant vegetation

- minimising risk and harm

POLICY

Procedures will be developed to support and guide the implementation of the Policy.

The procedures will set out the preferred management practices for:

- Foreshores
- Parks and Gardens
- Vegetation Vandalism
- Weed Management
- Street Planting

These will be identified as management areas.

The management practices in each management area will be informed by, and implement, the objectives and principles set out in this policy.

Where applicable the management practices in each management area will align with the actions of Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan.

The management practices in each management area will be guided by, and respond to, applicable legislation.

Council will develop systems and programs to support the activity and actions identified in the management practices for each management area.

Each management area will be subject to risk management assessments and the respective management practices will include directions for activity specific to that management area.

The procedures for the respective management areas should also incorporate and respond to the following matters:

Foreshores:

For the purposes of this policy, foreshores are areas along the coast that remain in a predominantly natural state and have been subject to minimal historical intervention. The vegetation in these areas will be managed in a way that enhances remnant biodiversity values and existing ecological significance.

Vegetation management in foreshore areas will also contribute to actions Council undertakes to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The primary vegetation management activity in foreshores will be revegetation and weed management.

Revegetation activity will be informed by Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*, consultation with traditional owners and the Borough of Queenscliffe Vegetation and Biodiversity Value Assessment 2024.

The procedures for Foreshores will include direction and guidance on:

- Intervention levels
- Revegetation practices and preferred indigenous species
- Primary ecological classification for locations along the foreshores
- Alignment of activities with *Paleert Tjaara Dja* objectives
- Weed control

Parks and Gardens:

Parks and Gardens are public spaces in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale which are defined by a use or function and are subject to routine management. In the Borough, Parks and Gardens include caravan parks, formal parks and foreshore reserves and smaller pocket parks throughout the urban areas.

Vegetation represented in Parks and Gardens will range between indigenous, native and exotic species. Some Parks and Gardens will have trees of historic significance.

Vegetation in parks and gardens will be managed to enhance the experience of the space by providing amenity and ensuring safety.

Where applicable, vegetation in Parks and Gardens will be managed to maintain and enhance historic landscaping or park designs.

Where possible Park and Gardens will be locations where Council actively increases canopy cover.

The procedures for Parks and Gardens will include direction and guidance on:

- Management practices for the respective Parks and Gardens
- Preferred species for reserve type
- The types of vegetation that will be inspected and timing and frequency of inspections
- Process for assessing tree health
- Managing risk and intervention triggers
- Tree replacement practices and processes

Vegetation Vandalism:

Vegetation Vandalism means willful and unlawful damage, injury or destruction of vegetation on Council managed Land, including poisoning, pruning, removal and ringbarking.

The procedures for Vegetation Vandalism will include direction and guidance on:

- Investigation of alleged acts of vegetation vandalism
- Site recovery actions
- Preventative measures to mitigate vandalism
- Enforcement processes for acts of vegetation vandalism

Weed management:

Council will manage weeds that are identified in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* as:

- State prohibited weeds
- Regional prohibited weeds

Council will also actively manage those plants that can be classified as invasive weeds or environmental weeds and pose a threat to the biodiversity values of natural areas and areas of high ecological value.

In addition to its own work, Council will manage weeds by working with and supporting local volunteer groups.

Council will monitor and apply for grants to support weed management activities.

The procedures for Weed Management will include direction and guidance on:

- Priority management areas
- The allocation of resources
- Education and training
- Management methodologies
- Alignment of activities with Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*, objectives

Street Planting:

Street Planting refers to the vegetation Council plants and manages in road reserves throughout the Borough. Street planting will be undertaken in a manner that enhances the existing character of the location by recognising the visual, historical, and ecological values of that location.

Future street planting will also be used to increase canopy coverage and contribute to the mitigation of urban heat.

Council will undertake an annual street tree planting program.

The Street Planting procedure will include direction and guidance on:

- Protecting the ecological or historical significance of existing vegetation.
- Enhancing the character of the location through species selection.
- Ensuring the community’s needs for access, amenity and safety are met.
- Ensuring planting in road reserves is compatible with existing and proposed infrastructure, particularly overhead powerlines.
- Improving the long-term management of trees and vegetation on road reserves
- Engaging with community and property owners as part of the annual street planting program implementation.
- Management of the Avenue of Honor.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Indigenous	Vegetation that occurs naturally in a location
Native	Vegetation that occurs naturally in a country but necessarily across the whole of that country

Exotic	Non-native vegetation introduced into an area
Ecological classification	Ecological classification or ecological typology is the classification of land or water into geographical units that represent variation in one or more ecological features.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every four years from the date of adoption.

OTHER REFERENCES

Borough of Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2025

Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)

Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Vic)

Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic)

Queenscliffe Planning Scheme

Borough of Queenscliffe Climate Emergency Response Plan

END