



UP25/93 Trees on Private Land

Mr G Ponton, Manager Strategic Planning



City of
Melville

Background

- Council has progressed its investigation of options for the management of trees on private property.
- Council resolutions (dating back to 2022), AGM requests (2023/2024), Elected Member workshops and community engagement have explored different options to manage trees on private property.
- The discussion has been informed by legal interpretations which establish that removal of significant trees constitutes development which in turn requires planning approval.
- Accordingly, the City is obliged to establish a policy position as to when a planning approval is required and how the issue of tree removal, retention or replacement is managed.



Conclusions

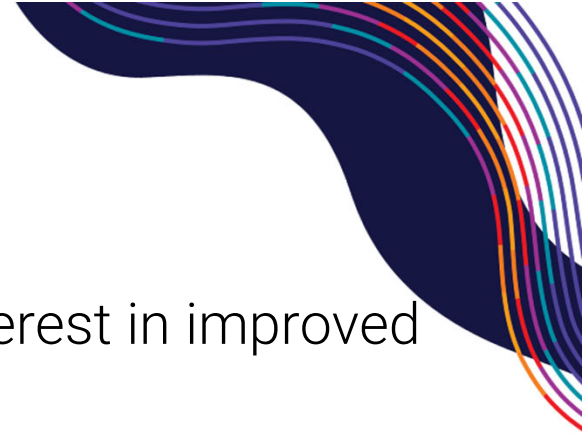
- Feedback from stakeholders has noted the need for improved management of trees on private property
- A policy response would deliver the required management of trees and enable a range of options to be considered.
- Whilst a range of views are noted, an approach with an overarching objective to encourage the retention of mature trees, while allowing reasonable development to proceed, and ensuring any necessary removals are offset with replacement trees, has gained a level of consensus
- Recommended that a draft policy be prepared reflecting the above high-level principles. The content of the draft policy will be workshopped with Elected Members and then presented to Council for consent to commence community engagement.



Recommendation

That the Council:

1. Notes the community feedback indicating strong interest in improved management of tree loss on private land; and
2. Requests the CEO prepare a draft Local Planning Policy relating to trees on private land, with an overarching objective of encouraging the retention of mature trees, while allowing reasonable development to proceed, and ensuring any necessary removal is appropriately managed to support long term urban tree canopy growth; and
3. Requests that the content of the draft Local Planning Policy be workshopped with Elected Members, prior to being presented to Council for consent to advertise.





Agenda Briefing Forum

December 2025



City of
Melville