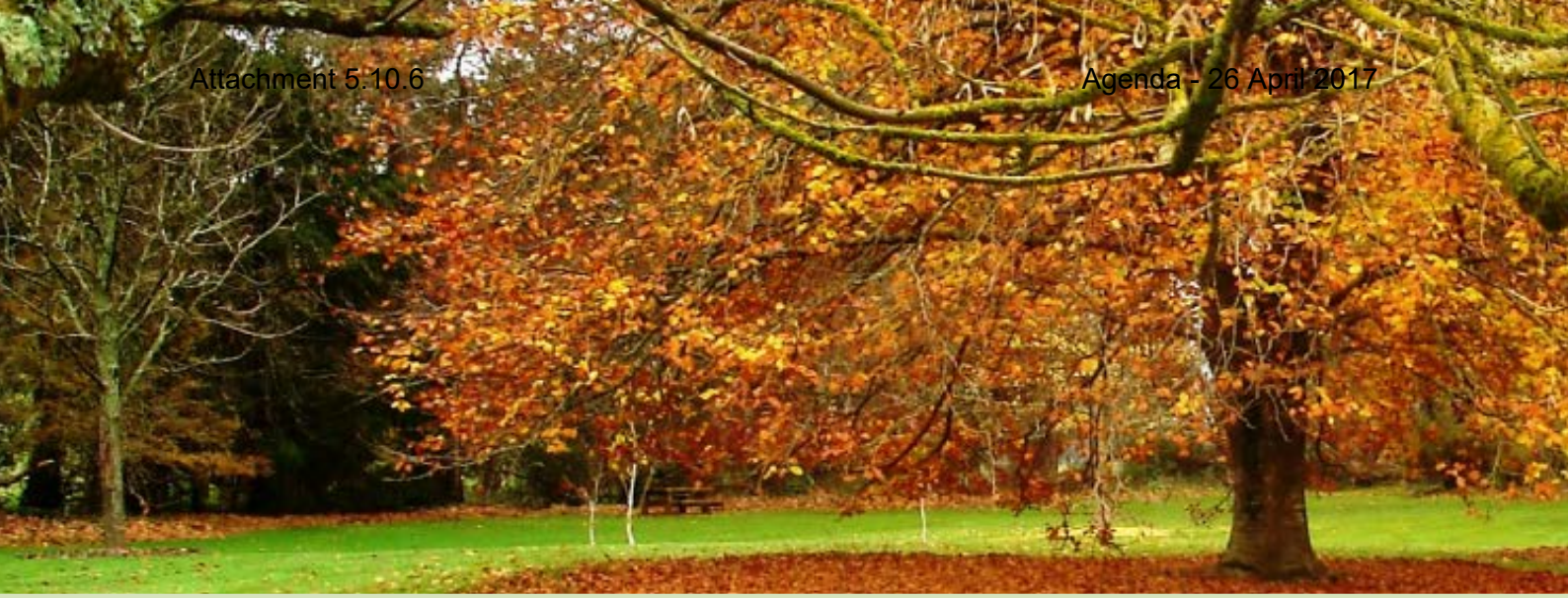


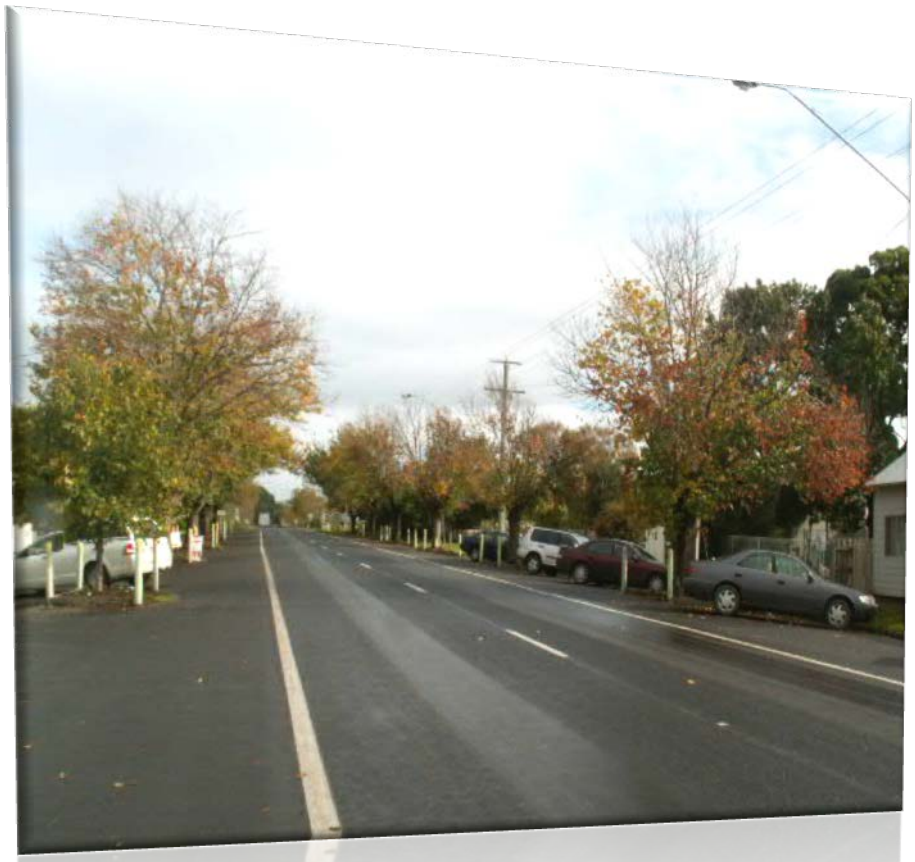
Urban Tree Management

Guidelines

December 2011

South Gippsland Shire Council

Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle



Main Street Welshpool, Avenue of Honour

Guidelines Commissioned by the South Gippsland Shire Council.

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Contents

1 GENERAL

1.1 Introduction

The South Gippsland Shire Council enjoys an excellent collection of tree lined streets and avenues, which form an integral part of the shire's appeal.

The Shire enjoys many unique microclimates within its boundaries and with this varying degrees of rainfall, temperature, soil types and topography ranging from Temperate rainforest to Coastal vegetation communities. This allows for a very diverse range of trees to be grown within the Shire, offers the opportunity to imprint selected species in specific areas which can help to give a sense of identity to a given location as well as preserve the history of South Gippsland communities.

The trees of the South Gippsland Shire Council are often in high profile locations which can generate much public debate and many residents are very concerned with general street tree health and maintenance. It is very important that Council recognises this and protects its trees to demonstrate to the community that it is fulfilling its obligations and is able to provide evidence and reasoning for its decisions.

The South Gippsland Shire Council comprised of twenty three townships as well as many smaller communities that contain an unknown number of street trees. It is envisaged that a Tree Register will be developed in the future. Street trees provide an increase in property values, provide shade and shelter, improve street amenity, absorb carbon and provide habitat. The asset is irreplaceable in the short term and the trees require good management to ensure their wellbeing. As a result these Urban Tree Management Guidelines have been developed to ensure the consistent management of these assets.

It is worthy to note that within the shire many areas and trees have been classified with heritage and conservation values. Therefore it is imperative that the Urban Tree Management Guidelines recognises this and works within those given processes.

If Council is to ensure that its urban tree heritage is to continue into the future it must plan and commit progressively to tree planting programs.

1.2 Purpose of Guidelines

1.2.1 The Urban Tree Management Guidelines aim to ensure that a cost effective management program and maintenance guide is balanced with environmental sensitivity. Consideration must be given by Council to the number of trees planted and Council's ability to maintain the asset.

1.2.2 The aim of these Guidelines is to strengthen the streetscapes within the shire by preserving and enhancing the streetscape and public open space amenity.

This is to be achieved by:

- the use of appropriate species.
- unification of the streetscape.

1.2.3 The Guidelines will ensure that acceptable tree management standards and maintenance are undertaken at all times and that Council will aim to provide adequate resources for tree management including:

- The development and maintenance of an acceptable tree audit system. This will be conducted by field staff collecting tree data as part of their normal duties.
- The use of annual audit inspections to ensure standards are maintained.

1.2.4 The Guidelines will develop a tree replacement strategy and commence a tree replacement program with set goals. The Guidelines will then be referred to when developing the Council Plan at which time resources will be allocated to implement programs associated with the Guidelines.

1.3 Scope of the Guidelines

1.3.1 The Guidelines shall apply to all tree plantings within any township in the South Gippsland Shire Council.

1.3.2 Any vegetation which is growing on Council owned and managed land becomes the property of Council and therefore Council has a duty of care to their maintenance requirements and standards.

1.3.3 The Guidelines shall also encompass Council' park tree assets but shall not be confined or limited to the recommended tree species list.

2 MANAGEMENT OF THE TREE ASSET

2.1 General

2.1.1 The maintenance and standards of Council's tree assets shall in the first instance be directed towards maintaining public safety.

2.1.2 Council will continue to seek from time to time to nominate tree assets with the various authorities to ensure their protection.

2.1.3 Council acknowledges that trees can in some circumstances conflict with other landscape and infrastructure elements but also recognises that the streetscape and public open space is an essential part of a pleasant and functional environment.

2.1.4 Estimating of the amenity tree value will be in accordance with the Australian Standard AS 4970:2007.

2.1.5 All new planting undertaken will be in accordance with Council's urban tree planting program. Planting will take place through customer requests or from Parks Officer recommendations. These must involve consultation with affected residents.

2.1.6 Council will not generally permit residents to plant trees and shrubs within Council controlled land and these may be regarded as unauthorised. These plantings may be removed by Council at any time. In circumstances where Council approves planting by residents, the elements of the Urban Tree Management Guidelines must be observed.

2.1.7 All works associated with the Urban Tree Management Guidelines must be undertaken in respect of all Occupational Health and Safety obligations and relevant legislative criteria.

2.2 Type and Species Selection

2.2.1 Species selection must take in consideration their suitability and appropriateness for the given area, but must also take into consideration trends in climatic conditions.

2.2.2 Appropriateness is measured by size, scale and form etc. For example, the right tree for the right situation.

2.2.3 The multitude of climatic zones and resident expectation will mean flexibility with chosen species. Both exotic and native species endemic and imported can be used to compliment a given landscape. A species list has been incorporated into these Guidelines (Appendix 1 - Recommended Urban Tree Planting List for South Gippsland Shire Council).

2.2.4 Council or its nominated representatives in conjunction with

residents will select the species of tree to be planted.

2.2.5 An on-site report undertaken by the Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator or his/her representative will be made to ensure the specie or species selected will fulfill the desired outcomes of the plantings. If there is a significant or dominant stand of trees already present and the trees are suitable, then the theme will be continued. Where appropriate a new selection will be made.

2.2.6 The following are considered desirable features of urban tree plantings:

a) Unification of the streetscape or public open space (do not use more than two (2) species).

b) Enhancement of the houses and premises of the street by the plantings.

c) Trees of a size which are dominant in the streetscape.

d) Must be easily and economically maintainable.

e) Root systems must be manageable.

f) If a multitude of species are used in a given street or park, the most dominant and appropriate species will be used.

g) If an unusual site condition restricts the use of the normal species a more appropriate species for this site may be chosen. The alternative will still exhibit the qualities necessary for tree planting.

h) Species used shall have a clear trunk to facilitate unrestricted parking and pedestrian flow and to encourage public safety. This includes clear vision at crossings for pedestrians and motorists.

i) Provide shade in summer if required.

j) Species must exhibit good growth characteristics and growth stability.

k) Species known to be of risk must not be used.

2.2.7 The following street characteristics must be considered prior to the selection of the tree species:

a) The naturestrip, its width and type in relation to growth and ultimate size.

b) Specific soil conditions or microclimates.

c) Housing styles and relation of buildings to tree sites.

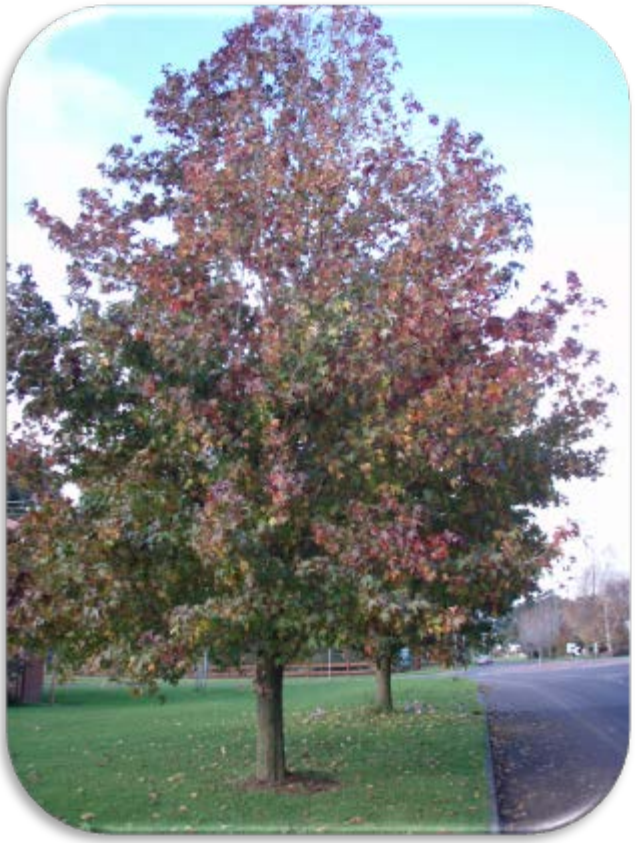
d) The existing streetscape and any shade requirements.

e) Service locations within the street.

f) Private plantings and their impact upon the street.

g) Street maintenance and the overall scale of the streetscape in relation to the length and width of the pavement.

2.3 Streetscape Design and Continuity



Bent Street, Leongatha

Liquidamber

2.3.1 The correct understanding of residential and industrial areas must be appreciated. A good streetscape does not necessarily mean the infusion of trees into a given area. In some cases trees may not be warranted. Consultation with the affected stakeholders is desirable.

2.3.2 Through an understanding of the street or park space an appropriate selection can be made. This includes the visual, physical and functional components and its interrelationship with surrounding areas.

2.3.3 Streetscape design objectives must be considered

a) Formality - This will unify a given area.

b) Character - To enhance the characteristics of the streetscape which contribute to the character already in place. The selection of species should also enhance the history of the built environment.

c) Scale - Avoid variations of size and try and achieve a balanced scale between the trees and the streetscape.

2.3.4 The role of urban trees is often quite subjective and planning must look beyond simply that it will grow but ensure that it will enhance that particular space.

Trees should aim to:

a) Disguise power lines or service cables.

b) Identify a particular precinct or town.

c) Act as conservation tool for local fauna survival.

d) Provide scale to the streetscape or park.

e) Add the natural component to the streetscape or park.

f) Soften the impact of the hard landscape.

g) Give contrasts of shape, color, form etc.

h) Relate buildings to each other or to the landscape site.

i) Give protection from the natural elements.

j) Provide a visual barrier against the hard landscape and environmental pollutants.

k) Aid in the directing of traffic or pedestrians.

l) Be climatically suitable for their location.

Trees should not:

a) Obstruct sight clearances at intersections or crossings.

b) Have frequent shedding characteristics.

c) Be prone to substantial pests and diseases.

2.3.5 To achieve the aim of Council in enhancing the streetscape or park to strengthen both the individual and the community amenity. The

streetscape or park must be developed and designed in consultation with residents and it should always assess the street and park and all its features.

2.3.6 Council's Urban Tree Management Guidelines must take into consideration all other relevant studies and policies.

2.3.7 Where road or infrastructure works of any nature are to be carried out by Council or other parties, all affected trees must be inspected by a Council Parks & Gardens Officer before any works commence. If any tree works are to be carried out, notification of at least two weeks must occur to residents for removal or Council representative for pruning or general maintenance. The costs involved in this process must be factored into the real cost of the infrastructure works so as to ensure the needs of the trees are taken into account.

2.3.8 An awareness of the life span of most trees and an effective maintenance programs / audit systems can ensure proper planning for tree replacement and this can take place before actual removal of entire landscapes.

2.3.9 Tree regeneration can be accomplished also by removing selected trees in a streetscape or avenue and replacing them with advanced specimens. Selective removals must be considered of mature populations on order to regenerate the streetscape.

2.3.10 In some circumstances trees will lose their vigor due to old age or poor management practices.

2.3.11 Trees are not permanent in the landscape and decline can be present long before the death of the tree.

2.4 Tree Planting

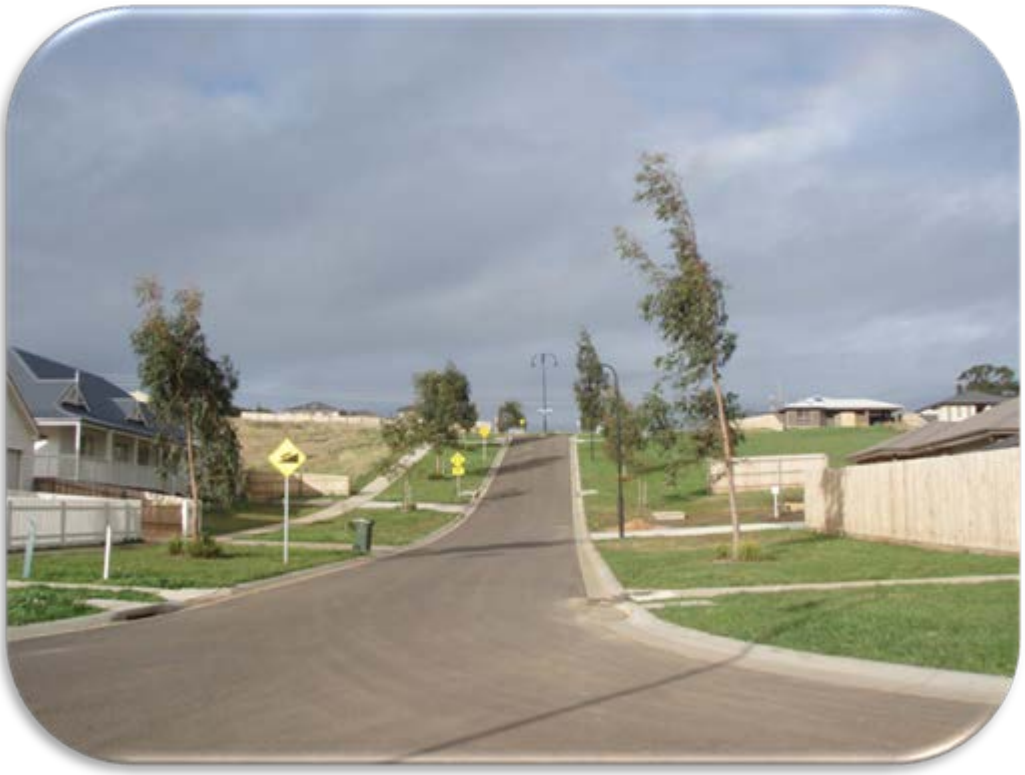
2.4.1 Residents can be divided on tree planting but in general the majority will expect trees to be planted by Council.

2.4.2 Replacement planting:

a) All trees removed from the streetscape or park are to be replaced as quickly as possible depending on the season. Trees should not generally be planted in the summer months or during periods of prolonged drought. These plantings are to take priority over new plantings.

b) Individual tree requests by residents must be fully assessed for suitability. If deemed appropriate the request will be placed on the tree planting list for action when appropriate. Refer to 2.5 Tree Planting Guidelines.

c) New development tree planting will be chosen in consultation with Council's Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator or nominated representative.



Shinglers Ridge Estate, Floraston Drive Leongatha

2.4.3 Whole street plantings or landscaping will be made in conjunction with Council's Capital Works Budget.

2.4.4 Elm Tree Maintenance:

a) South Gippsland Shire Council has excellent Elm avenues and these should remain intact and be protected. Elm Leaf Beetles has had a disastrous effect on the Elms throughout Victoria and the cost of maintenance is very high and with the use of insecticidal controls often very undesirable.

Elm Leaf Beetle

b) Dutch Elm disease has decimated Elms in the Northern Hemisphere and New Zealand and if it arrives here has the potential of the same outcome.

It is therefore unwise to plan major new plantings with susceptible species.

2.4.5 Action:

- Replace only those individual trees to maintain avenue integrity.
- Use alternative genera and species with the same aesthetic characteristics.
- Continue to implement Elm Leaf Beetle control.

2.5 Tree Planting Guidelines

2.5.1 All tree planting is to be carried out between May and September.

2.5.2 The selection of an appropriate planting site is crucial in the long term visual and maintenance of the tree. A poorly positioned tree can cause property and infrastructure damage and diminish the streetscapes visual appeal.

2.5.3 Planting sites should be selected to allow for functional limitations imposed by the street environment while complying with the existing streetscape.

2.5.4 Trees and shrubs approved by Council shall be planted as follows:

a) Where practical plant one tree in front of every property,

spaced approximately 12 metres apart this is intended to be the maximum default spacing and as near as possible to the centre of the property.

b) Locate no closer than 3 metres from sewer pit or fire hydrant.

c) Offset from power wires no closer than 3 metres.

d) Do not plant less than 1 metre from a gate.

e) Clear vision must be maintained at intersections, keep in mind eventual tree size at maturity.

f) Keep away from trees already planted on private property which may interfere with the streetscape.

g) Do not plant directly over service lead-ins.

h) Placement of trees must not cause sight problems from driveways.

2.5.5 Standardising of tree spacing shall be undertaken when practical so as to bring the general tree planting into line with the current spacing guideline.

2.5.6 Plantings should not be undertaken in streets with full width footpaths and less than 2 metres.

2.5.7 Council will utilise various size trees in its planting program; advanced and semi-advanced stock for tree planting and tube stock for revegetation plantings. Early maintenance of any tree is paramount for its cost effective future maintenance.

Tree planting, Korumburra

3 MAINTENANCE

3.1 General Care

3.1.1 Every endeavour shall be made to maintain all trees in a healthy and safe condition.

3.1.2 Clearances between the tree foliage and the power lines will be maintained according to the Code of Practice for Power Line Clearance 2010.

3.1.3 Safety for vehicles and pedestrians of the following clearances:

a) 5 metres over road - carriageways.

b) 4 metres over driveways.

c) 3 metres over footpaths and walkways.

3.1.4 The clearances above will apply to established trees only. Young trees could be damaged by pruning to the above guidelines.

3.1.5 Property owners have a legal right to prune back any vegetation that overhangs their property boundary. This right is for both private and public trees. No property owner will be allowed to prune any tree outside of their boundary without permission from an authorised Council Officer. Any remedial works that is required as a result of pruning without permission, full costs of works will be funded by property owner.

3.1.6 While upholding the rights of property owners to remove vegetation overhanging their property, Council would prefer to remove the vegetation itself as it has the expertise to carry out this work. Therefore foliage removal should be assessed and remedied as a priority.

3.1.7 Every attempt must be made to protect all established trees against damage through any works associated with underground or construction services.

3.1.8 A distinction is made between general street trees, park trees etc. and those that are heritage listed. All heritage listed trees should, if required, have additional resources allocated when needed. This must be within Council's budget capabilities.

3.1.9 Ongoing maintenance is essential for all trees in the public domain. An annual inspection by a Qualified Arborist should then be the catalyst for the maintenance program.

3.2 Pruning

3.2.1 Once an urban tree is established the major ongoing requirement of the tree is pruning.

3.2.2 Pruning of all trees should be as minor as possible.

3.2.3 Trees will be pruned to achieve specific goals and requirements:

a) Maintain public safely.

b) Maintain tree health.

3.2.4 Qualified arboricultural practices shall be used in all pruning works and only qualified or well trained persons shall carry out this work.

3.3 Crown Lifting - Visibility - Clearance

3.3.1 Trees shall be maintained to the following clearances:

a) Street names to be visible 50 metres in either direction.

b) Sight visibility from driveways or intersections.

Speed Limit	Distance
40 km	40 m
50 km	60 m
60 km	80 m
80 km	120 m
100 km	180 m

Road signs must be visible from the distance above.

3.3.2 The above works will only be carried out where clearance from the trees is necessary or where growth is likely to impede clearance requirements.

3.4 Overhead Service and Structure Clearance

Brisbane Street Poowong, Liquidamber

3.4.1 This procedure shall consist of reducing height or spread, or both of a tree while not affecting the health and vigor of the tree and shall only be applied to trees when such work is necessary to ensure safety of overhead wires - lights etc.

a) Investigate alternatives to tree pruning under powerlines in the short term by pursuing a variation to the Code where possible.

b) Work with supply companies to pursue aerial bundling or undergrounding of lines.

c) Have input with planning bodies to minimise impact on trees.

d) Protect, by following these Guidelines, all trees in the event of any close development.

e) Refer also to the South Gippsland Shire Council Powerline Management Plan.

3.4.2 All the above works are to be carried out by qualified or well trained staff.

3.5 Pests and Disease

3.5.1 All major pests and diseases are to be reported to Council's Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator for appropriate action.

3.5.2 Council must provide all affected persons with no less than two

days notification if any chemical pest control is to be used.

3.5.3 A pest control inventory is to be kept and all pest and disease control recorded.

3.5.4 Any works carried out must be done so with regard to public and user safety.

3.5.5 Chemical treatments are only undertaken where no other alternative exists.

3.5.6 If a severe pest or disease outbreak e.g. Dutch Elm disease occurs, and due to the very virulent nature of the disease, public consultation may not be possible and affected residents are to be advised as soon as possible. Diseases such as Elm leaf beetle are controlled in co-operation with other surrounding municipalities and authorities.

3.6 Tree Surgery

3.6.1 Tree pruning in general is not covered by this terminology and the term “Tree Surgery” will cover only "corrective and repair treatments" to trees. This work is very expensive and for this reason the cost of the work must be balanced up with the cost of the amenity value of the tree. Decisions need to be made in the case of badly damaged trees if they are to remain or removed.

3.6.2 Cabling and Bracing - This treatment is used to reinforce a branch artificially. This work should be only carried out in the event that the tree needs to be artificially supported for safety reasons. It will not support a tree which is in decline. Annual inspections of this work are needed to ensure its ongoing viability.

4 TREE ROOT SYSTEM MANAGEMENT

4.1 General

4.1.1 There is ongoing potential for problems to arise from all tree plantings. Problems can be with structures, houses, pavements etc. Tree root growth and problems are unpredictable and often cannot be recognised until it has occurred. Therefore very little can be done in the way of proactive maintenance. The requirements of public safety must always override those of the tree.

4.1.2 All claims for damage from alleged tree roots must be made by contacting the Risk Management department of the South Gippsland Shire Council Private Bag 4 Leongatha 3953 Telephone (03) 5662 9200 and any claims made for alleged damage will be in consultation with Council' insurer.

4.2 Tree Root Damage Claims

4.2.1 Any claim received by Council for tree root damage must follow the procedure below:

When a claim is brought to Council' attention the matter is to be fully investigated and a report prepared for Council' Risk Management Officer. Under no circumstances will the report admit to any liability on Council' behalf.
Reports should where possible contain full details of site, photographs and recommendations for remedial works. If the claim involves private property a qualified arborist is to be consulted for a detailed report.
The report is to be forwarded to Council' Risk Management Officer and a copy sent to the Insurance Company.
Expertise should be sought from various specialists for large dollar claims, such as Arborists, Engineers, C.S.I.R.O, Agriculture Victoria etc.

4.2.2 Remedial work on trees allegedly causing root damage may include:

a) The installation of a tree root barrier. The type and depth will depend on the severity of the problem and the species of tree.

b) Removal of tree, if the tree is an inappropriate species or in an inappropriate location, refer to 5.2 Tree Removal Criteria.

4.2.3 Only in cases where appropriate should lineal root barriers be used. The roots will be pruned if practical to property lines. This will only be done where the trees health and stability are not compromised. These works are only undertaken where circumstances have caused problems with property. Trees of historical value will be

considered for this type of work.

4.3 Installation of a Root Barrier

4.3.1 Any installation of a Tree Root Barrier will not be construed as an admission of liability. The purpose of the installation is to remove the potential for damage from public owned trees. The type and depth of the root barrier installation will be determined by consultation between Council Arborist and Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator.

4.3.2 Root barriers used will be between 600 mm - 1200 mm and this is determined by site inspections with the appropriate Officers and will be dependent on actual site conditions and the tree species involved.

4.3.3 The checking of all underground services is a pre-requisite to any commencement of works.

4.3.4 The critical root zone of any tree must be taken as per Australian Standard AS-4970:2007.

4.4 Tree Root Removal

4.4.1 Tree root removal should only be done by qualified persons and great care must be taken whenever this is done. If roots are severed or removed the following step must be taken:

a) Remove the root with as little damage as possible and in accordance with arboricultural procedures.

b) Only remove the amount of root that is really necessary. Remove as little as possible.

4.4.2 Any root pruning or root barrier procedure must be recorded to ensure adequate follow up treatments are carried out e.g. Fertilising and top pruning.

5 TREE REMOVAL

5.1 General

5.1.1 Trees in the urban landscape can create a great deal of emotion especially their removal for whatever reason. However, it will from time to time be necessary due to a variety of reasons to remove trees from the landscape. It must be remembered that trees are living organisms with a finite lifespan. Trees will not be removed for the following reasons:

a) To provide views to and from properties.

b) To provide views to advertising or other signage.

c) To reduce leaf and fruit litter.

d) Where natural tree form and structure will be affected.

e) To artificially shape the tree.

f) To provide increased sunlight; solar panels, gardens.

g) Root interfering with underground services that are faulty.

5.1.2 The present policies regarding tree removal will continue and no tree will be removed without notifying the Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator.

5.1.3 Excepting for safety reasons Council will notify residents, two (2) weeks prior to the removal of any tree from the streetscape.

5.1.4 If Council has agreed to the removal of a tree on grounds other than safety, all residents within the immediate vicinity of the tree will be notified. All objections will be dealt with by the Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator.

5.1.5 If trees are removed due to infrastructure works by any authorities provision will be made to ensure this is done without cost to Council and in line with these Guidelines.

5.1.6 If a tree is removed by any person or persons without authorisation from Council, this is deemed as a criminal act and Police notified and will be required to meet the full cost of replacement and value of the tree.

5.1.7 If Council is considering the removal of multiple tree plantings for any reason the following factors must be considered:

a) The contribution of the plantings to the overall streetscape.

b) Maintenance facts of the trees in question.

c) Potential damage from roots to services above and below ground.

d) The overall conditions of the trees.

e) The number of residents opposed to the removals.

f) The replacement species.

g) What is the significance of the existing trees?

5.1.8 The removal of trees by an authorised Council Officer must be in accordance with the following guidelines:

a) That Council has advised residents in the vicinity of the removal or members are notified and consulted.

b) Resident will be given ten (10) days to seek clarification and to make objection or comment.

c) That removal of the trees is in compliance with 5.2 Tree Removal Criteria.

d) If an objection is received, the matter will be re-evaluated and objectors consulted before any action is taken.

e) Tree or trees that pose an immediate risk to the public will be removed immediately without community consultation.

5.2 Tree Removal Criteria

5.2.1 Tree removal will only occur if one or more of the criteria listed below are met:

a) The tree is dead, dying, diseased or damaged.

b) The tree is infested with a disease or insect for which the control is inappropriate.

c) The tree poses public nuisance due to species, condition, or location.

d) The tree in question is interfering with the growth and development of new plantings or a more desirable species.

e) The aesthetic value of the tree within the given streetscape is very poor or distracting.

f) Any works in the close vicinity of the tree will make the tree sick or unsafe.

g) Preservation of the tree in view of development is not cost effective. The value of the tree shall be compared to the requirements necessary to preserve the tree.

h) Removal may be necessary to allow the construction of access to property where no other alternative exists.

i) The tree is not a significant specimen.

j) The tree is allegedly responsible for damage occurring to private property or public infrastructure and no alternative exists for its retention e.g. root barrier, pruning. The age and condition of the infrastructure must also be taken into consideration.

k) Where it is thought that repeated claims for repairs were likely to be more than the tree is worth.

l) Where trees are a noxious or environmental weed.

5.3 Applications for Tree Removal

5.3.1 Where requests are received from residents for trees to be removed from outside their properties the following will apply.

Except in the case of an emergency - safety situation all requests must be in writing or through Council' request handling system stating the problems that the resident feels the tree is causing. When the request is received the Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator or nominated representative will investigate the problem and prepare a report. If the Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator is of the opinion that the tree does not need removing then the person making the request will be informed. If the person making the request is not satisfied with the response they are advised that they can make contact their elected representative.

5.3.2 Tree Removal Process:

A written request is required.

Investigation carried out by Council Officer and action decided in the context of 5.2 Tree Removal Criteria. A tree report will be prepared by Council's arboricultural representative who will have authority to approve or reject the recommendation contained in the report and make suggestions as appropriate.

a) If recommendation is approved, affected residents are notified and reasons for removal given.

b) If objections are received on tree removal Council' arboricultural representative will re-evaluate the report and respond to the objector/s. If the objector/s is still not satisfied the matter will be referred to the Council' Executive Leadership Team.

c) If no objections are received, the tree will be removed.

d) When a tree is recommended for removal on the basis of safety then the normal notification process shall not be followed. Documented evidence of the tree problem will be kept in all such cases.

5.4 Process for Tree Removal Assessment

5.4.1 Written request received from stakeholder.

5.4.2 Upon inspection tree is found to fulfill one or more of the requirements set out in 5.2 Tree Removal Criteria.

5.4.3 If the tree is recommended for removal and it does not pose a safety concern, it is not dead, affected residents will be notified.

5.4.4 Written objections to be received within ten (10) business days prior to works commencing.

5.4.5 If no objections tree will be removed at specified time.

5.4.6 Tree removals will be performed in groups where practicable.

5.5 Method of Removal

5.5.1 Trees being removed are to be cut to ground level. The removal process must be undertaken in a safe and competent manner.

5.5.2 In all cases where the public may access the area, the stump must be removed to below ground level and the area made safe. By use

of a stump grinder and site made level.

Existing stump ***Removed stump***

5.5.3 All stumps awaiting removal must be fenced off with appropriate safety fencing to alert the public of the tripping danger.

5.6 Dead Trees

5.6.1 Dead trees can soon become brittle and quite dangerous and are to be removed as soon as possible if assessed as dangerous. If tree provides habitat value this will be a consideration when making assessment. The cause of death should be ascertained where there are suspected disease problems.

5.6.2 If dead tree is assessed by Council Arborist as high risk, no report need be submitted to Council for the removal of dead trees.

5.7 Dangerous Trees

5.7.1 Trees can become dangerous through a variety of reasons - Borer damage, root problems, storm damage, etc. Where an inspection reveals that a tree is dangerous its removal must be prompt. Immediate removal is needed to minimise any risk. Details and records of the removal should be kept.

Borer damage

5.8 Trees Allegedly causing Structural Damage

5.8.1 In the event of a tree allegedly causing damage to Council or private property by tree roots, every effort must be made to repair the problem without causing damage to the tree. Tree removal for this reason must be regarded as a final option.

5.9 Removal for Development

Street Tree, Michael Place Leongatha

5.9.1 When an application is made for a tree removal for development refer to 5.2 Tree Removal Criteria except where a tree in good condition and suited to its location may be removed provided that:

No other site available for cross over.

a) Affected residents have been notified and have had the appropriate opportunity to lodge an objection.

b) A suitable replacement tree is to be provided and maintained at cost by the property owner.

c) The cost of the removal and any other works which may be associated with it is to be borne by the owner/developer.

5.9.2 Procedures for tree removal for vehicle crossings:

a) Driveway applications are to be lodged with Council's Engineering department.

b) If the tree is affected by the crossover and requires removal and all other avenues have been explored, Council will organise removal.

c) The tree must be assessed by Council Arborist. The proposed removal is to be documented in a report and held by Council.

d) All costings and conditions for the removal are sent to the developer before removal.

e) The proposed removal is recorded and held by Council' records system. Residents will then be notified by the following process.

f) A letter is circulated with the proposal and a response time of ten (10) days is given for objections. If objections occur a report is prepared for Council to consider and give a resolution.

g) Residents notified of removal.

h) Applicant is notified of removal with accompanying account for works.

i) Account paid.

j) Tree removed.

k) Stump removed.

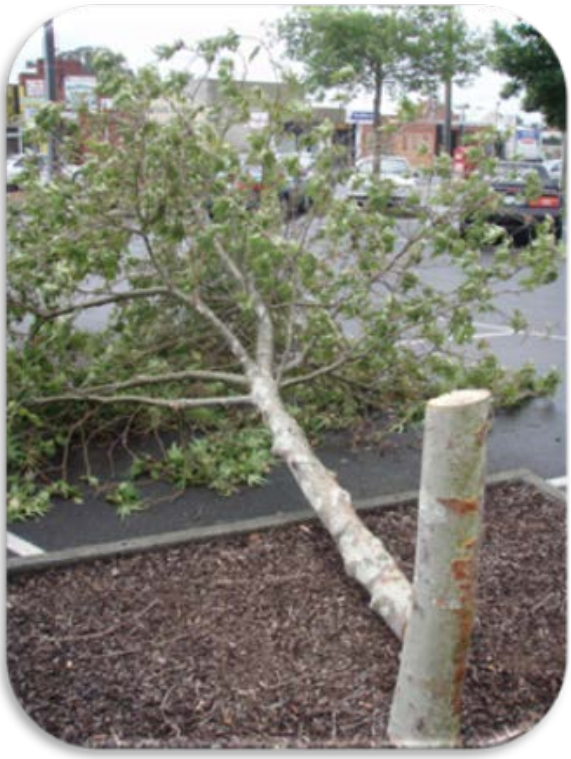
l) Replacement tree listed for planting at appropriate time.

5.9.3 Required distances: The following minimum distances area required for works near trees are available in Australian Standards AS-4970: 2007.

5.10 Disputes

5.10.1 When an objection is received the removal will be suspended until an appropriate Officer examines the objections and a final decision is reached. If no resolution can be reached the matter will be referred to Council' Executive Leadership Team for resolution. The designated Council Officer will advise the objector in writing of the final decision.

5.11 Poisoned or Vandalised Trees



Vandalised Tree, Hyland Place Leongatha

5.11.1 When tree/s has been poisoned or vandalised the incident will be reported to Police if culprits are identified they will be responsible for all cost for removal and replacement of tree/s and any damage caused by the tree/s as a result of the vandalism.

5.11.2 A valuation on the Tree value will be undertaken by Council Officers, offenders will be charged the full cost of that valuation.

5.11.3 Poisoned or vandalised tree/s will be removed if an immediate risk; if the tree/s can be made safe by removing outer limbs the rest of the tree will remain so that signage can be erected informing community of what has happened to the tree.

6 FALLEN TREES

Damage to Private Property from Council Tree

6.1 Council is not responsible for the removal of trees or limbs from private property that has fallen from a Council managed tree.

6.2 Trees or limbs that have fallen into private property from Council Tree/s that have not caused any damage Council will remove at the discretion of Council officers and permission from the landholder to enter the property.

6.3 Tree/s that have caused damage to private property e.g. home shedding vehicles, Council will not remove the fallen vegetation it will be the responsibility of the owner to arrange the removal, material can be left on the road reserve for removal by Council.

6.4 Residents that have had property damage caused by Council trees can contact Council' Risk Management Officer at Private Bag 4 Leongatha 3953 Telephone (03) 5662 9200.

Appendix 1 - Recommended Urban Tree Planting List for South Gippsland Shire Council

When determining the appropriate species selection, Council must give consideration to the following issues when approving tree planting:

1. Tree/s should be appropriate for local conditions (soil, climate, etc).

2. Tree/s selected should be able to reach full maturity taking into consideration, overhead powerlines, naturestrip width, infrastructure assets and underground services.

3. Ensure uniform species selection in each street.

4. Where possible indigenous tree species (native to South Gippsland), Australian natives or if the site is part or a continuation of an existing avenue the existing species should be chosen if suitable and approved by Parks & Garden Co-ordinator.

5. All tree/s should be supported by 2 hardwood stakes with jute tie, with a minimum 100 mm layer of mulch 750 mm radius around base of tree/s.

Species selection can be made from recommended tree list or from Indigenous Plants of South Gippsland Shire brochure available from the Council Office at 9 Smith Street Leongatha or otherwise approved by Parks & Gardens Co-ordinator.

Recommended Urban Trees

Acacia Melenoxylon (Blackwood)
12 metres x 10 metres; Clusters of pale yellow flowers in winter - spring likes moist sheltered site.

Acacia pravissima (Ovens Wattle)
6 metres x 5 metres; Evergreen spreading arching small tree, half-hardy. Triangular spine tipped dull green phyllodes with small heads of bright yellow flowers in late winter, early spring.

Acer japonicum "Aureum" (Japanese Maple)
6 metres x 5 metres; Deciduous bushy tree has rounded many lobed pale yellow leaves grown for foliage and colours brilliantly in autumn. Requires sun or semi shade and fertile well-drained soil. Protect from wind.

Acer Negundo (Box Elder)
12 metres x 8 metres; Small to medium sized deciduous tree with a spreading, often multi- stemmed. Tolerates frost, full sun, shade, air pollution and flooding, as well as drought to some extent.

Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)
10 metres x 4 metres; Columnar to narrowly ovate tree, upright branching habit, with leaves closely spaced forming dense canopy. Good tolerance but will shoe some signs of stress in hard summers. It will grow well in full sun or partial shade.

Acer platanoides (Crimson Sentry)
7 metres x 4 metres; Compact dense tree in upright habit, very dense column appearance. Good tolerances but will show signs of stress in hard summer, will grow in full sun or partial shade.

Acer platanoides (Emerald Queen) Emerald Queen Maple
12 metres x 10 metres; Board oval shaped tree with upright structure. Good tolerance but will show signs of stress in hard summer, will grow in full sun or partial shade.

Acer x freemanii `Jeffersred `
13 metres x 10 metres; Tree is oval to rounded with straight central leader, uniform in shape. Wide range of soil and climatic conditions.

Allocasuarina littoralis (Black she-oak)
8 metres x 3 metres; Evergreen upright tree that is suited to grow in both inland and coastal zones. Black she-oak is easily recognised because of its very short leaves typically only 5 - 8 metres in length, branch let are very fine bright green and contrast strongly with the black bark. Will grow in any well-drained site.

Allocasuarina verticalliata (Drooping she-oak)
8 metres x 5 metres; Is a round headed small to medium sized tree that will grow in a variety of sites, is tolerant of sandy dry soils and coastal spray's, and also in heavy, cracking clays. Has been used in difficult sites and is extremely heat tolerant. Verticillate has long pendulous branch lets of delicate grey - green foliage with a horizontally striped trunk.

Angophora costata (Smooth Bark Apple)
20 metres x 10 metres; Large fast growing evergreen, generally has dense foliage with board domed crown, Tree prefers full sun, well drained soil, does not like root disturbance.

Agonis Flexuosa (Willow Myrtle)
12 metres x 4 metres; Evergreen weeping tree grown for its foliage, flowers and graceful appearance. Needs full light and well drained but moisture retentive soil. Aromatic lance-shaped, leathery leaves are bronze - red when young. In spring - summer mature trees carry an abundance of small white flowers.

Banksia ericofolia (Heath Banksia)
5 metres x 2 - 3 metres; Evergreen free branching shrub. 10 - 25 cm long flower spikes rich gold to burnt orange in autumn - winter. Likes full sun, part shade and well drained sandy soils.

Banksia integrifolia (Coast Banksia)
15 metres x 3 metres; Native range occurs along coastlines but it will grow in most soils. It is extremely upright and will be no wider than 3 metres fully grown which makes it ideal for locations were width is restricted. Grows best in full sun, sandy soil and will tolerate full coastal exposure.

Banksia marginata (silver banksias)
5 metres x 3 metres; Autumn flowering with small yellow spikes, hardy plant will grow in a wide range of soils with medium rainfall.

Banksia serrata (Saw Banksia)
8 metres x 3 metres; Slender, serrated leaves and silky yellow flower spikes in summer. Suitable for medium rainfall areas in light soils.

Banksia spinulosa (Hairpin banksias)
4 metres x 2 - 3 metres; Excellent small tree for the heavier soils, has narrow, serrated foliage and produces attractive orange flower spikes in winter.

Callistemon "Harkness" (Harkness Bottlebrush)
5 - 6 metres x 3 metres; Evergreen rounded weeping small tree with narrow pointed light green leaves. Large to 25 cm long crimson - red bottlebrushes like flowers appear in early summer and autumn. Grows well in all soils from sandy skeletal to heavy clay filled.

Corymbia ficifolia (Red Flowering Gum)
15 metres x 10 metres; Evergreen medium sized tree with dense canopy, long lived. Tree prefers well drained free draining soil and has low tolerance of water logging, tolerates drought.

Cormbia maculata (Spotted Gum)
20 metres x 10 metres; Large evergreen tree will tolerate moist to dry, coastal sands.

Eucalyptus citridora (Lemon Scented Gum)
20 metres x 10 metres; Popular evergreen tree with a graceful crown and smooth, powdery white trunk. Tapered leaves 10 - 18 cm long are dark green and release a strong lemon scent when crushed. White, winter flowers are 2 cm across.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon "Pink" (Yellow Gum)
12 metres x 7 metres; Evergreen upright tree with smooth blue - grey bark mottled yellow or white. Lance shaped adult leaves are olive or grey - green. Pink flowers in clusters of three are borne from winter to spring.

Eucalyptus leucoxylon `Euky Dwarf
6 metres x 3 metres; Slender, small native with spreading crown. Coarse loose bark at base with smooth trunk.

Eucalyptus pauciflora ` Frosty`
7 metres x 4 metres; Small to medium evergreen tree with open pendulous canopy. Will not tolerate heavy soils.

Jacaranda mimosifolia (Jacaranda)
15 metres x 10 metres; Slow growing large deciduous tree. Frost sensitive when young prefers well drained soils and protection from strong winds.

Lagerstroemia indica (Crepe Myrtle)
6 metres x 5 metres; Small deciduous tree with multi-trunk habit. Tree can adapt to a range of soils, prefers full sun.

Leptospermum laevigatum (Teatree)
6 metres x 2 - 3 metres; Evergreen gnarled small tree, small oval leathery leaves are grey - green. Five pedaled white flowers occur in spring and early summer. Grows well in coastal areas if not too exposed. Needs full sun and fertile well-drained soil.

Lophostemon confertus (Brush Box)
15 metres x 15 metres; Fast growing evergreen round headed elegant tree with showy bark. Produces lanced shaped leathery lustrous leaves. In spring bears white flowers with prominent feathery stamen bundles.

Melia azedarach (White Cedar)
12 metres x 8 metres; Deciduous spreading tree. Has lush dark green leaves with many leaflets that turn rich yellow in autumn. Fragrant star shaped pinkish - lilac flowers in spring followed by pale orange - yellow fruits in autumn. Needs full sun, grows in any well-drained soil. Is one of very few natives that are winter deciduous.

Melaleuca ericifolia (Swamp Paperbark)
4 metres x 3 metres; Common in damp soils full sun plant may sucker. 5 metres x 3 metres, decorative small tree with bronze foliage and attractive double pink flowers in spring, are tolerant of heavy soils and dry periods.

Platanus orientalis var, digitata (Cut Leaf Plane)
30 metres x 20 metres; Large tree symmetrical canopy. Tolerates most conditions.

Pyrus calleryana `Bradford` (Bradford Pear)
12 metres x 9 metres; Medium deciduous tree with pyramidal shape. Moderate tolerance of drought and waterlogging. Hardy plant good for urban uses.

Pyrus calleryana `Capital` (Ornamental Pear)
11 metres x 3 metres; Medium deciduous tree with narrow column shape. Moderate tolerance or drought and water logging, good for urban use.

Pyrus calleryana `Chanticleer (Chanticleer Callery Pear)
11 metres x 3 metres; Medium deciduous tree with narrow pyramidal shape. Moderate tolerance of drought and waterlogging, hardy plant for urban uses.

Pyrus ussuriensis (Manchurian Pear)
9 metres x 7 metres; Small deciduous tree with board conical crown. The tree has a wide range, including urban sites, air pollution, moderately saline soils, low levels of drought and occasional wetness.

Quercus canariensis (Algerian Oak)
18 metres x 15 metres; Large round headed tree. Tolerates air pollution, moderate wet soils, clay and quite dry, fertile acid that are moist but well drained.

Quercus coccinea (Scarlet Oak)
12 metres x 8 metres; Large round headed with good branches attachment. Tolerates air pollution, moderate wet soils, clay and quite dry,fertile acid that is moist but well drained.

Quercus palustris ` Pringreen` (Green Pillar Pin Oak)
14 metres x 3 metres; Narrowly column deciduous tree. Good tolerance to moist soil types but prefers well drained soil.

Quercus palustrus (Pin Oak)
20 metres x 10 metres; Large deciduous tree strong pyramidal canopy. Good tolerance to most soils but prefers well drained.

Quercus robor `Fastigiata` (Fastigiate English Oak)
15 metres x 5 metres; Large upright deciduous tree. Tree can be susceptible to powdery mildew and oak leaf minor, but has high tolerance to water logging.

Tristaniopsis laurina (Water Gum)
12 metres x 5 metres; Slow growing upright evergreen tree forming a spreading pyramidal canopy. Tree will tolerate most conditions.

Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese Elm)
12 metres x 7 metres; Fast growing semi deciduous tree broad crown. Tree shows a high drought tolerance but prefers moist well drained soil.

Ulmus procera (English Elm)
15 metres x 8 metres; Large deciduous tree. Tree has good tolerance of dry conditions.

Appendix 2 - References

Metro trees, Tree handbook 5th edition
PO Box 5134 Alphington, Victoria, 3078

Ellis Mary, 2002, Significant Trees of South Gippsland

AS 4970 – 2009 Protection of Trees on Development Sites

City of Glen Eira Street Tree Planting Preferred Species Palette

Macedon Ranges Shire Council Street Tree Policy