

Tree Management

POL-038

VERSION:
1

EFFECTIVE FROM:
1 October 2026

REVIEWABLE FROM:
July 2028

INTENTION:

Weipa Town Authority (WTA) is committed to managing the safety and amenity of public spaces. WTA manages tree vegetation on public land to ensure sustainable shade, environmental protection and visual amenity; however, various risks stem from the presence of trees in public spaces. This policy outlines the framework for the management of tree vegetation related risks on public land.

SCOPE

This policy applies to tree vegetation on public land, managed by Weipa Town Authority (WTA), within the Weipa Town Boundary.

POLICY

1. Arborist Assessment

- 1.1. Each year, during dry season, a qualified arborist will complete an assessment of tree vegetation within a defined scope. The assessment should include recommendations on the mitigation and removal of hazards from tree vegetation.

2. Positive Reaction Program

- 2.1. Recommendations from the arborist assessment will be considered to form part of the maintenance plan for the year – known as a positive reaction program.
 - a) The program is limited by the WTA budget, with tier 1 high risk trees being prioritised.
 - b) This program is to be completed prior to the onset of wet season.
- 2.2. WTA will consider requests from the community regarding tree vegetation in line with the arborist assessment and maintenance plan for the year. Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis and prioritised as relevant.
 - a) Community members may request and receive authorisation from WTA to remove tree vegetation located on public land, at their own cost, if the tree specifically affects their property.
- 2.3. WTA may, at its discretion, choose to not follow the recommendations provided within the arborist assessment.
 - a) If a recommendation is not followed, the reasoning for the decision will be recorded in Magiq and approved by the Superintendent.
- 2.4. WTA may remove whole or part of tree vegetation residing on private property that impacts WTA infrastructure or land.
 - a) WTA will engage directly with the landowner before acting. It is the priority for all options to be exhausted prior to WTA stepping in to remove the intruding vegetation.
 - b) Where WTA removes whole or part of tree vegetation, WTA can recover all direct costs from the landowner.

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3. Tree Planting

- 3.1. Permission must be sought from WTA for the planting of tree vegetation on public land.
- 3.2. The Town Planning Scheme lists approved tree species for planting.
- 3.3. Approval will not be provided for the planting of any tree species not listed within the Town Planning Scheme.

4. Rehabilitation

- 4.1. When hazardous tree vegetation is removed, rehabilitation of a site may be undertaken. The level of rehabilitation work will consider:
 - a) extent of the root network
 - b) impact to vehicle access and underground infrastructure
 - c) confirmation re-planting would not replicate the hazard
 - d) no on-going dust generation is created
 - e) consideration of regionally sustainable vegetation
 - f) fauna habit restoration
 - g) shade coverage.
- 4.2. Community members may request and receive authorisation to remove the stump of a tree that has been removed by WTA. WTA will inspect the stump prior to authorisation provided.

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LEGISLATION AND COMPLIANCE

- *Local Government Act 2011* (Qld)
- *Local Government Regulation 2012* (Qld)
- *Town Planning Scheme 2019*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- WTA Risk Register
- Local Disaster Management Group Plan
- Annual Operational and Capital Budgets

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please consult with Supervisor Public Works.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Endorsed by	Effective From	Description of Amendment
1	Superintendent; WTA Members	DD MMMM YYYY	Creation of the policy to formalise the management of high-risk trees on public land.

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APPENDIX A - DEFINITIONS

Hazardous Tree: A tree with structural defects, damage or termite infestation that makes it likely to fail in whole or in part, posing a risk to personal injury, underground infrastructure or property.

Public Land: all land within the Weipa Town Boundary under the control of WTA. This does not include land within Commonwealth and State facilities, such as schools, hospitals and emergency services.

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