



Guidelines for working near council trees

Permit holders and contractors responsibility

Bayside's trees form an urban forest that provides habitat for many species of animals, shade for our community, and increases the value of nearby properties.

Council trees

Council trees are protected under Local Laws 62(2), 51(2), the Summary Offences Act 1966 s9(1)(c) and Vegetation Protection Overlays (VPOs). Council trees are considered and protected as an asset.

Root pruning

Tree roots greater than 50mm **must not be cut** unless endorsed as a planning permit condition or authorised by Bayside's Open Space Arborist in writing.

A penalty applies for damage to Council assets under Local Laws:

- 62 (2) 'A person must not destroy, damage, remove or interfere with any trees or plants on or within a municipal place; and
- 51 (2) 'A person must not, remove, prune or damage any street tree as a result of a vehicle crossing's construction, installation, removal or alteration.'

The exclusion zone table below has been developed to provide guidance for possible excavation adjacent to Council trees. Mechanical excavation or trenching is not permitted inside the exclusion zone. Boring must be used where there is potential conflict with large tree roots within the exclusion zone listed above.

Exclusion Zone	
Distances for different tree sizes	
Diameter at base of tree measured from base of tree	Exclusion zone No excavation permitted
Up to 25cm	2.0m from tree base
25 - 50cm	3.0m from tree base
51 - 65cm	3.5m - 4m from tree base
+ 65cm	5m from tree base



Installation of infrastructure

Council's Open Space Arborist must be contacted with a plan of the proposed works, site address, and tree location for all utilities/service and vehicle crossing requests.

Send plans to our Contact us form on the Bayside website bit.ly/3XAahEm, marked Attention: Open Space Arborist.

Please allow at least 10 working days from date received for response.

Council permit referrals (e.g., Vehicle crossings for Planning and Building permits)

The Open Space Arborist will approve the location of a vehicle crossing adjacent to a street tree. Mature size and future growth of the tree will be a major consideration.

Non destruction digging (NDD) may be required along the proposed line of excavation to minimise damage to tree roots. Hydro excavation is the preferred NDD method to be used adjacent to Council trees.

For further information regarding tree removal or tree pruning see Council's Street Tree removal Street and park tree management Policy bit.ly/3wbfn4F.



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Tree protection fencing

Tree protection fencing is required at all times during the period of the development.

The tree protection fence must:

- be established and maintained in accordance with AS 4970 2009 (Protection of trees on development sites)
- securely attached on all sides so it cannot be modified by site workers
- be a minimum height of 1.5 metres
- be rectangular/square in shape - follow the outline of the nature strip by extend up to (but not over) the back of kerb, edge of footpath and edge of vehicle crossing OR as identified in a Tree Protection Management Plan (TPMP) approved by Council's Open Space Arborist.
- be maintained throughout the entire demolition and construction period.

Tree protection fencing may be moved to enable:

- vehicle crossing construction as approved by permit
- grass cutting inside fenced area. Note: No chemical/herbicide treatment is to be undertaken for grass/weed control inside the fence.

Wide nature strips (greater than 2 metres) require square-shaped tree protection fencing.



Small to medium (under 2 metres) nature strips require rectangular tree protection fencing.

