

Significant Tree Policy

1 Purpose

This policy aims to identify and protect significant trees in the landscape, which have a high ecological, aesthetic or cultural value to ensure their future protection and management.

2 Policy

The policy is in line with the following objectives of the MyCoffs Community Strategic Plan:

Objective - C1.1 We create liveable spaces that are beautiful and appealing

Objective - C1.2 We undertake development that is environmentally, socially and economically responsible

Objective - C2.1 We protect the diversity of our natural environment

The City of Coffs Harbour (the City) has developed a Significant Tree Policy to identify and protect trees in the landscape which have an outstanding ecological, aesthetic or cultural value to the community.

The City will administer the Significant Tree Policy under the Coffs Harbour Local Environment Plan, NSW State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 and Part E Environmental Controls of the Coffs Harbour Development Control Plan 2015. The primary function is to prevent the unauthorised removal, lopping, topping, damage or wilful destruction of any listed significant tree(s) without the written consent of the City.

Under the Significant Tree Policy a register of tree(s) known as the 'Significant Tree Register' (STR) will define all significant trees in the Local Government Area (LGA). The tree(s) values relate to the following categories of significance:

1. Horticultural Value
2. Location or Landscape Context
3. Rare or Localised
4. Particularly Old
5. Outstanding Size
6. Aesthetic Value
7. Curious Growth Form
8. Historic Value
9. Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or South Sea Islander Culture
10. Outstanding Example of a Species
11. Remnant
12. Outstanding Habitat Value.

Through the STR, the City intends to compile information on each listed tree to better conserve and manage significant trees in the landscape. Nominations to add or delete a tree from the register may be made at any time and a procedure will guide staff on the implementation of the Policy. All changes to the register, either additions or deletions, will be reviewed by the significant tree committee that involves relevant staff from across the City. Changes will be finalised by resolution of Council.

3 Definitions

LEP: Coffs Harbour Local Environment Plan 2013

DCP: Coffs Harbour Development Control Plan 2015

LGA: Local Government Area

STR: Significant Tree Register

4 Key Responsibilities

Position	Directorate	Responsibility
Mayor	Council	To Lead councillors in their understanding of and compliance with, this policy.
General Manager	Executive	To lead staff (either directly or through delegated authority) in their understanding of, and compliance with, this policy and associated procedure.
Directors	All Directorates	To communicate, implement and comply with this policy and associated procedure.
Executive and Managers	All Directorates	To implement this policy and associated procedure.
Responsible Officer – Team Leader Biodiversity, Coastal & Flooding	Sustainable Communities	To implement this Policy and associated procedure, assist the Significant tree committee to assess nominations and administer the Significant Tree Register.
All City officials	The City	To comply with this policy and associated procedure.

5 References

5.1 Related Legislation, Australian Standards, OLG Circulars or Guideline

- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*
- *Coffs Harbour Local Environment Plan 2013*
- *Environmental Protection and Assessment Act 1979*
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994*
- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021*

5.2 Related policy or procedure

- Coffs Harbour Biodiversity Action Strategy 2012-2030
- Coffs Harbour Development Control Plan 2015
- Significant Tree Procedure

6 Details of Approval and revision

- **Approval date:** 24/11/2022
- **Responsible Group:** Sustainable Places Group
- **Responsible Section:** Local Planning
- **Superseded policies/procedures:** N/A
- **Next review date:** 28/08/2025

Table of amendments

Amendment	Authoriser	Approval ref	Date
Policy reviewed with only minor formatting changes and updates to legislation.	Council	2022/282	24/11/2022