

Information Sheet—Street Trees

Where does my verge begin?

Residential properties typically consist of a house and garden area **within** the property boundary and a verge area which is **outside** of the property boundary. The verge is the area between the property boundary and the road edge. A cross check is to note the location of your water meter which will generally be about 300mm inside your property.

Can I remove a street tree?

Not without approval; you are required to seek approval from the Town if you wish to remove a street tree for any reason. The following reasons are not considered sufficient or justifiable reasons for the removal of Town trees:

- The tree species is disliked;
- The tree is too large in size/height;
- The tree attracts birdlife or other fauna;
- The tree shape or structure is not liked;
- The tree is an inconvenience during development works;
- The tree is in the way of verge development;
- Tree litter falls or blows into gutters, down pipes or drainage systems, paths or swimming pools;
- The tree shades private gardens, lawns, solar panels, solar hot water systems etc;
- The tree produces natural debris, which includes leaves, flowers, fruit, nuts, bark etc;
- The tree is growing over private property and/or structures;
- The tree is perceived as dangerous;
- A perceived danger that a tree might fall or drop branches.

Can the Town prune my tree?

The Town encourages trees to grow as close to their natural form as possible. Council will only prune trees for the following reasons:

- To improve vision and access for vehicles and pedestrians;
- To improve the health of the tree;
- For requirements of Western Power & Main Roads;
- For safety reasons.

Only Town personnel and their contractors are authorised to prune council trees on council land. Branches which overhang private property lines cannot be pruned by Town staff or contractors.