


COUNCIL POLICY

Vegetation Management	Adopted By Council:	29 Jan 2025	
	Date/s Revised: 28/05/2025		
	Next Review Date:	05/2029	
	Document No:	CP057	
	Directorate:	Infrastructure and Environment	
	Responsible Officer:	Manager Infrastructure and Environment	

CONTEXT

The existing landscape in the Borough of Queenscliffe is complex and diverse. Remnant indigenous vegetation is a living reminder of the pre-contact landscape of the Bellarine.

The existing plantings of indigenous, native and exotic trees, shrubs and groundcovers include a visible link to our heritage. They provide biodiversity, habitat and amenity.

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to maintaining this diversity and enhancing our natural, urban and formal green spaces.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a principle-based framework to guide a planned and integrated approach to managing vegetation in the Borough of Queenscliffe.

The policy applies to all public land managed by the Borough of Queenscliffe.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of vegetation management are to:

- maintain and enhance the distinct character of the Point Lonsdale and Queenscliff townships
- promote liveability and cultural integrity
- create healthier ecosystems and improve environmental outcomes
- adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- increase tree canopy a minimum of 30%

PRINCIPLES

Council's vegetation management will be underpinned by:

- communication and engagement with community and support for volunteer involvement
- an understanding of our ecological and cultural context
- the alignment of management-with relevant legislation, and the Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*
- the protection of significant vegetation

- minimising risk and harm
- measuring, monitoring and recording what we do

POLICY

Procedures, strategies and plans will be developed to support and guide the implementation of the Policy. These will set out preferred vegetation management for:

- Foreshores
- Parks and Gardens
- Vegetation Vandalism
- Weed Management
- Street Trees and Plantings

These will be identified as management areas.

Vegetation management will be informed by, and implement the objectives and principles set out in this policy.

Where applicable the management practices in each management area will align with the actions of Council's Climate Emergency Response Plan.

The management practices in each management area will be guided by, and respond to, applicable legislation.

Council will develop systems and programs to support the activity and actions identified in this policy.

Each management area will be subject to risk management assessments and the respective procedures will include directions for activity specific to that management area.

Foreshores:

For the purposes of this policy foreshores are areas along the coast that remain in a predominantly natural state. The vegetation in these areas will be managed in a way that increase remnant biodiversity values and maintain existing ecological significance including protection of indigenous vegetation.

Invasive species will be controlled and monitored to reduce ecological disruption.

There will be a minimal intervention approach, except where safety or ecological threats exist. Vegetation restoration will be confined to rehabilitation of degraded areas.

Vegetation management in foreshore areas will also contribute to actions Council undertakes to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The primary vegetation management activity in foreshores will be revegetation and weed management.

Revegetation activity will be informed by Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*, consultation with traditional owners and the Borough of Queenscliffe Vegetation and Biodiversity Value Assessment 2024.

Only indigenous vegetation trimmings can be used for dune restoration work.

The procedure for Foreshores will include direction and guidance on:

- Intervention levels
- Revegetation practices and preferred indigenous species
- Primary ecological classification for locations along the foreshores
- Alignment of activities with *Paleert Tjaara Dja* objectives
- Weed control

Parks and Gardens:

Parks and Gardens are public spaces in Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale which are defined by a use and are subject to routine management. In the Borough, Parks and Gardens include formal parks (Princess, Citizens, Victoria, Royal), recreation reserves and caravan parks as well as other reserves, playgrounds and small neighborhood parks throughout the urban areas.

Vegetation represented in Parks and Gardens will range between indigenous, native and exotic species to maintain amenity and biodiversity. Some Parks and Gardens will have trees of historic significance.

Vegetation in Parks and Gardens will be managed to enhance the experience of the space by providing amenity, ensuring safety and maintaining the integrity of park design.

Where possible Park and Gardens will be locations where Council actively increases canopy cover.

The procedures for Parks and Gardens will include direction and guidance on:

- Management practices for the respective Parks and Gardens, including use of parks for events
- Succession planting and tree replacement for formal parks
- Preferred species for parks and reserves
- The types of vegetation that will be inspected and timing and frequency of inspections
- Process for assessing the health of trees and other vegetation
- Managing risk and intervention triggers
- Tree replacement practices and processes
- Improvement of vegetation health

Vegetation Vandalism:

Vegetation Vandalism means willful and unlawful damage, injury or destruction of vegetation on Council managed land, including poisoning, pruning, removal and ringbarking.

The procedures for Vegetation Vandalism will include direction and guidance on:

- Enforcement processes for acts of vegetation vandalism

- Investigation of alleged acts of vegetation vandalism
- Site recovery actions
- Preventative measures to mitigate vandalism

Weed Management:

Council will manage weeds that are identified in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* as:

- State prohibited weeds
- Regional prohibited weeds

Council will also actively manage those plants that can be classified as invasive weeds or environmental weeds and pose a threat to the biodiversity values of natural areas and areas of high ecological value. This includes, but is not limited to, problem weeds in the Borough:

- Polygala myrtifolia
- Italian Buckthorn
- Boxthorn
- Agave Species
- Bridal creeper
- Ivy
- Non-native grasses
- Marram grass
- Sea Spurge

In addition to its own work, Council will manage weeds by working with and supporting local volunteer groups.

Council will monitor and apply for grants to support weed management activities.

Council will approve integrated weed management methods only when supervised by people with relevant qualifications.

The procedures for Weed Management will include direction and guidance on:

- Priority management areas
- The allocation of resources
- Education and training
- Management methodologies
- Alignment of activities with *Paleert Tjaara Dja* objectives

Street Trees and Plantings:

Street Trees and Plantings refers to the vegetation in road reserves (nature strips and road verges) throughout the Borough. Street Trees and Plantings will be undertaken in a manner that enhances the existing character of the location by recognising the visual, historical, and ecological values of that location.

Future street planting will also be used to increase canopy coverage and contribute to the mitigation of urban heat.

Council will undertake an annual street tree planting program.

The Street Planting procedure will include direction and guidance on:

- Protecting the ecological or historical significance of existing vegetation.
- Enhancing the character of the location through species selection.
- Replacing species where current street trees are identified on the weeds list or have known allergenic properties.
- Ensuring the community's needs for access, amenity and safety are met.
- Ensuring planting in road reserves is compatible with existing and proposed infrastructure particularly overhead powerlines, in-ground services, roadway and driveway visibility.
- Improving the long-term management of trees and vegetation on road reserves.
- Engaging with community and property owners as part of the annual street planting program implementation.
- Management of the Avenue of Honour according to Council approved plan.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Indigenous	Vegetation that occurs naturally in a location
Native	Vegetation that occurs naturally in a country but not necessarily across the whole of that country
Exotic	Non-native vegetation introduced into an area
Ecological classification	Ecological classification or ecological typology is the classification of land or water geographical units that represent variation in one or more ecological features.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This policy will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every four years from the date of adoption.

OTHER REFERENCES

Borough of Queenscliffe Coastal and Marine Management Plan 2025
Borough of Queenscliffe Vegetation and Biodiversity Value Assessment 2024
Wadawurrung Country Plan – *Paleert Tjaara Dja*
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)
Marine and Coastal Act 2018 (Vic)
Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (Vic)
Queenscliffe Planning Scheme

Borough of Queenscliffe Climate Emergency Response Plan
Open Space Management Plan 2018

END