

Central Coast Council

Vegetation Management Policy

July 2019

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POLICY

The Vegetation Management Policy is to support the Council's vision and strategic objectives to ensure that a high standard of vegetation management is achieved and to also provide a consistent and sustainable approach towards the management of all vegetation within Council owned and managed land.

Placing a high importance on protecting and enhancing existing vegetation, identifying opportunities for new vegetation\landscaping and ensuring community safety through risk management practices.

Well managed vegetation provides an abundance of benefits including social, aesthetic, economic, environmental, and health benefits. Vegetation enhances our open spaces; it creates a sense of place and provides important habitat for fauna. Vegetation aids in erosion control, provides oxygen for us to breathe and helps to improve water quality.

Vegetation types vary and can range from grassy roadside verges, intrusive weed species, large majestic mature trees in a park or a beautiful secluded bush reserve they all have different management requirements but are all equally important to manage.

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The purpose of this Policy is to set out guidelines for the management, maintenance and preservation of vegetation on all Council owned and/or managed land.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all vegetation on Council owned and/or managed land.

Vegetation is a term used to encompass the following areas, but is not limited to:

Rural and urban trees, park and street trees, roadside vegetation, natural areas such as foreshore, inland and riparian reserves, perennial and annual gardens, grass and weed species.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Policy are to:

- Preserve, manage and enhance vegetation to maximise the benefits to the community whilst minimising associated public safety risks and costs;
- Maintain and enhance biodiversity and natural values of coastal, riparian and inland native bush reserves;

- Provide vegetation management that is consistent with the Council's Planning Scheme;
- Ensure vegetation is managed to a high standard using best practice;
- Manage vegetation as part of the Council's overall Risk Management Policy and continue to address tree risk through the Council's Annual Tree Inspection Program;
- Prevent unnecessary removal of vegetation;
- Vegetation will be protected where possible, from development;
- The conflicting requirements of trees and infrastructure will be minimised where possible;
- Weed species will be managed effectively through the Central Coast Council Municipal Weed Management Plan 2018;
- Consult and inform residents about all major projects involving vegetation removal, planting, spraying and pest and disease management where necessary;
- Continue to support environmental groups and schools with environmental activities; and
- Incorporate and look for opportunities where possible to include landscaping and green spaces when planning and designing civil projects and new subdivision developments.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Vegetation Management Policy complements and builds upon the Council's Strategic Plan 2014–2024 as follows:

Strategic Direction 1.1

- Improve the value and use of open space

Strategic Direction 4.1

- Invest in and leverage opportunities from our natural environment

Strategic direction 4.4

- Contribute to the preservation of the natural environment

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three (3) years, unless organisational and legislative changes require more frequent modification.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014–2024
- Central Coast Planning Scheme
- Central Coast Council Municipal Weed Management Plan 2018
- Risk Management Policy
- Open Space and Recreation Plan 2012–2022
- Street Tree Strategy 2010 (under review)
- Vegetation Management Strategy 2009 (under review)
- Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan 2010
- Specific Area Management Plans
- Applicable Works Procedures

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Approved by:



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Sandra Ayton
GENERAL MANAGER