



FACT SHEET

SIGNIFICANT AND REGULATED TREE REMOVAL

Background

Each year trees are removed across our City for a variety of reasons. All significant and regulated trees require inspections by qualified arborists. Our preference is to always retain the tree wherever possible. This fact sheet provides information on the removal of significant and regulated trees within the City of Onkaparinga.

What is a regulated tree?

A **regulated tree** is defined as any tree with a trunk circumference of 2 metres or more. If a tree has multiple trunks, the tree is defined as regulated when the trunks have a total circumference of 2 meters or more and an average circumference of 625mm or more (measured 1 meter above natural ground level).

What is a significant tree?

A **significant tree** is a regulated tree with a trunk circumference of 3 meters or more. If a tree has multiple trunks, it is defined as significant when those trunks have a total circumference of 3 meters or more and an average circumference of 625mm or more (measured 1 meter above ground level).

Why are regulated and/or significant trees sometimes removed?

All trees are inspected by qualified Arborists in the first instance. However, significant and regulated trees are removed for a variety of reasons, such as:

- The tree is in poor condition
- Presents a risk to public safety
- The tree was damaged through weather events
- Causing damage to infrastructure such as fencing, buildings or services

- To allow for new infrastructure development

Does the removal of a regulated or significant tree require council development approval?

Yes, following the community engagement process, the application will be assessed against the Planning and Design Code policies relating to regulated and significant trees as necessary.

Development applications within the City of Onkaparinga for regulated and significant tree removals can be viewed at the Noarlunga Office front counter during regular business hours.

Will more trees be planted?

When a regulated or significant tree is approved for removal, two trees are planted for each regulated tree, and three for every significant tree. Replacement trees may not necessarily be planted in the same location as the tree removal. If this cannot be achieved, funds will be redirected towards a fund called the Urban Tree Canopy Off-set Scheme.

We've set urban forest targets to increase urban vegetation cover and tree canopy in the City of Onkaparinga by 20% by 2045 and to plant 100,000 new trees in street verges, waterways and parks by 2037.

What if I don't want the tree to be removed?

Some circumstances mean we must remove the significant or regulated tree, such as potential danger to the public, where the tree is causing damage to infrastructure, or if the tree is in poor condition. For other significant and regulated tree removals, we will consult with the community prior to any removal.

We appreciate that the significant and regulated tree



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removal process can cause displeasure and inconvenience however, we aim to retain as many trees as possible with removal being the last option. Allowing the contractor's work team full and unhindered access will enable them to complete the works efficiently. This will minimise the period of inconvenience and ultimately benefit you as a resident.

What about my safety?

At the City of Onkaparinga, we take safety seriously. It is paramount we ensure the safety of our staff, contractors and the public. Work sites will be made safe by providing a designated work area cordoned off to the public and traffic management where trees are located on/near roadways.

We encourage the public to stay clear of all work sites and if you need to speak to someone about work near you, please contact us on 8384 0666.

Will I be able to access my property when a tree is being removed close to my home?

If the tree is in a park or reserve, then access to your property should not be affected. If the tree is located near your driveway, access to your property may be restricted and delayed at times, our contractor will be in contact with you prior to removal to reduce any inconvenience.

If you need to leave your house during a removal, please ensure you plan ahead. If possible, the best option is to park your car in a side street prior to works commencing on that day. If this is not possible, please allow extra time and notify the contractor's traffic control or surfacing teams at least 30 minutes prior to leaving, they can then minimise impacts or delays.

If works are scheduled on your street for multiple days, you will have full, unrestricted access to your property outside of working hours (7am to 5pm).

How do I get more information?

If you still have concerns or questions, please:

- Visit the dedicated Significant/Regulated Tree Removal page on the Your Say Onkaparinga website at onkaparingacity.com/yoursay
- Call or email us on 8384 0666 or mail@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au