



# Council Policy Manual

## WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL POLICY	
<b>TREE PLANTING ON WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL ROAD RESERVES POLICY</b>	Policy No:
	Adopted by Council: 19 February 2025
	Next review date: February 2029
Executive Director	Director Infrastructure Development & Works
Responsible Officer:	Manager Planning & Environment
Functional Area:	Planning & Environment
Introduction & Background	West Wimmera Shire Council is committed to the environment and to supporting initiatives for appropriate planting of trees on its used and unused road reserves.
Purpose & Objectives	Responsible management of tree planting on our road reserves by using the following guidelines to advise and assess applications by individuals, community groups or other entities.  The related Council procedure will provide further detail on the requirements for an application, including management of disputes.
Response to the Overarching Governance Principles of the Local Government Act 2020	Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 states that a Council must in the performance of its role give effect to the overarching governance principles. This policy is in response to the following overarching governance principle/s of the Local Government Act 2020:  (b) the public transparency principles (section 58)
Policy Details	
1.	<p>Adjoining landowners and stakeholders</p> <p>Council will consider planting applications only if adjoining landowners have provided written consent.</p> <p>Except when landowner permission is provided in writing, trees are to be planted no closer than 2 metres from a landowner's fence, and no closer than 5 metres off gateways.</p> <p>The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) are to be notified of plantings on road reserves.</p>



# Council Policy Manual

## WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

2.	<p>Restrictions</p> <p>No trees are to be planted within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Table drains;</li> <li>• 6.5 metres from the centre of the sealed road;</li> <li>• 5 metres from the centre of a gravel road.</li> </ul> <p>For unused road reserves a minimum width of 7 metres in the centre of the road should be clear of any planting to enable any future use of the road. If there are future plans to reopen the road reserve for traffic, the planting must allow for a clear width for use by traffic.</p>
3.	<p>Fire breaks</p> <p>No planting to occur in fire breaks nominated in the Municipal Fire Management Plan.</p>
4.	<p>Care and Maintenance</p> <p>Council is not responsible for the ongoing maintenance or replacement of dead trees. Any group responsible for planting tree plantations on road reserves is responsible for the management of weeds for a period of 10 years.</p> <p>Any tree guards used for seedling trees must be monitored on a regular basis. If any tree guards are dislodged/blown away they must be removed from the road reserve.</p>
5.	<p>Plant species</p> <p>Preferred plantings are those that are suitable to the site location, native to Victoria and indigenous to the area.</p>
6.	<p>Application in writing</p> <p>Any community member or group who is desirous of planting trees on Council road reserves must provide a plan that identifies at a minimum, the location, the extent and estimated numbers of plants and the proposed species.</p> <p>It is recommended an establishment plan is included.</p> <p>Any person or group who plants trees on road reserves without prior approval from Council will be asked to retrospectively apply to council and rectify their planting, which may include removing all of the trees, to ensure it meets the requirements within this policy and where a person or group cannot be found responsible, Council reserve the right to remove the trees.</p>



# Council Policy Manual

## WEST WIMMERA SHIRE COUNCIL

<b>Policy Adopted:</b>	Ordinary Meeting 25/07/02	Minute Book Page 10300	
<b>Policy Reviewed:</b>	Ordinary Meeting 06/04/06	Minute Book Page 13682	
	Ordinary Meeting 11/03/10	Minute Book Page 17759	
	Ordinary Council 16/07/15	Minute Book Page 31431	RecFind 15/002911
	Ordinary Council 20/12/17	Minute Book Page 37391	RecFind 17/005254
	Ordinary Council 19/02/25	NA	SRV Policies and Procedures