



# NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL

## TREES ON PUBLIC LAND GUIDELINES POLICY NO: ES 26

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### *Our Vision*

Nambucca Valley ~ Living at its best

### *Our Mission Statement*

'The Nambucca Valley will value and protect its natural environment, maintain its assets and infrastructure and develop opportunities for its people.'

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

A visually appealing streetscape can improve the social desirability of a district. This can be achieved through planning and design to incorporate and enhance the natural conditions.

The streetscape can be a harsh, man-made environment consisting of structures, poor and compacted soils, cramped conditions and pollution. Difficult site conditions combined with the risk of vandalism and limited maintenance resources makes growing and caring for street trees a challenging exercise.

The benefits of planning and design are twofold. The adverse impact of a man-made environment can be minimised through the planting of a suitable selection of native trees and shrubs within the streetscape thereby reducing the maintenance required and enhancing the natural environment in otherwise adverse conditions.

## 2. AIMS

The principal aims are to ensure suitable tree selection to improve aesthetics, provide shade, reduce noise, provide screening, wind protection, create habitat for native fauna and importantly create a theme that enhances the overall amenity of each township.

## 3. OBJECTIVES

These aims can be expanded to become the following list of objectives:

- a To ensure where practicable compliance with Council's insurance and risk management best practice guidelines for street trees.
- b enhance the overall amenity of each township.
- c improve the aesthetics of urban areas.
- d provide shelter from the sun and wind.
- e Minimise conflict between trees and pedestrians.
- f Minimise the effect of trees on traffic safety in the areas of sight distance and roadside hazards.
- g protect trees on streets from damage and vandalism.
- h Protect historically important trees.
- i Minimise possible damage to vehicles.
- j Reduce and prevent conflict between trees and services such as stormwater, water and sewerage assets.
- k Reduce and prevent damage to structures such as road, footpaths, kerb and gutter and buildings.
- l select trees suitable to the local climate and site conditions.
- m Where possible, select species which provide habitat for local nature and wildlife.
- n Where appropriate, integrate water sensitive urban design (WSID) initiatives.

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## 4. APPLICATION

These guidelines are to be used to facilitate the selection of appropriate tree species for any planting on road reserves or any other public place.

Any person or organisation involved in the tree selection process must make reference to the requirements of these guidelines.

## 5. TREE SELECTION

The tree species to be planted can be selected from the list in Appendix A.

The final site conditions and constraints such as power lines, footpaths and traffic view lines must be considered when selecting appropriate tree species.

Regard should also be given to the selected species contributing to the town or village. Refer 6 – Local Conditions.

Planting unsuitable tree species at a given site can cause problems in regard to:

- road safety
- interference to overhead electrical wires and lighting
- damage to footpaths, gutters and roads
- blockage and breakage of sewerage, water, or stormwater assets.
- foundation damage to buildings
- obstruction to pedestrians (branches)
- risk to pedestrians and private property (fruit, seed pods and dropping limbs)
- failure of tree to grow and thrive.

The aim is to select desirable trees that can combat such conditions and possess these characteristics:

- long lived to reduce replacement costs and provide continuity
- drought and wind tolerant
- low maintenance - tree does not drop limbs, require extra watering or regular pruning after establishment and fruit and seedpod drop is minimal.
- deep rooted - a central tap root causes less damage than spreading roots
- does not grow excessively tall
- disease and pollution resistant
- suitable to the local climate and site conditions
- provides habitat for native fauna.

Further information can be obtained from the free publication titled Nambucca Valley Vegetation and Planting Guide available from Nambucca Valley Landcare. The Guide can be obtained online at the following link:

<https://www.nvlandcare.org.au/resources>

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Council has agreed to the use of non-native species identified as part of the already endorsed Urban Design or Landscape Plan publicly exhibited within the Macksville Revitalisation Plan.

## **6. LOCAL CONDITIONS**

Each urban area has a unique set of local conditions and the aim is to enhance this by choosing appropriate street trees with consideration being given to a theme in each town and village.

Further non-native species be included for all Council's towns, villages and street planting to build on those previously specified. These species include Dwarf Lagerstroemias, Acers, Azaleas, Camellias, Poinciana, annual bedding plants and suitable ground covers as identified and approved by Council's Greenspace Coordinator.

### a) Macksville

This town is the commercial and civic centre of the Valley.

The theme should reflect this view of the town. Landscaping needs to emphasise this theme by using trees that are traditional, conservative, durable, even stately.

Street tree planting that suits this style includes avenues, formal planting, use of deciduous trees and those Australian natives with symmetrical shapes.

The use of non-native species has been agreed to by Council following the public exhibition and endorsement of the Urban Design or Landscape Plan for the Macksville Revitalisation Plan. The tree species to be used are Tibouchina (Alstonville), Tibouchina (Jazzy) and Magnolia Little Gem

### b) Nambucca Heads

This is the largest town and focus of the greatest tourist numbers. The theme needs to reflect a holiday atmosphere.

Suitable street trees to emphasise this mood would have colourful flowers or foliage and be Australian natives.

### c) Scotts Head and Valla Beach

Both are small coastal villages that cater to a large influx of visitors at holiday periods.

The nominated theme is again to reflect a coastal holiday. Australian natives tolerant to the harsh conditions are appropriate.

### d) Bowraville

This town has an historical background that can be emphasised by compatible tree planting.

Trees with a heritage value need to be protected. Australian natives would best promote the theme.

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e) Eungai Creek, Eungai Rail, Taylors Arm

These are small villages typical of rural Australia and the tree planting should reflect this feeling.

Australian natives are the most appropriate species to use as street trees.

## **7. TREE LOCATIONS**

To avoid future problems it is necessary to plant trees in the correct locations. The following guidelines are to be used in positioning new trees:

- a) The roadside edge of a mature tree trunk should be no closer than 1.5 metres to the kerb face where there is no likelihood of a concrete path being constructed. Council does not permit landscaping within 1.5 metres of the kerb to prevent obstructions to pedestrians.

Where a concrete path has been built or is likely to be built (eg near schools, commercial areas and high density housing) then the roadside edge of the mature tree should be located 2.4 metres from the kerb face.

- b) At intersections the trees are to be no closer than 10 metres from the property boundary line.
- c) Sharp bends in streets may be unsuitable areas for street trees as they may restrict vision for motorists.
- d) Trees are not to be planted in areas where there is obvious evidence of vehicle accidents such as scuffed power poles and kerbs or repaired house fences.
- e) At driveways, pedestrian crossings and bus stops no minimum distance is nominated but trees should be chosen that are suitable for pruning of the lower branches to give a clear sight for motorists and not be a “bushy” type tree.

## **8. MAINTENANCE AND/OR REMOVAL OF TREES ON PUBLIC LAND**

Please refer to Council’s Policy: Trees and Street Gardens (Maintenance and Removal of Trees and Street Gardens on Public Land Managed by Council).

Requests by residents for maintenance and/or removal of trees on public land can be made in writing. A Tree Removal/Pruning Application on Public Land form can be downloaded from Council’s website, [www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au](http://www.nambucca.nsw.gov.au).

Generally, maintenance of trees in public reserves will be minimal and will only be carried out if a particular hazard is identified. Routine maintenance is carried out to ensure:

- sight distance or road lighting is not obstructed by existing tree and shrub canopies; and
- juvenile trees do not develop lower limbs that block footpaths, prevent parking or are likely to be struck by vehicular traffic travelling in designated traffic lanes.

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## 9. UNSUITABLE STREET TREES

Many trees are well known as “troublesome”. They may have substantial root systems, grow very tall, drop large fruit or be “illegal” trees because they are declared as noxious plants or environmental weeds.

Some of the trees are already planted and growing within footpaths. No new plantings of these trees will be permitted and any existing trees will be progressively removed from streets as funds permit.

This list of unsuitable trees is attached as Appendix B.

## 10. HISTORY

<b>Department:</b>	Engineering Services	<b>Last Reviewed</b>	<b>Resolution Number</b>
<b>Policy Category</b>	Organisation	20 October 2010	
<b>Endorsed By:</b>	AGMES	15 September 2011	
<b>Approval Authority</b>	General Manager	9 February 2017	58/17
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Site Leader Green Space	26/10/2017	514/17
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Site Leader Green Space	11 February 2021	40/21
<b>Document No.</b>	25051/2011		
<b>First Adopted</b>			
<b>Resolution No:</b>			
<b>Review Date:</b>	March 2020		

## APPENDIX A – Tree Selection (Suitable Australian Street Tree Species)

Species	Risk of Sewerage Damage	Possible Pedestrian Obstruction	Local Native
Acacia chrysotricha (Newry Golden Wattle)			Y
Acacia elata (Cedar Wattle)			
Acacia floribunda (White Sally)		Y	Y
Acacia prominens (Gosford Wattle)			
Acmena smithii (Lily Pily)			Y
Alphitonia excelsa (Red Ash)			Y
Angophora bakeri (Small Leaved Apple)			
Archidendron grandiflorum (Pink laceflower)			Y
Backhousia myrtifolia (Grey Myrtle)			Y
Banksia ericifolia (Heath Banksia)			Y
Banksia integrifolia (White Honeysuckle)			Y
Banksia serrata (Red Honeysuckle)			Y
Brachychiton acerifolius (Flame Tree)			Y
Buckinghamia celsissima (Ivory Curl Flower)			
Callistemon citrinus (Red Bottle Brush)			Y
Callistemon salignus (Willow Bottle Brush)	Y		Y
Callistemon viminalis (Drooping Bottle Brush)	Y	Y	
Casuarina glauca (Swamp Oak)			Y
Casuarina littoralis (Black She Oak)			Y
Ceratopetalum gummiferum (Christmas Bush)			
Cupaniopsis anacardioides (Tuckeroo)			Y
Elaeocarpus reticulatus (Blueberry Ash)			Y
Eucalyptus ficifolia (Red Flowering Gum)			
Eucalyptus gummifera (Red Bloodwood)			
Eucalyptus nicholii (Small Leaved Peppermint)			
Glochidion ferdinandi (Cheese Tree)			Y
Grevillea banksii (Banks Grevillea)			
Grevillea banksii x G whiteana (Grevillea Moonlight)	Y		
Grevillea "sandra gordon" (Sandra Gordon)			
Hakea laurina (Pincushion Hakea)	Y		
Hakea salicifolia (Willow Leaved Hakea)	Y		Y
Harpullia pendula (Tulip Wood)			Y
Hymenosporum favim (Native Frangipani)			Y

<b>Species</b>	<b>Risk of Sewerage Damage</b>	<b>Possible Pedestrian Obstruction</b>	<b>Local Native</b>
Jagera pseudorhus (Foambark tree)			Y
Lagunaria patersonii (Norfolk Island Hibiscus)			
Leptospermum petersonii (Lemon Scented Tea Tree)		Y	Y
Melaleuca alternifolia (Needle Leaf Tea Tree)			
Melaleuca armillaris (Giant Honey Myrtle)		Y	
Melaleuca bracteata (White Cloud Tree)			Y
Melaleuca linariifolia (Snow in Spring)			Y
Melaleuca quinquenervia (Broad-leaved Paperbark)			Y
Melaleuca styphelioides			Y
Mischocarpus australis (Red Pear Fruit)			Y
Neolitsea dealbata (White Bolly Gum)			Y
Parachidendron pruinatum (Snow Wood)			Y
Pittosporum phylliraeoides (Butterbush)	Y		
Pittosporum rhombifolium (Queensland Pittosporum)			
Pittosporum undulatum (Pittosporum)			Y
Podocarpus elatus (Plum Pine)			Y
Syzygium luehmanni (Lilly Pilly)			
Syzygium oleosum (Blue Lilly Pilly)			Y
Syzygium paniculatum or australis (Brush Cherry)			
Tristania laurina (Water Gum)			Y
Westringia fruticosa (Native Rosemary)			Y

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## APPENDIX B - Tree Selection (Unsuitable Trees)

Plantings of trees from this list are **NOT** permitted within footpaths and road reserves and existing trees will progressively be removed from streets by Council subject to funding allocations:

- *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven)
- *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine)
- *Casuarina cunninghamiana* (River She Oak)
- *Casuarina glauca* (Swamp Oak)
- *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel)
- *Cotoneaster* species (Cotoneaster)
- *Eucalyptus citriodora* (Lemon Scented Gum)
- *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* (Sugar Gum)
- *Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum)
- *Eucalyptus torelliana* (Cadagi)
- *Ficus elastica* (Rubber Tree)
- *Fraxinus oxycarpa* (Desert Ash)
- *Grevillea robusta* (Silky Oak)
- *Ligustrum* species (Privet)
- *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda)
- *Koelreuteria paniculate* (Golden Rain Tree)
- *Melia azedarach* (White Cedar)
- *Nerium oleander* (Oleander)
- *Ochna serrulata* (Ochna)
- *Pinus radiata* (Radiata Pine)
- *Plantanus* (Plane Tree)
- *Populus* species (Poplars)
- *Salix* species (Willows)
- *Saplmum sebiforum* (Chinese Tallow Tree)
- *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree)
- *Schinus molle* (Peppercorn)
- *Syagrus romanzoffiana* (Cocus Palm)
- *Tristania conferta* (Brush Box)
- *Ulmus Procera* (Elms)
- *Erythrina x sykesii* (Coral Tree)
- *Erythrina crista-galli* (Cockscomb Coral Tree)
- *Eucalyptus grandis* (Flooded Gum)
- *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt)
- *Gleditsia triacanthosa* (Honey Locust)
- *Pinus elliottii* (Slash Pine)
- *Tecoma stans* (Yellow Bells)
- *Toxicodendron succedaneum* (Rhus Tree )

Noxious plants (*plants that are gazetted as noxious plants which include Pampas Grass, Tree of Heaven, Blackberry and Scotch Broom*) are **not** to be planted under any circumstances.