

What are the penalties for unauthorised tree works?

If you remove, damage or lop a tree without Council's consent, you may be liable for a fine of up to \$1.1 million if prosecuted in the Land and Environment Court.

Council may signpost areas of tree vandalism and offer rewards of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the successful prosecution of an offender under the Tree Preservation Management Order.



What is a breach of the Tree Preservation Order?

A breach of the Tree Preservation Order occurs when unauthorised work is carried out on a tree covered by Council's Tree Preservation Order (TPO).

To avoid breaching the TPO, you must obtain a copy of Council's TPO and positively identify the tree on which the proposed works are to be carried out. Then determine whether you require Council's consent. Works undertaken on protected trees due to incorrect identification will be considered a breach of the Order.



Keeping Pittwater Beautiful

For more information contact:



PO Box 882, Mona Vale NSW 1660
Phone: 02 9970 1111
Email: pittwater_council@pittwater.nsw.gov.au

For a copy of Council's Tree Preservation Order, Exempt Species Table, and Tree Removal Application Form:

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/local_services/tree_information/

 PITTWATER COUNCIL

Tree Preservation

Guidelines for Builders and Residents.





What is covered under the Tree Preservation Order?

This order applies to any tree or shrub, (please refer to Section 3 of the Tree Preservation Order), and any area of bushland as listed under SEPP 19.

Why Protect Trees and Bushland?

Pittwater is an area of high scenic and environmental quality comprised of unique flora and fauna in a coastal bushland setting.

Since its inception in 1992, Pittwater Council has developed a strong environmental mandate in its approach to development in the locality and the formulation of building controls, codes and policies. The aims of these policies is to minimise both the physical and visual impact of development upon the natural landscape, as well as conserve, protect and restore the existing landscape character.

Pruning of Trees

The pruning of a tree by less than 10% of the foliage is exempt from the requirement of consent. This covers most situations such as limbs overhanging or touching buildings or electrical wires. Pruning greater than 10% of foliage requires Council consent.

Crown thinning is the recommended method of pruning trees. Indiscriminate pruning can be a danger to your safety and the health of the tree. For this reason all pruning must conform to the Australian Standard (AS4373-2007) and be undertaken by a qualified Arborist.

What am I able to do without Council's consent?

- » Remove a declared noxious weed or tree listed in the Exempt Species Table.
- » Prune a tree by less than 10% of the foliage area within a period of not less than 12 months since any prior pruning.
- » Remove any tree harbouring fruit fly or grown for its edible fruit.
- » Respond to an Order of Council.

When do I need to obtain Council's consent?

- » To prune a tree by greater than 10% of the foliage area.
- » To remove any tree not otherwise listed in the Exempt Species Table.
- » When works are likely to alter the soil level around the trunk or within 3 metres of the trunk of the tree.

Council may consider granting consent for the removal of:

- » A tree that is diseased or dying.
- » A tree that is causing or is likely to cause substantial property damage to buildings.
- » A tree that is significantly mishappen or causing substantial overshadowing.

What if a tree is on a development site?

Given the extensive nature of the tree canopy in Pittwater, sensitive site planning in relation to building location and retention of significant trees is required.

Through its landscape policies, Pittwater Council aims to preserve the existing tree canopy in areas of wildlife habitat, and restore the canopy in areas which have been cleared by development.

As part of all Development and Building Applications, Council requires a landscape plan to be submitted, therefore a separate Tree Removal Application Form is not required.

For Landscape Plan Specifications go to;

www.pittwater.nsw.gov.au/building_and_development/controls_and_policies/landscape.

Does Council have a list of recommended arborists?

Council does not have a list of Arborists and cannot recommend particular Arborists. Council suggests you check the contractors qualifications and insurances. The two professional bodies to which Arborists belong are; The National Arborists Association of Australia and The Tree Contractors Association of Australia.

