

Tree Preservation Order Guidelines for Tree Replenishment

1.0 General

Council will require the replacement of trees approved to be removed under the order and may in certain areas specify the species and location of replacement plantings.

The replacement of trees is required to ensure consistency with the following aims of the Tree Management Policy:

- *To manage Ku-ring-gai's tree resources in a sustainable manner.*
- *To protect, and enhance biodiversity values and identify replenishment opportunities.*
- *To recognise, protect and enhance aesthetic and heritage values.*
- *To secure and maintain amenity.*
- *To sustain and enhance the tree canopy.*

2.0 Tree replenishment criteria

Where a tree is removed, Council will generally require replacement with a locally occurring canopy tree within 28 days of tree removal. However Council's Tree Management officer will take into account various criteria when determining the number location and type of tree for each permit. Replanting does not necessarily have to occur in the same position as the original tree or trees.

2.1 Criteria

General site capability in regards to replacement including:

- The site conditions, including slope, geology, soil depth moisture, orientation.
- The number, size location and canopy spread of existing canopy trees on the site and overhanging the site.
- The character of the surrounding area, and neighbouring properties
- Whether bushfire prone land
- Whether the site is heritage listed or within a heritage conservation area.
(consideration of appropriate species and location required)
- The significance of the removed tree.
- The available planting area.

3.0 Replenishment in special areas

Specific provisions will apply for species and locations of planting required for replacement/replenishment of trees within known environmentally sensitive areas.

3.1 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Planting of locally occurring native tree species will be a requirement for, but not restricted to, the following areas:

- areas within a designated riparian zone as defined in Council's Riparian policy, or sites associated with such zones
- within 100 metres of bushland areas.
- within designated bio linkage corridors as identified in Council's biodiversity strategy

3.2 Heritage areas

Planting of appropriate species in regard to the special character of the site and surrounding area whether exotic or native will be required in the following areas:

- Properties listed under local state or federal heritage listings.
- Local Heritage conservation areas

4.0 Tree replenishment timing

Replacement planting is normally required within 28 days of the removal of the tree(s), and this is stated as a condition within the permit.

4.1 Planting prior to commencement of works

Council may require replanting prior to commencement of the actual tree works. In such circumstances which is analogous to a "deferred commencement", Council will issue a letter outlining replenishment requirements and then issue a permit for works once the required planting has been satisfactorily completed. Circumstances where this provision may be applied:

- Where a particularly significant tree is to be removed, and there is scope and it is appropriate to replant elsewhere on the property prior to removal.
- Where it is apparent that previous replanting requirements have not been fulfilled.

5.0 Tree replenishment audit procedures

Council will keep a record of tree replenishment requirements and plantings will follow up replenishment requirements for applications on a regular basis. When consent is issued a letter concerning Council's tree replenishment requirements is sent after 28 days where the applicant has not informed Council of the replacement planting. This letter which includes a self stamped addressed envelope and form is filled out by the applicant and sent back to Council indicating replacement plantings undertaken, species and location. Alternatively Council may be informed by phone. Where tree removal is of a substantial nature or deemed environmentally and/or socially significant Council will undertake site auditing of replenishment requirements and may do so on an ongoing basis.

6.0 Tree replenishment – exempt trees

Where Council is aware of the removal of significant trees either as an exemption (eg, dead trees) or trees which may have been poisoned or the like, it is Council's policy that replacement planting be undertaken. Recognising that where a tree is exempt there is a need for co - operation of the tree owner.