



# Significant Tree Register Guidelines



## Introduction

The City of Bayswater has made a commitment to preserving and expanding upon its tree canopy coverage across the City. There are approximately 24,000 trees within Road Reserves and 9,000 within developed areas of Public Open Space (POS). Many of these will have values that are worthy of inclusion into the Significant Tree Register (STR). Whether a tree is naturally occurring, or was planted by the early founders of Bayswater, the STR will look to celebrate these trees and will play an integral role in assisting the City to maintain its tree canopy coverage through heightened awareness of the importance of trees within the urban environment. The STR will be a part of the public education program presented to the Community that discusses the benefits trees provide to the community and environment and will also serve as a reminder of Historical elements around our natural features.

## Purpose of the Significant Tree Register

The Significant Tree Register is part of a series of documents that the City of Bayswater uses to guide the management of its Tree assets. The ultimate purpose of the STR is to assist the City to identify and recognise the importance of significant trees within the urban area to enable an increased level of protection and care for such specimens. The first stage of the STR will focus on trees on land under the control of the City.

## Management of Significant Trees

Where a registered significant tree is located on land under the control of the City, it will be inspected by the City's Consulting Arborist on an Annual basis, and where specific target pruning or other remedial maintenance is required, this will be performed under the supervision of the Consulting Arborist.

## Assessment of Significant Trees

In order to ensure that there is value to the Significant Tree Register, it is intended that any trees listed on this register should be considered an "outstanding specimen" that is worthy of the resources the City is willing to invest in order to maintain the benefits it provides.

This is not to say that trees excluded from this register are not of high value, but they may not quite fulfil the criteria aimed at maintaining the integrity of the Significant Tree Register.

A significant tree is one that has a strong connection to the place in which it or they dwell; it is a product of the natural environment and the cultural impact of urbanisation in the landscape. A tree does not necessarily have to be large to be classed as significant. A small tree may carry with it many stories, or some unique attributes that no other tree of that species may possess.

To achieve inclusion onto the STR trees are to be assessed against 4 categories and must meet one of the criteria from two different categories (Significant Tree criteria below). For instance a tree may be 100 years or older (1E) and was planted by one of the early settlers of Bayswater (4C) such as the Oak trees around Tranby House.

The following criteria can be applied to individual trees or groups of trees, and does not attempt to quantify a tree on a point's basis, but rather in a qualitative approach through the demonstration of a basis for inclusion, such as providing legitimate historical records, newspaper articles or scientific information backing a claim. The following information is based on criteria set by the National Trust of Australia.

## Significant Tree Criteria

### 1. Outstanding Visual/Aesthetic Significance

- a) Tree/s that is (are) outstanding for its/their height, trunk circumference or canopy spread; 500mm DBH or over 10m in height;
- b) Tree/s that occur in a prominent location or context;
- c) Tree/s that contribute significantly to the landscape in which it/they grow in comparison to other trees within a 100m radius (including streetscapes, parks, gardens or natural landscapes);
- d) Tree/s that exhibit an unusual growth form or physical feature; or
- e) Tree/s that are of a significant age (100 years +).

### 2. Botanic/Scientific Significance

- a) Tree/s that are of an important genetic value that could provide important and valuable propagating stock. This could include specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or climatic extremes or have a particular growth form; or
- b) Tree/s that demonstrate a likelihood of producing information that will help the wider understanding of natural or cultural history by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

### 3. Significant Ecological Value

- a) Priority, rare, threatened or locally uncommon species or ecological community;
- b) Indigenous remnant tree/s that predate the urban development in its immediate proximity;
- c) Tree/s that make a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community, including its role as a seed source or specialised habitat;
- d) A remnant specimen now reduced in range or abundance, which indicates the former extent of the species, particularly range limits; or
- e) Tree/s which a part of a significant habitat element for rare, threatened, priority or locally uncommon or common native species.

### 4. Historical, Commemorative, Cultural or Social Significance

- a) Tree/s that are associated with public significance or important historical event for the City;
- b) Tree/s highly valued by the community or cultural groups for reasons of strong religious, spiritual, cultural or other social associations, including trees associated with Aboriginal heritage and culture;

Once an application has been made, the nominated tree will be assessed by a panel inclusive of the City's Consulting Arborist, Manager Parks and Gardens and Manager Sustainability and Environment. This panel will make a determination on a tree's worthiness for inclusion onto the Significant Tree Register. The assessing Officers may draw upon further advice from internal or external personnel as the need arises to ensure a thorough assessment is undertaken.

Once a determination is made the applicant will be informed in writing of the decision. Trees accepted onto the register will be listed with a registration form, which includes details about the tree, a photograph and a statement detailing the significance of the specimen. This register will be available for public viewing on the City's web page.

## Nomination Process

To nominate a tree for the Significant Tree Register, you will need to complete the nomination form with the following information

- Location (street address or Park Name and description of the location on the property);
- Common name (if known);
- A photo of the tree (if possible); and
- Any supporting information you have (Such as Historical records, newspaper articles, or scientific information).

## Process for Assessing a Significant Tree Nomination

