

Tree Management

Exemptions Continued

- Work on a tree without approval if the trunk is within 4 metres of the outside wall of a legally constructed home or outbuilding (eg shed or garage) of more than 20 square metres in area, the outside edge of the footings of a carport, or the outside edge of the coping of a legally constructed swimming pool.
Note - The 4 metres must be measured at ground level and the tree must be on the same property as the building, structure or pool
- Pruning of less than 10% of the crown of a tree in a 12 month period. Note - It is recommended if you are pruning branches greater than 60mm in diameter that you seek approval
- Work carried out on a tree by the State Emergency Service or Rural Fire Service in response to an emergency or severe natural event may also be exempt if the following criteria are met (a) the work is necessary to prevent imminent risk to human life or property, (b) authorised officers of the State Emergency Service or Rural Fire Service carry out the work and (c) work is carried out at the time of, or immediately after, the emergency or severe natural event.

What kind of approval do I need?

If none of the exemptions in the last section applies to you, you must seek written approval from the City of Ryde before:

- Removing a tree
- Pruning the crown of a tree (including the branches, leaves and any part of the trunk that branches arise from)
- Pruning or removing roots from a tree, if the roots are more than 40mm in diameter
- Adding or removing soil around a tree that is on your land or someone else's.

Most often, this means you will need to apply for a Tree Permit, which provides permission to prune or remove a tree or change the soil level around it.

Please note that if you injure a tree or carry out unauthorised work on a tree without approval from Council, you can be fined or prosecuted.

Need more information?

If you would like more information call the Customer Service Team on 9952 8222 or go to Council's web site www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/trees.

Consent will not be given for trees:

- That shed their leaves, fruit or bark as part of a normal living function of the tree
- Causing or likely to cause minor damage to driveways, sheds, drainage, or pipes as a result of poor maintenance from the applicant
- To improve vistas or views
- For unsubstantiated claims in regards to the above or perceived structural integrity of the tree/s.
- That are causing shading.

Can I prune my neighbour's tree?

If you would like to prune your neighbour's tree encroaching into your property, or alter the soil level around it, you must approach the tree's owner first.

A tree permit to prune up to 10% of a tree does not give you the right to enter another private property to carry out works on a tree.

If your neighbour does not agree to prune or remove a tree, or alter soil levels around a tree, the City of Ryde cannot compel them to do so. Disputes over trees are civil matters and should be resolved between neighbours or through the Land and Environment Court under the Trees (Disputes Between Neighbours Act) 2006. The City of Ryde will not intervene or settle tree disputes between neighbours.

Finding a Qualified Arborist

Working with trees can be dangerous and often requires the skills of an expert. It is important to hire appropriately qualified people to carry out tree works. Contact one of the following organisations to find a qualified arborist:

- Tree Contractors Association Australia, www.tcaa.com.au or 1300 660 379
- Institute for Australian Consulting Arboriculturalists, www.iaca.org.au or 1300 853 288
- Arboriculture Australia, www.arboriculture.org.au or 1300 664 374

Before employing an arborist, check they are insured and qualified to carry out the work you want done.



MANAGING RYDE'S URBAN FOREST

Individually and collectively, trees have environmental, economic and social value. The benefits of trees include amenity, visual quality, enhanced streetscape, native fauna habitat, soil conservation, enhanced microclimatic conditions, solar access control and improved air quality.

Together, all the trees in the streets, parks and private gardens of the City of Ryde are known as the urban forest.

The urban forest is a vital natural resource which brings a wide range of benefits to the community and environment. Its trees enhance the streetscape, provide habitat for native fauna and even improve the air quality.

It is recommended that you read this guide together with Development Control Plan Part 9.5 (Tree Preservation), which regulates tree related activities and the Tree Management Policy that states how the City of Ryde will sustainably managed the Urban Forest into the future.

Why does the City of Ryde have a Development Control Plan (DCP) for Tree Preservation?

Development Control Plan Part 9.5 (Tree Preservation) applies to all trees within the City of Ryde, both exotic and native, and to palm trees. The purpose of the DCP is to:

- To maximise a sustainable Urban Forest canopy across the City of Ryde.
- To conserve trees of ecological, heritage, aesthetic and cultural significance.
- To protect and manage individual trees as an important community asset.
- To establish the procedural framework and requirements governing the pruning, removal and subsequent replacement of trees within the City of Ryde.
- To ensure all new development considers existing trees on the development site and provides opportunity for the healthy growth of large trees.

Do I need approval before I begin?

Some kinds of trees can be pruned or removed and some work can be carried out without seeking approval first from the City of Ryde. If one of the following exemptions applies to you, it is not necessary to seek permission before you prune or remove a tree, or alter the soil levels around it.

Should you be in any doubt, please call the Customer Service Centre on 9952 8222 before proceeding. Please note that if you injure a tree or carry out unauthorised work on a tree without approval from Council, you could be fined or prosecuted.

Prohibited works

No exemptions apply if your tree:

- Is listed on the City of Ryde Significant Tree Register
- Is part of a vulnerable, threatened or endangered ecological community
- Provides or has the potential to provide habitat for native fauna or fauna classified as vulnerable or threatened under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995 (NSW) or Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)
- Is, or is part of, a heritage item listed in Schedule 5 of the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014.
- Is located within in one of the five heritage conservation areas shown on the Heritage Map in the Ryde Local Environmental Plan 2014.

NOTE - You cannot prune or damage any trees located on public land including street trees and trees in parks.

Exemptions

- If a tree is less than 5 metres high or its trunk circumference is less than 450mm at a height of 1.4 metres, it is not protected by DCP Part 9.5 (Tree Preservation). You can prune or remove the tree without Council approval.
NOTE - These trees are still an important part of the urban forest and should be preserved where ever possible.
- Removing roots, adding soil or excavating the soil around a tree can be done without permission if it takes place outside the "Tree Protection Zone". The Tree Protection Zone is the area around a tree set aside to ensure it remains viable and stable.

- Some species of tree usually can be pruned or removed without the City of Ryde's approval. (Refer to the table to the below).

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME
African Olive	<i>Olea europaea africana</i>
Athel Tree	<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>
Box Elder	<i>Acer negundo</i>
Broad Leaf Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>
Camphor Laurel	<i>Cinnamomum camphora</i>
Cockscomb Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina crista-galli</i>
Cocos Palm	<i>Arecastrum romanzoffianum syn. Syagrus romanzoffianum</i>
Evergreen Alder	<i>Alnus jorulensis</i>
Golden Robinia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>
Golden Wreath Wattle	<i>Acacia saligna</i>
Hackberry	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>
Indian Coral Tree	<i>Erythrina x sykesii</i>
Narrow Leaf Privet	<i>Ligustrum sinense</i>
Norfolk Island Hibiscus	<i>Lagunaria patersonii</i>
Oleander	<i>Nerium oleander</i>
Poplars	<i>Populus spp.</i>
Rhizomatous Bamboo	<i>Bambusa spp.</i>
Rhus Tree	<i>Toxicodendron spp.</i>
Rubber Tree	<i>Ficus elastica</i>
Tree of Heaven	<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>
Umbrella Tree	<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>
Weeping Fig	<i>Ficus benjamina</i>
Willows	<i>Salix spp.</i>
All edible fruit and nut trees except Lilly Pilly's (<i>Acmena spp.</i> and <i>Syzygium spp.</i>) Blueberry Ash (<i>Elaeocarpus spp.</i>) or Macadamia Tree (<i>Macadamia spp.</i>).	

- Removing dead branches from a tree without approval is usually permissible if the work is carried out according to Australian Standard 4373 - 2007 Pruning of amenity trees and the NSW WorkCover Code of Practice for the Amenity Tree Industry 1988.