

	Issue	Current requirement	Recommended amended requirements	Comment														
Tree works requiring an application																		
1	Tree removal	Approval needed for works for trees greater than 5m in height or where trunk circumference is greater than 450mm at 1.4m above ground level, other than certain exempt works	No change	Consistent with most other councils who have between 4-6m height. Tree circumference is consistent with the Forestry Commission definition.														
2	Prune the crown of a tree	Approval needed for pruning other than deadwood	Amend to allow pruning of 10% of the crown within each calendar year.	Discussed in the main report.														
3	Root pruning and adjustment of surrounding soil levels	Approval needed to prune or remove roots (greater than 40mm in diameter) from a tree or inside its Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) or alter soil levels within the TPZ	Amend to “no works within the structural root zone that would affect the structural stability of the tree”. The structural root zone is to be calculated using the following table: <table><tr><td>Diameter (mm) of trunk at ground level</td><td>0-150</td><td>300</td><td>500</td><td>1000</td><td>1500</td><td>2000</td></tr><tr><td>SRZ radius from trunk at ground level (mm)</td><td>1500</td><td>2200</td><td>2500</td><td>3600</td><td>4200</td><td>5000</td></tr></table>	Diameter (mm) of trunk at ground level	0-150	300	500	1000	1500	2000	SRZ radius from trunk at ground level (mm)	1500	2200	2500	3600	4200	5000	Discussed in the main report.
Diameter (mm) of trunk at ground level	0-150	300	500	1000	1500	2000												
SRZ radius from trunk at ground level (mm)	1500	2200	2500	3600	4200	5000												
4	Tree works near dwellings and outbuildings	No approval required to conduct tree works (including removal) where the stem of the tree is located within 3m of a legally constructed dwelling, outbuilding greater than 20m ² , carport or pool	Amend to increase to within 4m of a legally constructed dwelling, outbuilding greater than 20m ² , carport or pool. See diagram at Attachment 3. Some other Councils allow removal of trees within a certain distance of buildings, and increasing the distance by 1 metre is not unreasonable.	Discussed in the main report.														
5	Removal of certain species	Certain species can be removed without approval	Add the following 4 trees to the exempt list: <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> (Golden Robinia), <i>Acacia saligna</i> (Golden Wattle), <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp. (Cotoneaster) and <i>Celtis sinensis</i> (Hackberry).	Discussed in the main report.														

6	Tree works at educational establishments	Tree works exempt at Macquarie University or on State Government owned land	Add private schools as exempt. Clarify that these works must only be undertaken by the agency or their contractor.	See DCP amendments.
Information for applicants				
6	Policy	Information on the permission requirements are within Ryde LEP 2014 and DCP 2014 with no specific criteria for assessment of Tree Management TM Applications	Include specific assessment criteria to address areas such as age, health and stability, habitat value and amenity of the tree, and to specify non-valid reasons for the removal of a tree	Discussed in the main report.
7	Flyer	Urban Forest Application Guide and Urban Forest Management flyer	Amend name of "Urban Forest Management" flyer to "Tree Management in the City of Ryde"	More user friendly
8	Webpage	Information on Council's webpage	Amend to split the strategic documents from the documents applicants must refer to for a Tree Management Application and provide a link DA part of webpage to tree page.	Clarity for applicants
9	Arborist report	Currently unclear when an arborist report is required	Clarify that an arborist report is only required where an appeal is requested	Clarity for applicants
Development applications involving tree works				
10	DAs for tree works	Any tree works in a DA referred to external landscape consultant (from an approved panel of tenderers) rather than Council's Tree Officers, except for DAs which propose works to trees on public land.	Amend to draft standard conditions for DAs that can be used in referrals prepared by Council's Tree Officers and external consultants.	Current conditions are not standardised
Appeal process				
11	Criteria for Internal Review Panel	The Panel does not have set criteria for the assessment of TM applications.	Develop assessment criteria as outlined in the proposed DCP amendments	Improves decision making and communication with applicants
12	Membership of	Panel does not have technical	Amend Panel membership	Discussed in the main report.

	Internal Review Panel	representation		
13	Process for appeals considered at Works and Community Committee	Appeals not approved by an alternative officer or the Internal Review Panel are referred to Council's Works and Community Committee for consideration	Amend by Council engaging external independent arborist to provide a report before the Committee.	This will help inform the Committee's decision-making.
15	Cost of appeals	Currently appeals cost \$65.50 regardless of how many of the above steps are undertaken	Amend to require payment of \$25 for Stage 1 of the appeal process and \$40 for Stage 2 appeals.	Council's fees and charges are proposed to be amended as outlined in the main report.
Trees on public land				
16	Works requiring approval by Tree Officers	Existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) specifies that where tree works are to be approved by the Tree Officers for removal of <u>any</u> tree or pruning of trees over 3m. For urgent tree removals, the Tree Officers will allow removal after initial inspection.	Amend SLA to allow pruning up to 5m without approval by Tree Officers. Continue requirement for tree removal to be approved by Tree Officers.	The Works staff from the Operations Department may consult with the Tree Officers if required. This approach to tree removal allows the Tree Officers to conduct resident consultation prior to any tree removal.
Tree works affected by infrastructure construction and maintenance				
17	Design consideration	In some cases trees are not identified in the design stage for public works.	Encourage civil engineering staff to consider alternative strategies such as root pruning and root barriers.	Identification of trees is itemised on the Design Consideration Form but this needs to be emphasised with design staff.
18	Tree works (including removal) near power lines	These works need to be conducted by accredited staff. If a timely response is not received from Ausgrid or the works are urgent, Council will engage an independent accredited contractor to	Council contacted Ausgrid requesting better service however the response (to use their webpage and standard contact number) was not constructive.	The City Works and Infrastructure Directorate have advised that they are satisfied with coordinating these works where required. If no response is received from Ausgrid within 10 working days, the works will commence dependent on level of risk, generally

		conduct the work at its own cost.		within 10 working days. There would be a cost to Council of approximately an additional \$10,000 per year (currently Council spends \$20,000 per year on tree works near power lines).
19	Quotations for works	Quotations are sourced through adopted preferred panel of arborists as follows: Up to \$2,000 - one quote, \$2,000- \$10,000- two quotes, Over \$10,000- three quotes. Exemptions can be obtained for urgent works.	No change.	It is recommended that a more efficient use be made of Council's preferred panel of arborists on the minor works tender in cases of urgent works.
Other				
20	Significant tree register review	The current Significant tree register provides both the process for listing a tree and the register itself.	None at this time.	The significant tree register will be reviewed at a later date.
21	Street tree planting	Council's programme of street tree planting was raised at the Councillor workshop	No change. As per Council's adopted Street Tree Masterplan.	All street tree planting is undertaken in accordance with Council's street tree manual. Trees planted prior to the operation of the manual were not planted according to the current requirements.