

FAQ: Trees that pose a hazard

Local Government Tree Management Guidelines – March 2019

The Native Vegetation Council has developed guidelines to help local government to better manage trees on council owned and managed land in accordance with the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017. This includes managing trees for the safety of the public.

Note: These guidelines do not apply to clearance associated with road safety. For clearance in these circumstances, please refer to the Guidelines for the Management of Roadside Native Vegetation.



Regulation 8(6) – Safety of persons and property.

Under the guidelines, local councils are permitted to undertake clearance of part or whole of a tree for the safety of persons and property without providing a report to the Native Vegetation Council for approval.

Prior to clearance, they must address the following questions:

When will clearance be considered?

When a potential hazard has been identified by a qualified arborist using an industry recognised risk assessment process.

What must be assessed?

- tree condition (health)
- defects (structure)
- failure potential (likelihood of failure occurring)
- targets (people, property, infrastructure)
- target occupation (frequency of exposure)
- likelihood of identified part impacting target
- consequence of failure impact
- overall risk profile.

How will the works be done?

- Pruning works to be undertaken by a qualified arborist using Australian Standard 'Pruning of Amenity Trees'.
- The extent of pruning will be to maintain an acceptable level of risk to public and or property.
- Complete tree removal will be undertaken when all other reasonable remedial pruning options have been considered and determined ineffective.

Reporting to the Native Vegetation Council

An annual clearance summary is to be provided to the Native Vegetation Council at the end of each calendar year.

For more information

Refer to: Native Vegetation Council Local Government Tree Management Guidelines

Visit: www.environment.sa.gov.au/nativevegetation

Contact: nvc@sa.gov.au

