

DRAFT DOCUMENT

Reactive tree work

Policy 5(2): Unsafe Trees - Requiring Immediate Action

If a Council owned tree is in such a condition that it poses a very high risk to people or property, the Council will attend the site as an emergency normally within **1 hour** and always within **2 hours**. If work cannot be completed, areas at risk will be cordoned off until resources are available.

5.11 A tree that is in immediate danger of failure or has already failed in a busy or built up area would likely constitute a very high risk. If a tree poses an immediate and present danger it will be made safe within **1 hour** (emergency). If the level of risk is lower, the tree will be made safe within **7 working days** (urgent).

5.11.1 Immediate work out of hours will be carried out by an on-call tree gang.

5.12 Signs to look for which may mean that a tree is in such condition to warrant immediate action include:

- a) tree is snapped or blown over;
- b) tree uprooted but held up by another tree or building;
- c) a large branch has broken off or is hanging off the tree;
- d) tree or branch is blocking the road or footpath;
- e) tree or branch is blocking access to property;
- f) tree has fallen onto house or car.

Policy 5(3): Trees - Not Requiring Immediate Action

Trees that are perceived as high risk but present no immediate risk to the public will be made safe depending on the level of risk identified at the time of inspection. Tree works judged as urgent will be made safe within **7 working days**.

Works on trees that are not considered high risk but where essential remedial work is required will be carried out within **one year** of inspection.

5.13 Signs to look out for which may mean that a tree is a risk to people or property but the risk does not require an emergency response:

- a) tree is dead;
- b) tree is dying - few leaves in summer or dieback in the crown;
- c) bark is loose and falling off;
- d) mushrooms or fungi growing on or near the tree;
- e) old splits and cracks in the trunk or large branches;
- f) smaller branches or twigs falling from the tree.

5.14. Trees can be made safe via pruning or felling. Typically we would employ the most cost effective approach. But, for certain high value trees we would consider other options to reduce risk to an acceptable level including options to reduce the likelihood of the tree failing or the likelihood of persons being close to the tree if it did fail.