

TOWN PLANNING TREE CONTROL

Information sheet

Do I need Council permission to remove a tree?

Glen Eira City Council does not have blanket tree removal controls covering the municipality. However, there are town planning controls which may restrict the removal of trees on your property, or affect a proposal to develop your property. These include:

ResCode

ResCode is the State Government's design guide for multi-dwelling developments. Anyone intending to develop their residential property for two or more dwellings must refer to ResCode requirements in the planning scheme. A permit applicant must accurately describe, and have the proposal respond to, any significant trees existing on the site, and also any significant trees that have been removed in the 12 months prior to an application being submitted.

Council's consideration of significant trees removed prior to the application may result in Council imposed changes to a proposal, such as a smaller building footprint or the need for advanced replacement trees.

Planning permit conditions

Planning permits for residential development may contain conditions requiring the retention and protection of existing trees during construction, a requirement to plant canopy trees, and a requirement to submit a landscaping plan for approval.

These conditions must be complied with. Should you wish to vary these, and other planning permit conditions, you need to obtain prior permission from Council or, in some cases, the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Approved landscaping plans

When a multi-dwelling development is approved, a landscaping plan is required to be submitted and approved. A landscaping plan details the type and location of vegetation to be planted, and identifies which trees are to be retained. Variations to the landscaping plan will need prior permission from Council.

Heritage controls over specified trees

A limited number of properties are affected by the Heritage Overlay tree control. In these cases, a planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop a tree. Heritage tree controls can apply to trees on public and private land.

Significant Landscape Overlay

There is currently only one site in Glen Eira (Omama Road, Murrumbeena) where the Significant Landscape Overlay applies. This control conserves and enhances the character of existing landscapes. A planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop a specified tree or to construct a building or carry out works in areas specified as tree protection zones.



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Vegetation Protection Overlay

This overlay protects areas of significant vegetation, maintains and enhances habitat and habitat corridors or indigenous fauna and encourages the regeneration of native vegetation. Kitmont Street Reserve, Murrumbeena and the southern end of Boyd Park, Murrumbeena are included in the Vegetation Protection Overlay, as this area contains Glen Eira's only remaining significant remnant indigenous plant community. Swamp Gums and River Red Gums are protected in this area.

Native vegetation

If your site has an area greater than 0.4 hectare, then a planning permit may be required to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

Street trees

Street trees are protected under Council's Local Law. Should you have any queries about a street tree, including removal, contact Council's Service Centre on 9524 3333.

Enquiries

Should you wish to remove or lop a tree on your property and you want to find out if the tree is protected by any of the above planning controls, submit a written enquiry to:

Town Planning Department
Glen Eira City Council
PO Box 42
Caulfield South VIC 3162

Or alternatively email Council's Town Planning Department at mail@gleneira.vic.gov.au