

DEVELOPMENT FACT SHEET



Arborist Reports

Council may require information as to the health and structural condition of a tree. All reports and must be prepared by an arborist(s) with Australian Qualification Framework level 5 or equivalent in Horticulture (Arboriculture).

1. Tree Risk Assessment Reports

A tree risk assessment report may be required when the applicant considers that a tree presents an unacceptable risk. The report must quantify the unacceptable level of risk through an industry recognised methodology, in which risk is the product of:

1. the likelihood that the tree (or part of the tree) will fail within the foreseeable future;
2. the likelihood of that target being occupied; and
3. the magnitude of the expected consequence.

The report must contain at a minimum:

1. A site address;
2. Author's contact details and qualifications;
3. Statement detailing who (person/s, organisation, company) commissioned the arborist to prepare the report;
4. Date of inspection;
5. Executive summary (for larger reports);
6. Statement outlining the aims of the report;
7. The methodology of investigation techniques used in the research and preparation of the report (such as QTRA, TRAQ or VALID);
8. Identification of trees by a numerical value that correlates to a site survey plan;
9. A corresponding detailed site survey plan (to scale, with the scale shown) showing the tree/s;
10. Identification of tree/s by genus, species and common name;
11. Consideration of the target (e.g. frequency of occupation, value of structures);
12. A description of any specific identified defects (e.g. the extent of branch decay or basal cavity);

13. Where a trunk or limb defect assessment is undertaken, strength loss calculations and cross section mapping must be included;
14. A discussion of the likelihood that the tree (or part of the tree) will fail within the coming 12 months (e.g. the propensity for live limb failure or wind throw due to root cutting), the likelihood of that target being occupied and magnitude of the expected consequence;
15. Recommendations for risk mitigation based on the observations made. An explanation of why options are recommended or not recommended must be included; and
16. References used in the preparation of the report.

2. Pruning Specifications

Tree pruning (of either the crown or roots) has a direct impact on the health, structure and viability of a tree. A tree assessment must always be carried out to determine the need for pruning.

All pruning specifications must include the following information:

1. A site address;
2. Author's contact details and qualifications;
3. Statement detailing who (person/s, organisation, company) commissioned the arborist to prepare the specification;
4. Date of inspection;
5. Identification of the tree/s by a numerical value that correlates to a site survey plan;
6. A corresponding detailed site survey plan (to scale, with the scale shown) showing the tree/s;
7. Identification of the tree/s by genus, species and common name;
8. A description of the tree's:
 - a. height;
 - b. spread;
 - c. age class;
 - d. health;
 - e. structure;
 - f. growth habit;
 - g. distribution of foliage;
 - h. stability; and
 - i. growing environment.
9. Details of visible past pruning;
10. A discussion of the reasons for pruning;
11. A discussion of the potential impacts of the proposed pruning on the health, structure, wind loading and amenity of the tree/s including reference to the timing of the tree's biological processes and wound size;
12. An assessment of existing habitat and the potential habitat value of the tree or section of the tree being considered for pruning;

13. An assessment of the likely effects of any root pruning;
14. A specification of the type (pruning class) and amount of pruning to be carried out in accordance with AS4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees; and
15. References used in the preparation of the report.

Trees with hollows or other likely habitat may need further assessment by an ecologist or wildlife specialist in accordance with the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

3. Tree Monitoring Reports

Tree monitoring information may be required for the successful establishment of critical new plantings or for ageing or significant trees. An assessment of the health and structure of a tree sets a benchmark for future comparison. The report must include the minimum requirements set out in 1.3 Tree Assessment Reports, plus the following:

1. A photographic record of the tree and the growing environment including the date the photos were taken;
2. Detailed recommendations for site and/or tree remediation works (e.g. pest and disease control, irrigation, fertilising);
3. Recommended maintenance techniques to improve the tree's health and condition;
4. Details of the monitoring period, schedule of works (including a time line), a log or diary showing all tree work and maintenance activities carried out over the monitoring period;
5. Details of any products (for example, soil type and supplier) to be used in the maintenance of the tree; and
6. References used in the preparation of the report.