



TREE VANDALISM POLICY

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	MANAGER PLANNING
APPROVED BY COUNCIL	19 NOVEMBER 2024
RESOLUTION NO	171/2024
AMENDED ON	
RESOLUTION NO	
REVIEW DATE	NOVEMBER 2027

1. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1.1. Sorell Council values the natural environment and supports compliance with existing regulation.
- 1.2. This policy provides guidance on responding to instances of damage or destruction to native vegetation on public land.
- 1.3. This policy complements Council's Enforcement Policy, which sets out investigation and compliance actions in a risk based framework.
- 1.4. This policy complements Council's Public Places By-Law which regulates use of public land.
- 1.5. The policy complements Council's CCTV policy which outlines where CCTV may be deployed or accessed in response to alleged illegal activity.
- 1.6. The planning scheme and various State and federal legislation regulate the removal or modification of native vegetation.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Nil

3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.1. To deter damage or destruction of native vegetation on public land that may occur without necessary regulatory approvals.
- 3.2. To enable the use of signage as:
 - 3.2.1. a highly transparent and non-monetary or non-judicial deterrent; and
 - 3.2.2. an education mechanism that both increases community awareness of the values and significance of native vegetation and awareness of instances of native vegetation damage or destruction that has occurred without prior regulatory approval.

4. SCOPE

- 4.1. This policy applies to all Council owned or managed land.
- 4.2. This policy applies to Crown land subject to any standing authority, memorandum of understanding or equivalent agreed to from time to time between the General Manager and the relevant land manager.
- 4.3. This policy does not apply to privately held land.

5. PROCEDURE

5.1. Signage may be erected at the site of native vegetation that has been damaged or destroyed:

5.1.1. Regardless of whether the identify of those responsible has been established, and

5.1.2. Regardless of any civil or criminal action pending or complete by Council, the Crown or any person.

5.2. Signage, once installed, maybe removed if:

5.2.1. Native vegetation has re-grown to a similar age of that which was damaged or destroyed; and/or

5.2.2. Replacement native vegetation has been planted by an individual to compensate for that which was damaged or destroyed and is at an advanced stage of growth.

5.3. Signage may consist of one or more of the following:

5.3.1. A 300mm x 450mm sign on 3m high post;

5.3.2. A 1200mm x 900mm sign on posts 3m high;

5.3.3. Signage that is larger and/or higher to achieve its purpose;

5.3.4. Signage combined with shade cloth on suitably high structure.

5.4. Signage shall:

5.4.1. Include the Sorell Council corporate logo and contact details.

5.4.2. State the following or similar message:

PROTECT OUR NATIVE TREES

It is suspected that vegetation has been vandalised.

Native vegetation provides visual amenity, habitat and protects against landslip and erosion.

This sign will remain until native vegetation re-establishes.

6. GUIDELINES

6.1. Nil

7. COMMUNICATION

7.1. Sorell Councillors are informed of this policy.

7.2. A copy of the policy will be publicly available via a range of methods.

8. LEGISLATION

8.1. *Local Government Act 1993.*

8.2. *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*

8.3. *Crown Lands Act 1976*

9. RELATED DOCUMENTS

9.1. Nil.

10. AUDIENCE

10.1. Councillors.

10.2. Public.