

Vegetation Management Policy

Approved By: **Council**
Doc Controller: **Director Infrastructure Services**

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Next Review Date: **June 2030**

PURPOSE

This Policy provides a framework for the sustainable management, protection, maintenance and enhancement of vegetation on Council owned and/or managed land.

It establishes a consistent approach to vegetation management that balances environmental sustainability, public safety, community expectations and responsible resource allocation.

COMMITMENT

The Central Coast Council is committed to managing vegetation in a consistent, sustainable and environmentally responsible manner.

This Policy supports Council's Strategic Plan commitment to:

- improve the value and use of open space;
- invest in and leverage opportunities from the natural environment; and
- contribute to the preservation of the natural environment.

Council recognises that effective vegetation management contributes to biodiversity conservation, public amenity, environmental resilience, risk mitigation and community wellbeing.

This Policy aligns vegetation management practices with Council's organisational values and commitment to delivering sustainable environmental outcomes for the municipality.

SCOPE

This Policy applies to all vegetation located on land owned and/or managed by the Central Coast Council.

Vegetation includes, but is not limited to:

- rural and urban trees;
- park and street trees;
- roadside vegetation;
- foreshore, inland and riparian reserves;
- perennial and annual gardens;
- grassed areas; and

- weed species.

This Policy does not apply to:

- vegetation located on privately owned land, except where regulated through statutory planning or legislative requirements;

DEFINITIONS

Vegetation means all plant life including trees, shrubs, grasses, groundcovers and weed species.

Council managed land means land owned by Council or managed through lease, licence or formal agreement.

Tree risk assessment means the systematic inspection and evaluation of tree condition and associated public safety risk.

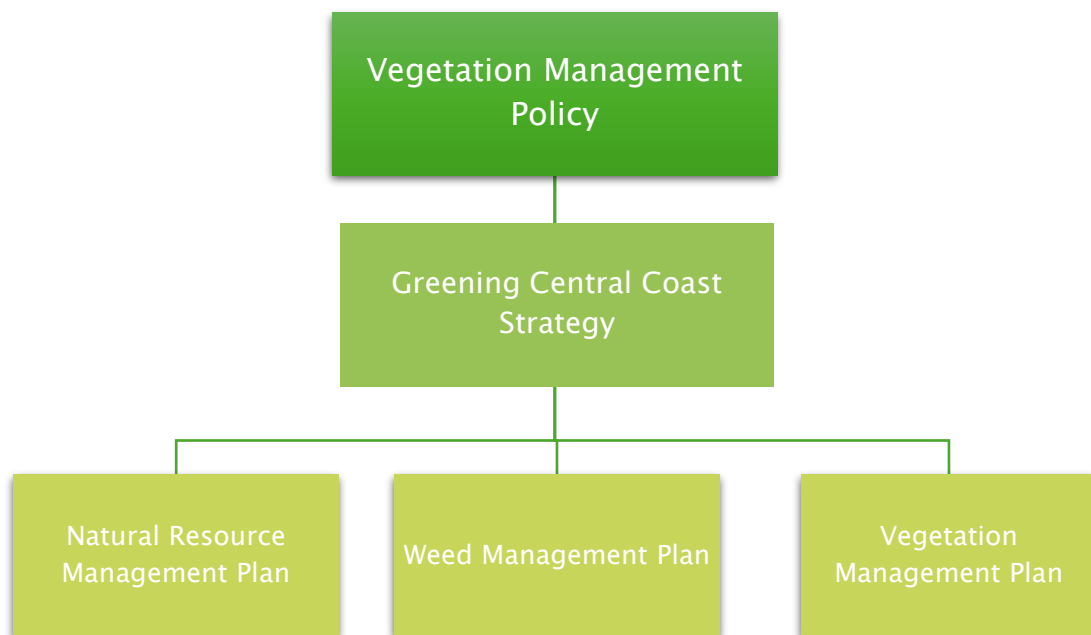
Weed species means invasive or declared plant species requiring management or removal.

Green infrastructure means vegetation and natural systems that provide environmental, social and economic benefits.

POLICY STATEMENT

This Policy provides the framework for vegetation management undertaken by the Council.

The Vegetation Management Framework provides alignment between the key documents from the strategic level to the operational level to ensure a consistent approach is applied in vegetation managed by Council.



The vision of the Greening Central Coast Strategy is for an increase in the Green Infrastructure of the Central Coast municipality. The aspirational target of 30% canopy cover by 2030 will enhance the Central Coast's unique identity, landscape and lifestyle and will be delivered through key objectives including Enhancement, Identity, Landscape and Community.

The Natural Resource Management Plan focuses on identifying at risk vegetation communities (including riparian areas), as well as conserving and enhancing areas within the municipality that are highly valued by its residents. It outlines nineteen identified sites for prioritised natural resource management in managing threats to protect environmental, social, cultural, and economic values.

The Weed Management Plan specifically covers weed management on Council managed land; owned and/or leased. It directly links the Natural Resource Management Plan and the Vegetation Management Plan because weed incursions do not adhere to administrative boundaries. The goals for the Weed Management Plan are shared responsibility, sustainable landscapes and collaborative leadership and innovation.

The Vegetation Management Plan focuses on Council operations and supporting Council staff in structured, consistent and environmentally sound decisions for all vegetation that is growing on Council owned and managed land. It will provide vegetation management that is consistent with community expectations and public safety risks while at the same time working within resource parameters.

STANDARDS

This Policy has been developed in accordance with the following:

External

- *Local Government Act 1993*
- *Crown Lands Act 1976*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *State Coastal Policy 1996*
- *Biosecurity Act 2019*
- *Nature Conservation Act 2002*
- *Tasmanian Planning Scheme 2021*

Internal

- Our Place Our Future – The Strategic Plan 2024–2034
- Greening Central Coast Strategy 2021
- Natural Resource Management Plan 2023
- Central Coast Weed Management Plan 2023
- Risk Management Policy 2024
- Open Space and Plan – 2026–3036
- Vegetation Management Strategy 2019
- Vegetation Damage Signage Policy 2021
- Planning Permit Guidelines for Trees and Development
- Applicable Works Procedures

REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every four years by the Council, unless organisational or legislative changes require unscheduled review.

ADMINISTRATION

Responsibility	The Chief Executive Officer is ultimately accountable for the implementation of this Policy. The Director Corporate Services is responsible for implementing and administering and monitoring the Policy through their Department, and for reviewing the Policy.
Strategic Plan link	<i>Our Place – Our Future: The Strategic Plan 2024–2034</i> <i>Theme 3 – Environmental Focus</i> 3.1 Reduce our organisation’s environmental footprint through strong leadership and the implementation of best practice operations. 3.2 Manage the risks of climate-related events, particularly in relation to stormwater management and resilience, focusing our commitment to protecting and preserving our natural resources.
Term Plan Link	<i>Our Place – Our Future: First Steps – Term Plan 2023–2026</i> <i>Pillar 5 – Our Environment</i> 5.4 Our Natural Environment 5.4.1 Implement Existing Strategies including 5.4.2 Greening Central Coast 5.4.3 Natural Resource Management
Superseded or rescinded policies	This Policy supersedes: • Vegetation Management Policy Version No. 02
Publication	Members of the public can view this Policy at the Council’s Administration Centre or on Council’s website (www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au)
Terminology	<i>Chief Executive Officer / General Manager</i> At the Central Coast Council, the title Chief Executive Officer is a term of reference for the General Manager as appointed by Council pursuant to section 61 of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>; and carries the same meaning for the purposes of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> and all other legislation administered by or concerning the Council.