

Vandalism to Vegetation on City Land Policy

City Policy

Responsible Directorate: Infrastructure Services

Objective: To provide a system for restoring vandalised or damaged vegetation on City land and establish a mechanism for penalising offenders.

1. Application:

This Policy applies to all land owned or managed by the City.

2. Definitions:

“**vandalism**” or “**damage to vegetation**” means the unlawful destruction, damage or injury to vegetation which can include poisoning, mowing, pruning, removal, breaking and/or ringbarking.

3. Statement:

The City recognises the importance of vegetation in the public realm and the crucial role it plays in climate change mitigation and resident’s health and wellbeing, whilst providing habitat and food for native fauna. Further, the City acknowledges its responsibility in educating the community and developers on the value of vegetation in the urban landscape.

To achieve this, it is the City’s position that it will employ the most appropriate restoration mechanisms, on a situation-specific basis, and encourage community members to report illegal damage to vegetation on City land. Punitive measures have been established for offenders who intentionally vandalise or damage vegetation.

4. Details:

4.1. Approved Responses:

The City of Joondalup will assess vegetation vandalism or damage to vegetation in order to determine the most appropriate response.

In the event of vegetation vandalism or damage, the City may undertake one or more of the following actions:

- a. Erect signage of a size based on the maturity of the tree or extent of the damage, advising of the vegetation vandalism or damage, detailing the penalties of such offences and requesting information from the public regarding the vandalism. Leave, in situ, poisoned vegetation, subject to safety requirements, until an agreed timeframe (to be determined on a case-by-case basis or until the vegetation requires removal).
- b. Establish replacement planting following any required remediation works and removal of poisoned or damaged vegetation (to be determined on a site-by-site basis and may include the placement of two or more appropriate plant species at the affected locality).
- c. When ongoing vandalism occurs, further investigate appropriate responses (such as the use of closed-circuit television and referral to relevant law enforcement agencies where appropriate).
- d. Legal action may be taken against any persons caught vandalising vegetation which may result in financial penalties of \$5,000 or more, as per the *Local Government Act 1995*.

Creation Date: March 2011

Amendments: CJ093-05/12, CJ111-06/18

Related Documentation:

- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996*
- *Tree Management Guidelines*