6. Tree asset management

The City of Port Phillip will provide adequate resources to carry out tree maintenance in road reserves, parks and reserves and other council owned and managed land proactively to meet the following objectives:

- To protect, enhance and preserve existing trees to a high standard.
- Meet relevant legislative requirements, strategic policies and accepted tree care practices.
- Maintain accurate documentation on the management of council's tree assets.
- Maintain currency of knowledge and expertise within the tree management team and the application of the latest technology to ensure tree asset development and maintenance programs continue to meet best tree practices.
- Adopt the principles of Plant Health Care to address pest and disease management with a focus on problem prevention through appropriate tree selection, planting and tree maintenance.
- Maintain public safety through the use of generally accepted professional practices of tree evaluation and treatment in order to reduce risk associated with hazardous trees to an acceptable level.

Contractors line clearing Plane Trees

	Policy Statement	Action	Time frame
Tree maintenance			
6.1	Tree maintenance works will be undertaken as required to protect, enhance and preserve tree health and amenity.	Undertake a review of the tree maintenance specifications as part of the development of any new tender documentation for tree management.	YR 1
		Conduct a monthly audit of tree asset condition and contractor performance to ensure compliance with Australian Standards (AS-4373-2007 pruning of amenity trees).	MTH
		Conduct an annual review of the Street Tree Maintenance Contractor Performance.	ANN
		Develop fact sheets on the tree maintenance program and processes and make available on the City of Port Phillip web site.	YR 1
Tree asset data base			
6.2	The City of Port Phillip will maintain up to date and relevant information on trees in the public realm.	Review existing tree data base system and implement a computerised real time data management system.	YR 1
Risk management			
6.3	The City of Port Phillip will seek to maintain public safety through the use of accepted professional practices of tree evaluation and treatment.	Undertake systematic tree assessment and best practice tree management as specified in the City of Port Phillip Tree Management Technical Guidelines to mitigate tree risk for residents and visitors to the city.	ONG
		Maintain accurate documentation on the management of council's tree assets.	ONG
		Undertake proper tree selection, placement and planting of trees to reduce long-term risk.	ONG
		Maintain high standards of tree management consistent with current best practice and recognised standards.	ONG
Pests and disease management			
6.4	Pests and diseases are a component of the urban landscape and the council recognises that control measures will be required at times to maintain healthy and aesthetically pleasing landscapes.	Council will follow the monitoring and control program as specified in the City of Port Phillip Tree Management Technical Guidelines for: Elm leaf beetle & Palm Fusarium	ONG
		Staff will attend relevant training programs to ensure up to date knowledge of new pest management practices.	ONG
		Develop monitoring and control programs for newly identified pests and diseases.	ANN
Animal management			
6.5	The City of Port Phillip will strive at all times to achieve a balance between maintaining the health of trees and accommodating native animals in the urban forest	Use the 'Department of Sustainability and Environment Guidelines for Managing Damage Caused By Brush Tail Possums in Municipal Parks' for responding to possum related issues.	ONG
		Respond to animal management issues on a case by case basis to determine the most appropriate course of action.	ONG
Tree valuation method			
6.6	The City of Port Phillip recognises the value of trees as an asset and will ensure the value of the tree is maintained.	Implement the tree amenity valuation formula specified in the City of Port Phillip Tree Management Technical Guidelines that recognises tree condition, age cultural significance and suitability for individual trees.	ONG
		Develop, implement and enforce a bond process for protection of tree assets.	YR 2
Knowledge and skill development			
6.7	The City of Port Phillip is committed to using best practice methods to maintain and enhance the urban forest.	Continue to collaborate with other LGA's on the management of trees in an urban environment to stay abreast of current practice and to share learning's and information.	ONG
		Work collaboratively to develop a method for ascribing a monetary value to urban trees, including measuring the contribution of trees for cooling urban temperatures, reducing the need for air conditioning in buildings and protection of infrastructure.	YR 1
		Investigate opportunities to collaborate with universities to undertake research projects related to trees in the City of Port Phillip.	ONG