



Policy Document

Tree Management

February 2016

Wahroonga Public School is committed to ensure that within these grounds the health and safety of all staff, patrons, visitors, and the general public is our highest priority. With specific regard to our tree assets, we acknowledge the significant benefits provided by our treescape, including the amenity value the trees add to our environment. However, as trees are living and dynamic they can present risks to persons and property during various stages of their lifecycle.

Therefore, the schools has resolved to take all reasonable steps by implementing a specialist tree risk management program to manage risks whilst also sensibly balancing the issues of tree health, amenity, heritage and environmental values.

In order to achieve this, our desired outcomes are to:

- a) Remove or reduce risk at its source and
- b) Continually improve the health and amenity value of our treescape.

ArborSite's tree risk system will identify and enable the management of our trees by:

- Identification of the tree assets to be managed.
- Inventory and subsequent documentation of the tree assets under management.
- Specialist arboricultural assessments compiling data on individual trees within the inventory including: tree location, species, size, structure, age, health, hazards and risks.
- The assessment of the individual tree risk is based on the perceived likelihood of a failure, and the potential consequences of such a failure, taking into consideration the tree's location within the grounds and its proximity to people and/or property and the potential of a failure to cause injury and/or damage.
- Based on the individual tree hazard assessments, a risk condition is assigned to individual trees and corrective maintenance works are budgeted and scheduled in order of risk priority. Corrective maintenance proceeds in order of declining risk status from Critical, Urgent, High, Medium, Low, Very Low to Negligible, over an appropriate time frame.
- Ongoing monitoring and documentation of all tree works, incidents, removals and re-plantings and continually updating the records and database with a view to creating an on-going history and audit trail.
- Maintain the system by closing the loop through a continuous system of audits and reviews of procedures and works. This includes scheduling of re-assessments of risk status as trees are re-classified for risks posed after their corrective tree works or as status changes with tree age, environmental incidents, or site developments.

This program will ensure that the our treescape is in the best possible health and structure, whilst also effectively managing the risk to the best possible standard, so that our dynamic treescape will continue to add significant amenity value for all stakeholders for decades to come.

Additionally, Wahroonga Public School will undertake Departmental tree inventory processes through the Facilities and Maintenance website annually in November.

Annual timeline of tree works:

Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree assessment and inventory update – ArborSite arborculturalists
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritising tree works and obtaining quotes from contractors to complete tree works
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree works completed and inventory updated
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual inspection by school staff and implementation of any additional works as required• Update of Departmental records through the Facilities and Maintenance website



Tom Moth
Principal

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