

**PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO TREE REMOVAL CONTROLS IN MONASH
OFFICERS REPORT**

Submitting Councillors: Stuart James & Rebecca Paterson

MOTION

That Council:

1. *Notes that officers have been in discussions with staff at the Department of Planning about improving tree removal controls in Monash since mid- 2019.*
2. *Notes that in 2017 the neighbouring City of Whitehorse was granted interim tree protection controls across the entire municipality whilst it undertook strategic work for permanent tree controls.*
3. *Notes that the neighbouring City of Whitehorse has since had permanent tree protection controls applied through the planning scheme.*
4. *Notes that Council requested the application of interim tree removal controls in July 2019 whilst the formal permanent controls were being considered.*
5. *Notes that the request for interim controls was refused in October 2019.*
6. *Notes that after several months of discussion with officers at the Department of Planning, a formal amendment authorisation request was lodged with the Minister for Planning in April 2020.*
7. *Notes that despite more than 18 months of discussion with the Department of Planning no clear direction has been provided by the Department on the request for authorisation to prepare and exhibit improved tree controls.*
8. *Notes that canopy vegetation across Monash continues to decline in the absence of appropriate tree removal controls.*
9. *Advises the Minister for Planning of Councils frustration with the delays in the consideration of these requests and the apparent inconsistency in the process and application of tree controls between Monash and Whitehorse.*
10. *Requests that the Minister for Planning introduce interim tree removal controls and provide authorisation for the exhibition of permanent tree removal controls in Monash as a matter of urgency.*
11. *Writes to local members of parliament advising of the above and requesting their support in the introduction of improve tree removal controls.*

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications from this Motion. The actions called for are part of Councils ongoing strategic work program for the enhancement of the environment and amenity of Monash.

IMPACT ON INTERNAL RESOURCES

There are no internal resourcing implications from this Notice of Motion. The actions called for are part of Council's ongoing strategic work program for the enhancement of the environment and amenity of Monash.

COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

The Motion is supported by the Council Plan – A Liveable and Sustainable City.

The Motion is consistent with the objectives of the Monash Sustainability Strategy, Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy and A Healthy and Resilient Monash: Integrated Plan 2017-2021.

RELEVANCE TO WORK ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICERS OR COMMITTEES

The Motion proposes advocacy to facilitate the introduction of appropriate tree controls across Monash. This is consistent with and builds upon the work already undertaken as part of the Monash Urban Landscape and Canopy Vegetation Strategy.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The merits of enhanced tree controls have previously been considered and resolved on by Council.