

VPO – Advice

Tree removal or tree works within the VPO area.

A Planning Permit is required to remove or destroy any vegetation that:

- Has a trunk circumference greater than 500mm (160mm diameter) at 1200mm above ground level, and
- Is higher than 10 metres.

This does not apply to dead vegetation or to the following species:

- all willow trees
- radiata or monterey pines
- evergreen alders
- sweet pittosporums
- desert ashes.

A planning permit is not required:-

- if the vegetation presents an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property and only that part of vegetation which presents the immediate risk is removed, destroyed or lopped,
- or as otherwise allowed under the requirements of the Vegetation Protection Overlay of the Monash Planning Scheme. [Clause 42.02]

It is the responsibility of the land owner to ensure that either a Planning Permit is applied for, or that the exemptions from the requirement to obtain a Planning Permit are satisfied.

Council recommends that an arborist or other suitably qualified professional be engaged to provide the necessary advice prior to the cutting of any trees protected by the overlay, as removal of vegetation contrary to the exemptions above could result in the issuing of fines and legal action.

If unsure, a land owner is able to write to Council, attaching a copy of the arborists or other suitably qualified persons report, for confirmation that a Planning Permit is, or is not, required.

VPO ASSESSMENTS

Council currently offers an arboriculture service to residents who own property located within the VPO. The Councils tree assessment service was introduced to assist residents to assess vegetation located in the VPO that may present an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property. If the tree poses an immediate risk this service should not be relied upon and you should seek the advise from a suitably qualified professional.

Assessment forms can be downloaded on the Monash City Council website.
