

Frequently asked questions

What is the Significant Tree Register?

The register is a list of trees within the shire assessed as significant and of sufficient value for protection.

What makes a tree significant?

A tree can be significant for any of the following:

- its horticultural value
- being rare or localised
- being an outstanding example of species
- its location
- its age
- its outstanding size
- having a curious growth form
- having aesthetic value
- its historical value
- its habitat value
- Aboriginal significance
- having social, cultural or spiritual value.

The *Significant Tree Register Nomination Form* clearly outlines the categories of significance.

What will the register achieve?

The register provides opportunity for the community to nominate any tree or trees in Cardinia Shire they believe to be significant. The register begins the process of ensuring significant trees are adequately protected through the Cardinia Planning Scheme.

Why is Council implementing this?

This process will ensure Council has a list of trees of potential significance on private and public property which can be assessed to determine which trees require protection through the planning scheme.

What is the benefit of nominating a significant tree?

The register provides opportunity to promote, share and protect trees that are believed to be significant. Owners of properties where significant trees are located play an important role caring for valuable community assets.

How are significant trees protected?

Council is proposing that trees declared as significant will be protected by the Cardinia Planning Scheme. Professionally assessing trees and creating the register will begin the process of a planning scheme amendment.

Through the planning scheme, an appropriate overlay will apply to any property where a registered significant tree grows and to any other properties that are within its tree protection zone.

What will having my tree declared significant mean?

If your nominated tree is declared significant and thus added to the register, the planning scheme amendment process will begin.



An appropriate overlay will apply to any property where a significant tree grows and to any other property within its tree protection zone.

This means any proposed buildings and works within the tree protection zone, or significant pruning, lopping or removal of significant trees, will require a planning permit.

This does not mean that absolutely no works are allowed on or near significant trees but that the impact of the proposed development on the health and value of significant trees must be considered in the planning permit application process.

Referrals to arborists and/or horticulturalists may be required to assess proposals that may impact the health or values of significant trees.

Will I be notified if a tree on my property is nominated for the significant tree register?

Yes. Council will send an acknowledgment of nomination to property owners and/or residents and the person who nominated the tree.

Can I nominate trees anywhere in Cardinia Shire?

Yes. Nominations are open shire wide; however, nominations within the shire's growth corridor and employment precincts will be added to the significant tree register on a case by case basis.

Planning for growth areas and precinct structure plans involves detailed background investigations including vegetation assessments. Trees in growth areas will be considered in relation to relevant background reports, existing controls and legislation as well as compatibility with future plans.

If you have nominated a tree in one of these areas you will be notified if it can't be added to the register.

Will I be notified if a tree on my property proceeds to the planning scheme amendment stage?

Yes. If a tree on your property is confirmed to be of significance and requires further protection it will proceed through a planning scheme amendment. During this process property owners and surrounding property owners will be informed and have the opportunity to write a submission in relation to the amendment.

Can Council maintain trees confirmed as significant on private land?

No. Property owners remain responsible for ensuring trees on private land are not safety hazards or cause nuisance – regardless of any planning controls that may apply to the land.

Owners who attempt removal or lopping of a protected tree without a permit may be pursued with enforcement action.

Can I nominate trees on other people's land or on Council land?

Yes. You do not have to be the owner of a property to nominate a tree. If you know the property owner, we recommend letting them know you intend to nominate their tree so that they know why you think the tree is exceptional.

Council will alert property owners and residents if a tree on their property warrants further protection through the planning scheme.

Yes. Anyone can nominate trees on Council land for inclusion on the register. Council land is subject to careful regulation, planning, and management in line with Council policies.

What are the next steps?

Throughout the nomination period Council will be developing a list of significant trees.

An arborist will then be engaged by Council to assess the significance of each nominated tree and produce a significant tree study.

This study will form the basis of the Significant Tree Register.

A planning scheme amendment process will then begin to adopt the study into the Cardinia Planning Scheme and protect each tree through the appropriate planning tool.

Information will be provided to all properties involved in the amendment process.

What is the Cardinia Planning Scheme?

Each local government in Victoria is covered by a planning scheme.

The Cardinia Planning Scheme sets out how land is protected and how it can be used and developed in Cardinia Shire.

Planning schemes require changes from time to time to achieve certain planning outcomes, support new policies, and to ensure that requirements continue to meet the needs of the local community.

How to nominate a tree

One tree or several trees can be nominated for the register by completing and submitting the *Significant Tree Register Nomination Form* on Council's website at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/treeregister

Important dates

Nominations are open: Monday 18 June to Tuesday 18 September 2018.

More information

More information and the online nomination form is on Council's website at:

www.cardinia.vic.gov.au/treeregister

You can also visit the Civic Centre at 20 Siding Avenue, Officer or phone Council's Strategic Planning Unit on 1300 787 624.