Council’s Tree Management Policy requires tree work decisions to have a focus on retaining and protecting trees, unless there is strong justification for removal.

1 Criteria NOT considered justification for tree removal or pruning

1.1 There is substantial evidence the tree is healthy and sound
1.2 Flower, leaf or fruit fall causing nuisance
1.3 Increase general natural light
1.4 Enhance views
1.5 Proposed development. Tree removal would be considered under the development assessment process and is not a valid reason under the DCP KLEP Part 13 Tree & Vegetation Preservation
1.6 Reduce shade created by a tree
1.7 Reduce fruit, resin or bird/bat droppings
1.8 Insect/animal nuisance
1.9 Lifting of driveways, paths and paving where there are alternatives to mitigate or solve problems and retain the tree
1.10 Damage to fences due to branch failure
1.11 Minor damage to roof structures, outbuildings, garden structures, walls or fences
1.12 Damage to underground services (such as sewer lines, water services) and where there are alternatives to mitigate or solve problems and retain the tree
1.13 Construction of fences
1.14 Tree does not suit the existing or proposed landscape
1.15 Unsubstantiated fear of tree failure
1.16 To allow for landscape works
1.17 Tree removal for fire hazard/hazard reduction unless deemed by NSW Rural Fire Services as a bushfire threat.
1.18 Tree too large or high
1.19 Pruning to reduce height except where a hedge
1.20 Termite infestation where the structural stability of the tree is not affected.

2 Criteria which may be justification for tree removal or pruning

2.1 Where there is likelihood of tree failure and a high likelihood of impacting a dwelling or a regularly used external area and remedial actions to mitigate hazards are not feasible or practical. (An Arborist report and testing may be required as supporting documentation)
2.2 Where the tree is in poor and declining health with a Useful Life Expectancy of less than 5 years.
2.3 Where the tree is causing substantial and continuing structural damage to a dwelling or substantial structure (excluding footpaths, retaining walls, driveways and fences) and remedial actions are not feasible or practical. A structural engineering assessment may be required to support these criteria.
2.4 Tree in declining health, has poor form or structure and there are no tree management options.
2.5 Pruning to improve form and vigour, or to alleviate a nuisance issue in a manner consistent with Australian Standard for Pruning of Amenity Trees, AS4373 2007 and with other accepted arboricultural practices.
2.6 Tree located in an unsuitable position where for example predictable typical growth potential will result in major damage to a dwelling or substantial structure and there are no practical means to mitigate future damage.
2.7 Where the tree is proven to be directly causing substantial personal ill health, such as severe allergies. This must be supported by specialist medical evidence from diagnostic testing that links the health condition to the tree and where all other reasonable management treatment options have been explored.
Definitions:

Substantial evidence to indicate tree hazard and decline
Evidence of Tree hazard to include but not restricted to:
  • Obvious instability of root plate, such as evidence of soil heave, loss of structural roots and root decay
  • poor structural integrity of trunk due to significant wood decay, large cavities, internal cracking
  • poor large branch attachments such as severe bark inclusions
  • poor attachment of regrowth after lopping/storm damage

Evidence of Tree decline to include not restricted to:
  • large areas of dieback of canopy, and poor live crown ratio (eg. <30%),
  • dead and decaying wood in trunk
  • sparse live canopy
  • substantial epicormic growth on branches and trunk
  • substantial insect attack
  • multiple areas of wood decay lesions in branches and trunk