



Yarriambiack
SHIRE COUNCIL

TREE POLICY

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1 Introduction

Yarriambiack Shire Council is committed to providing a quality living environment for its residents and recognises the importance of trees to the quality of the environment.

This policy document seeks to provide a framework for the future management of tree assets of the Yarriambiack Shire Council.

The policy provides a practical and balanced approach to tree management which seeks to maximise the abundance and health of trees on Council land while ensuring public safety and allowing controlled development. It acknowledges that trees sometimes come into conflict with other elements of the streetscape, particularly hard structures and services, but recognises that all are essential components of a pleasant and functional landscape.

The policy attempts to maximise community support for a well treed environment through prudent management of all trees for which Council is responsible.

The major areas of concern to residents as they relate to tree management are tree planting, tree removal, tree pruning and damage caused by trees. This policy seeks to address the issues underlying these concerns and provide clear guidelines for Council officers as they respond to tree related enquiries from residents.

2 Tree Removal

Decisions regarding tree removal become necessary in response to applications by residents, developers and external authorities or through observation of problem trees by Council staff/contractors.

It sometimes becomes necessary to remove trees, either because of a problem with the tree itself, or to facilitate the development of adjacent properties or installation of infrastructure. Experience has shown that the concern associated with the removal of trees can be minimised through proper consultation with residents and demonstration of respect for the importance of trees by Council.

2.1 Tree Removal Guidelines

The reason for requests for tree removal are numerous. The most common reasons are:

- Tree threatening to cause significant property damage (either to private or Council owned property).
- Tree causing significant interference to services or mains ie power lines, water, sewer, kerb or pavement.
- Tree causing sight distance problems for pedestrians and/or motorists. Can be at intersections, driveways or footpaths.
- Tree being storm damaged or having failed in part due to shedding limbs
- Tree is dying, diseased or dead
- Tree poses immediate threat to public.
- Tree identified during Hazardous Tree inspection program as needing removal.

All applications for tree removal must be in writing and as a minimum provide the following information:

- Reasons for requesting removal
- Details of trees to be planted as replacements including number and species (if applicable)
- Location/identification of tree

Upon receipt of a request for removal of a tree, it shall be assessed by the Director of Infrastructure & Planning or his delegated officer who shall make a decision as to whether the tree is removed or retained.

Assessment of the tree will be based on:

- Health of the tree
- Is the tree significant
- Is the tree causing damage to public assets
- Is the tree causing damage to private property
- All relevant safety aspects
- Is the tree damaged

Before deciding that a tree should be removed the officer should consider whether the problem can be economically rectified by other means eg pruning or root treatment.

To enable the officer to carry out the assessment the attached flow chart has been developed.

See App 1.

Cost of Removal

Where it is necessary to remove a tree because the tree is dying or diseased, a safety hazard, causing interference to utilities (Power, Water or Sewerage) or because it is causing damage to Council property the cost of removal shall be borne by Council.

In all other cases trees will only be removed if the applicant agrees to pay all costs.

Replacement of Trees

In township areas where a tree is removed it shall be replaced by another tree of an approved species during the next suitable planting season. Costs relating to the planting and establishment of replacement trees will be the responsibility of the body who pays for the tree removal.

A replacement tree will be planted in all instances unless it can be shown that the site is unsuitable for all types of tree planting.

In reserves/roadsides tree removal involving indigenous/native trees will need a planning permit which would be referred to Department of Sustainability and Environment. Any requirements for replanting would be in line with their recommendations.

Where a tree is to be removed from a reserve/roadside and the applicant is not the owner of the adjacent property the officer will advise the owner that the tree is to be removed and explain why.

3 Tree Planting

Tree planting is an essential component of the management of the shire's tree assets.

The planting of trees on nature strips is an activity which is generally well received by residents.

Management issues associated with street tree planting are prioritisation of planting sites, species selection and post planting maintenance.

3.1 Tree Planting Guidelines

3.1.1 Prioritisation of Planting Sites

Priority shall be given to:

- replacement of removed trees
- resident requests for individual trees
- planting in association with capital projects
- community planting programs

3.1.2 Replacement Trees

All trees removed from nature strips shall be replaced as soon as is practicable, provided a suitable planting site is available.

3.1.3 Requests for Individual Trees

Individual trees requested by residents shall be planted as soon as possible providing a suitable planting site is available.

3.1.4 Capital Works Projects

Tree planting will be undertaken in association with capital works projects such as road repair, infrastructure development, or creation of new housing developments, where funding has been made available through the project budget.

3.2 PLANTING LOCATION

Selection of an appropriate planting site is a crucial factor in determining the long term viability and cost effectiveness of a street tree. A poorly positioned tree has the potential to diminish the visual appeal of a streetscape, cause structural damage, become hazardous or require excessive spending on maintenance and pruning.

Planting sites should be chosen to comply with the existing landscape character of the street and the preferences of adjacent residents, while allowing for the functional limitations imposed by the street environment.

As a general rule, where a single tree is to be planted on a nature strip, it shall be located as near as possible to the centre of the nature strip, while conforming to the existing rhythm of planting in the street and the location guidelines outlined below.

Where two or more trees are planted on a single nature strip, their position should conform to the existing rhythm of planting in the street and the location guidelines outlined below.

The number of trees which can be planted on a nature strip shall be limited by the character of the streetscape and the location guidelines outlined below.

3.2 Location Guidelines

Existing Vegetation

No tree shall be planted below the overhanging branches of an existing tree, either on the nature strip or in adjacent properties.

No tree shall be planted within five metres of an existing nature strip tree unless:

- it is proposed to remove the existing tree in the long term
- close informal plantings are consistent with the character of the streetscape

3.3 SPECIES SELECTION

Council has prepared a species selection list for the municipality. This has been developed in conjunction by Council in conjunction with local nurseries.

Species selection shall be based on using locally indigenous species wherever possible, and;

- existing streetscape character
- submissions from local residents
- environmental conditions
- growing space and conditions
- traffic conditions
- scale of the street
- external authorities requirements

3.4 TREES PLANTED BY RESIDENTS

Planting of street trees by residents should only be undertaken with the cooperation of Council officers.

Unauthorised planting of street trees by residents shall be discouraged but recently planted trees shall be allowed to remain provided they are:

- of a suitable species which is compatible with the surrounding streetscape
- good quality specimens
- in a suitable location
- planted to Council standards

Where a tree does not meet these conditions, the adjacent resident shall be asked to remove the tree. If this request is not complied with, the tree will be removed by Council staff and returned to the adjacent property owner in an appropriate container.

3.5 RESIDENT OPPOSITION TO TREE PLANTING

The establishment or maintenance of an avenue of trees or a consistent planting theme can sometimes require Council to plant a tree in a nature strip against the wishes of the resident immediately adjacent. This is a difficult situation which calls for Council to make a judgement regarding the rights of the wider community over the individual resident.

When making such a decision, it should be borne in mind that a major factor in the survival of a newly planted street tree is the co-operation of the nearest resident in maintaining that tree.

Where a consistent avenue of trees or a strong consistent planting theme exists and a gap in this theme will detrimentally affect the overall streetscape, trees will be planted to fill the gaps despite opposition from adjacent residents.

In all other instances, a decision regarding planting shall be made by the Director of Infrastructure & Planning or his delegated officer.

3.6 PLANTING SEASON

Street planting shall commence in early May and cease at the end of September. Planting outside this period shall only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

3.7 PLANTING IN PARKS

Tree planting in parks shall be in accordance with park management plans. Where no management plan exists and there is community pressure for tree planting in a particular park, the park shall be assessed by the Director of Infrastructure & Planning or his delegated officer according to;

- existing tree cover
- level of community interest
- level of park usage

Where planting is deemed to be warranted and no management plan exists, species selection shall be made by Council officers based on;

- existing landscape character
- environmental conditions
- submissions by residents
- effect on local fauna

4 Tree Pruning

An essential component of the management of the shire's tree assets is the maintenance of individual trees in a safe and visually appealing condition. Once established, the major maintenance requirement of a tree is pruning.

As a general rule, the pruning of trees should be minimised as all pruning cuts are potentially injurious and trees look more appealing when left to develop in their natural shape.

Trees should only be pruned to achieve specific goals.

5 Damage Caused by Trees

The response by Council to damage caused by trees will vary according to the type and extent of the damage. The most commonly reported types of damage that Council needs to address are:

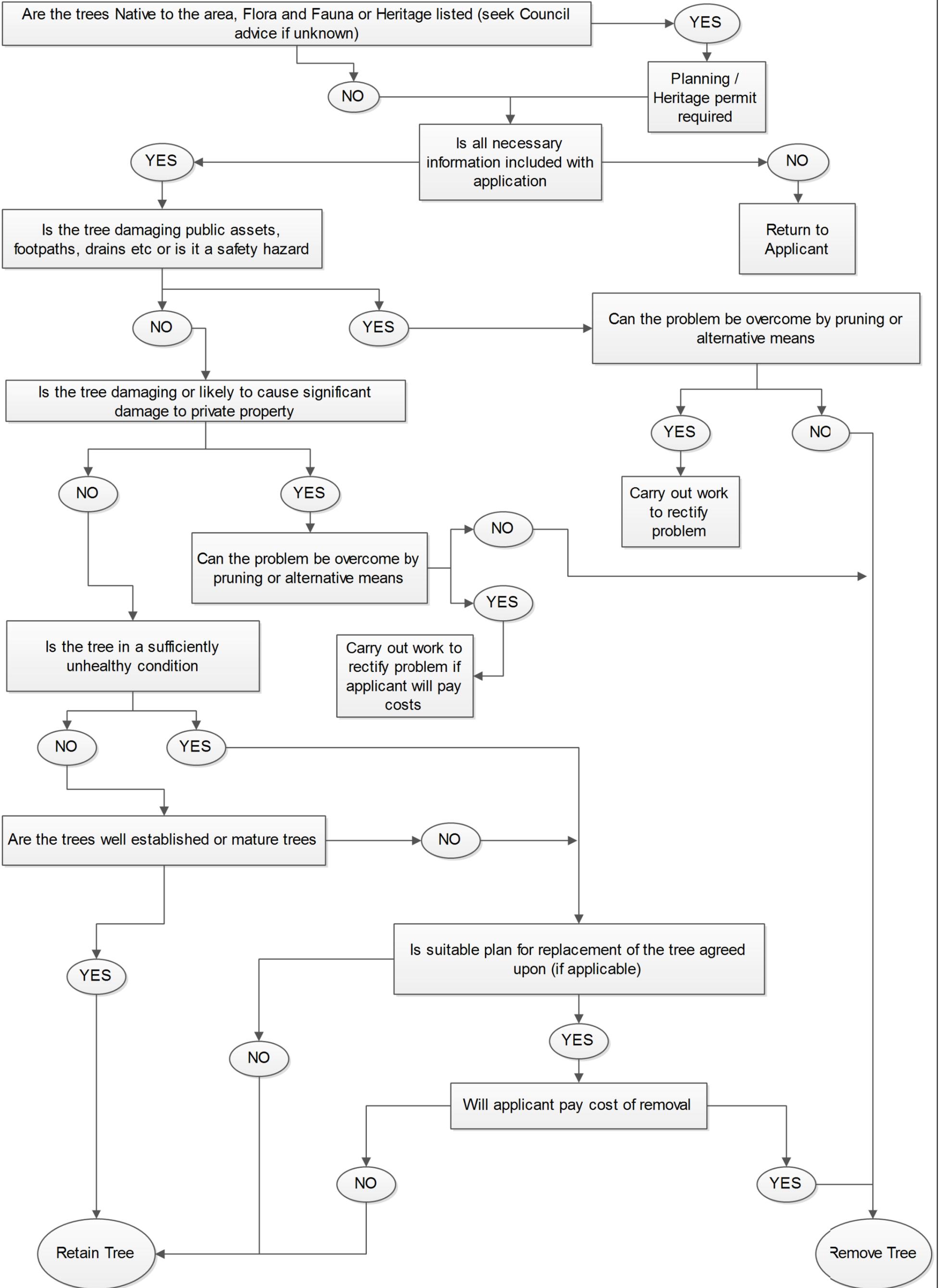
- Footpaths, roads and gutters
- Vehicle crossovers
- Fences
- Household water service and stormwater pipes
- Sewerage pipes
- Dwellings

6 Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Flow chart
- Appendix 2 - Recommended Street trees for the Northern area of the Shire
- Appendix 3 - Recommended Street trees for Southern area of Shire
- Appendix 4 - Recommended species for Northern area of the Shire
- Appendix 5 - Recommended species for Southern area of the Shire

Appendix 1

Procedure For Assessment Of Application For Tree Removal



Recommended Street trees for the Northern half of the shire.

- Acacia acinacea** Gold dust Wattle
- Acacia brachybotrya** Grey Mulga
- Acacia Montana** Mallee Wattle
- Adenanthos terminalis** Gland Flower
- Babingtonia behrii** Broom Baeckea
- Banksia marginata** Silver Banksia
- Banksia ornata** Desert Banksia
- Callistemon rugulosus** Scarlet Bottlebrush
- Calytrix tetragona** Common Fringe-myrtle
- Dodonaea viscosa** Wedge-leaf hop-bush
- Eremophila glabra** Common Emu-bush
- Eremophila longifolia** Berrigan
- Melaleuca lanceolata** Moonah
- Pittosporum angustifolium** Weeping Pittosporum

Recommended Street Trees for Southern area of Shire

Acacia acinacea Gold dust Wattle

Acacia brachybotra Grey Mulga

Acacia Montana Mallee Wattle

Banksia marginata Silver Banksia

Banksia ornate Desert Banksia

Callistemon rugulosus Scarlet Bottlebrush

Calytrix tetragona Common Fringe-myrtle

Dodonaea viscosa Wedge-leaf Hop bush

Eremophila glabra Common Emu-bush

Melaleuca lanceolata Moonah

Pittosporum angustifolium Weeping pittosporum

Recommended Species for Northern Part of Shire.

Trees and Large Shrubs.

Berrigan.	<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>
Buloke.	<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>
Black Box.	<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>
Cattlebush.	<i>Alectryon oleifolius</i>
Golden Wattle.	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>
Moonah.	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>
Red Gum.	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Silver Needlewood.	<i>Hakea leucoptera</i>
Slender Cypress-pine	<i>Callitris gracilis</i>
Sugarwood.	<i>Myoporum platycarpum</i>
Sweet Bursaria.	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Umbrella Wattle.	<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>
White Cypress-pine.	<i>Callitris glaucophylla</i>
Willow Wattle.	<i>Acacia salicina</i>
Yellow Gum.	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i>

Mallee Trees.

Black Mallee-box.	<i>Eucalyptus porosa</i>
Bull Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>
Dumosa Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus Dumosa</i>
Green-leaf Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus phenax</i>

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Grey Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus socialis</i>
Oil Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus oleosa</i>
Red Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus calycogona</i>
Slender-leaf Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus leptophylla</i>
Yellow Mallee.	<i>Eucalyptus costata</i>
Yorell.	<i>Eucalyptus gracilis</i>

Small Trees and Shrubs.

Broad-leaf Desert Cassia	<i>Senna coracea</i>
Broom Baekea	<i>Babingtonia behrii</i>
Broombush.	<i>Melaleuca uncinata</i>
Comb Grevillea	<i>Grevillea huegelii</i>
Common emu-bush	<i>Eremophila glabra</i>
Common Fringe-myrtle	<i>Calytrix tetragona</i>
Creamy Honey-myrtle	<i>Melaleuca acuminata</i>
Daphne Heath	<i>Brachyloma daphnoides</i>
Desert Banksia	<i>Banksia ornate</i>
Desert Grevillea	<i>Grevillea pterosperma</i>
Desert Hakea	<i>Hakea mitchellii</i>
Desert Hop-bush	<i>Dodonea stenozyga</i>
Dwarf Myall	<i>Acacia ancistrophylla</i>
Dwarf Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina pusilla</i>
Fine-leaf Desert Cassia	<i>Senna filifolia</i>
Gold-dust Wattle	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>
Grey Mulga	<i>Acacia brachybotrya</i>
Hakea Wattle	<i>Acacia hakeoides</i>

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Halls Wattle	<i>Acacia halliana</i>
Hard-leaf Wattle	<i>Acacia sclerophylla</i>
Harrow Wattle	<i>Acacia acanthoclada</i>
Heath Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum myrsinoides</i>
Holly-leaf Grevillea	<i>Grevillea ilicifolia</i>
Hooked Needlewood	<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>
Leafless Ballardt	<i>Exocarpos aphyllus</i>
Mallee Bitter-pea	<i>Daviesia arenaria</i>
Mallee Tea-tree	<i>Leptospermum coriaceum</i>
Mallee Wattle	<i>Acacia Montana</i>
Manna Wattle	<i>Acacia macrocarpa</i>
Mealy Wattle	<i>Acacia farinose</i>
Nealie	<i>Acacia rigens</i>
Silver Banksia	<i>Banksia marginate</i>
Slaty Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>
Slender Hop-bush	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>
Small Cooba	<i>Acacia ligulata</i>
Small Hop-bush	<i>Dodonaea bursariifolia</i>
Spreading Eutaxia	<i>Eutaxia microphylla</i>
Sweet Quandong	<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>
Turkey Bush	<i>Eremophil deserti</i>
Wallowa	<i>Acacia euthycarpa</i>
Wedge-leaf Hop-bush	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>
Weeping Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>
Western Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina mackliniana</i>

Recommened Species for Southern Part of Shire

Trees and Large Shrubs

Berrigan	<i>Eremophila longifolia</i>
Black Box	<i>Eucalyptus largiflorens</i>
Buloke	<i>Allocasuarina luehmannii</i>
Bull Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus behriana</i>
Drooping Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarine verticillata</i>
Dumosa Mallee	<i>Eucalyptus dumosa</i>
Golden Wattle	<i>Acacia pycnantha</i>
Grey Box	<i>Eucalyptus macrocarpa</i>
Moonah	<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>
Red Gum	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>
Slender Cypress-pine	<i>Callitris gracilis</i>
Sugarwood	<i>Myoporum platycarpum</i>
Swamp Sheoak	<i>Casuarina obesa</i>
Sweet Bursaria	<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>
Umbrella Wattle	<i>Acacia oswaldii</i>
Yellow Gum	<i>Eucalyptus leucoxydon</i>

Shrubs and Small Trees

Broad-leaf Desert Cassia	<i>Senna coriacea</i>
Common Emu-bush	<i>Eremophila glabra</i>
Desert Cassia	<i>Cassia nemophila</i>
Gold-dust Wattle	<i>Acacia acinacea</i>
Grey Mulga	<i>Acacia brachybotrya</i>

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Hairy-pod Wattle	<i>Acacia glandulicarpa</i>
Hakea Wattle	<i>Acacia hakeoides</i>
Hooked Needlewood	<i>Hakea tephrosperma</i>
Mallee Bitter-pea	<i>Daviesia arenaria</i>
Mallee Wattle	<i>Acacia Montana</i>
Manna Wattle	<i>Acacia macrocarpa</i>
Nealie	<i>Acacia rigens</i>
Nitre Goosefoot	<i>Chenodium nitrariaceum</i>
Nitre-bush	<i>Nitraria billardierei</i>
Pink Beard-heath	<i>Leucopogon ericoides</i>
Scrub Cypress-pine	<i>Callitris verrucosa</i>
Slaty Sheoak	<i>Allocasuarina muelleriana</i>
Spreading Eutaxia	<i>Eutaxia diffusa</i>
Sweet Quandong	<i>Santalum acuminatum</i>
Tangled Lignum	<i>Muehlenbeckia florulenta</i>
Thorny Bitter-pea	<i>Daviesia pectinata</i>
Turkey Bush	<i>Eremophila deserti</i>
Wedge-leaf Hop-bush	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>
Weeping Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum angustifolium</i>