

Ashfield Council – taken from their web site - 2010

Do I need approval to prune or remove a tree from my property?

To protect and preserve the Municipality's trees, Council has a Tree Preservation Order in place. The Order applies to trees growing in private and public places.

Under the Order, you must obtain Council's written consent before cutting down, pruning, ring barking, topping, lopping, or removing most types of trees. Heavy fines apply for breaching the Tree Preservation Order and for injuring or wilfully destroying a tree.

You need approval to prune or remove tree(s) equal to or above 5 metres in height and not exempt under the Tree Preservation Order. You need to submit a tree application with the appropriate fee for tree removal, prior to carrying out the work.

What trees am I able to prune or remove without Council approval?

You do not need approval if the tree is smaller than 5 metres or the tree is one of the following:

- Privet trees, Citrus, Rubber trees, Olive, Rhus, Stone fruits, Cotoneaster, Cocos palms, Coral trees, Golden Cypress conifers and Umbrella trees
- Camphor laurel, Liquidambar, Poplar and Willow trees provided the tree is within three (3) metres of a dwelling or a sewer line and causing damage to the dwelling or blockage to the sewer line. Only the owners of the tree, dwelling or sewer line directly affected can effect removal under this exemption

You also do not need approval for the following pruning:

- Noxious weeds
- Maintenance of minimum clearance of 500mm from domestic power lines
- Pruning to remove deadwood/branches
- Minor pruning of branches directly overhanging the roof of any building to a height of 2 metres only with the agreement of the owner of the tree
- Trees overhanging a public road including footpaths for the purpose of removal of a hazard to a height of 2.4 metres above ground level

For all other work on trees including removal you need Council approval.

Do I need approval to remove a dead tree?

No, but the tree must be completely dead. If you are unsure, telephone the Parks and Tree Coordinator on 8752 1507.

How can I identify exempt species?

If you are unsure about the identity of a tree take a sample to a local nursery for identification.

Prior to removal ensure that a qualified person identifies the species because if there is a breach of the Tree Preservation Order it will not be sufficient defence that the species was not appropriately identified prior to its removal