

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING AN ARBORIST REPORT FOR TREE REMOVAL

1. INTRODUCTION

An **Arborist** report prepared by an appropriately qualified and independent arborist assists in determining a development proposal that will have an impact on trees.

A person whose primary income is derived from reporting on urban trees, and who has no commercial affiliation with the business of pruning or removing trees may be referred to as an *independent arboricultural consultant* or an *independent consulting arborist* or more simply, a **consulting arborist**.

A person whose primary income is derived from pruning and/or removal of trees is called a **tree worker** (previously also referred to as a *tree surgeon*, *'lopper'*, *arborist*, *tree doctor*, *tree feller* and the like).

Training for **tree workers** does not include specialized training in tree diagnostics or the preparation of written technical reports on trees. In NSW **arborists** and **tree workers** are not regulated, licensed or certified by any authority.

Before commissioning a person to prepare an arborist report Council recommends you consider the arborist's qualifications and experience. It is also very important to confirm the adequacy of the prospective arborists **professional indemnity insurance** when seeking a written statement on your trees.

Council recommends choosing an appropriately insured, qualified, experienced and independent arborist to prepare an arborist report to accompany a development application or tree application.

2. DEFINITION OF ARBORIST

- a. A person who holds the Australian Qualifications Framework Diploma in Horticulture (Arboriculture) or other qualification to the satisfaction of Council, and
- b. who has been registered with the Council as a qualified person for the purposes of the preparation of an arborist report, or
- c. the Council.

3. DEFINITION OF TREE WORKER

A tradesperson who holds the Australian Qualifications Framework Certificate III Horticulture (Arboriculture) or acceptable international equivalent.

Note: The term **tree surgeon** is not formally recognized; the correct title is **tree worker**.

4. CONTENTS OF AN ARBORIST REPORT

The following matters **should** be addressed in an arborist report submitted to Council. Council may reject a report that does not adequately address these matters:

1. The full name, business address, telephone number(s), evidence of technical qualification(s) and the experience of the arborist carrying out the tree inspection, diagnosis and reporting;
2. The full address of the site containing the trees;
3. The full name of the person or company for whom the report is prepared;
4. The methods and techniques used in the site and tree inspection
5. A suitably scaled plan of the site showing:-
 - a) the location of all trees on the site and any trees on adjoining land which overhang or under grow
 - b) the subject land
 - c) the lot boundaries
 - d) the location of above and below ground services/utilities in proximity to the trees shown
6. A table showing for each tree surveyed:-
 - a) the common and full scientific name
 - b) the age class
 - c) the estimated height
 - d) the trunk diameter at 1.4 metres
 - e) the canopy spread to the four cardinal points
 - f) a summary of the trees' health and structural condition
 - g) an estimation of the trees useful life expectancy (refer to literature on SULE assessments)
7. A summary and/or discussion of other relevant tree and site information such as soil and drainage characteristics, wildlife habitation, root structure and distribution, pests and diseases, and tree hazard assessment details.
8. Tree hazard assessments should be conducted and recorded in accordance with industry best practice.
9. Supporting evidence such as annotated photographs and laboratory results if relevant to the proposed works or to assist in describing tree or site conditions.
10. A discussion of ALL options available, including why they are recommended or not recommended, e.g. can a built structure be relocated, repaired and tree(s) retained?
11. A review of the implications of the proposed development on the health and structural condition of trees to be retained.
12. A description of the recommended protection measures to be put in place to ensure the protection of trees to be retained, and a description of any proposed method of tree removal.
13. A list of recommendations and the reasons for their adoption.
14. The sources of technical information referred to in the report. References not used in the report should not be included.
15. Present information as objectively as possible without attempting to support a specific development outcome.
16. Provide the scientific and common names of all tree species proposed for planting, including recommendations on the size and quality characteristics of trees to be planted.
17. Any other relevant matters.