

SHIRE OF DENMARK

TOWN PLANNING SCHEME POLICY NO. 9.1

PRIVATE TREE PLANTATIONS

OBJECTIVE: To assist Council in determining applications for private tree plantations within the Scheme Area.

- AIM:**
- ♦To reduce potential adverse impacts from inappropriate siting and development of private tree plantations.
 - ♦To encourage the integration of private tree plantations in conjunction with traditional (eg. grazing) rural uses.
 - ♦To encourage the establishment of permanent tree cover on steep slopes and along watercourses.
 - ♦To encourage the preparation of management plans for harvesting of private tree plantations.

DEFINITION:

'Private Tree Plantation' means a continuous area of two hectares or more on private land, used primarily for the purpose of planting commercial quantities and species of softwood/ hardwood trees, with the intent of harvesting the wood grown for wood fibre but does not mean a continuous area planted to trees for the specific purposes of;

- (a) shelter belts or windbreaks not exceeding 2ha in total;
- (b) areas planted for the purpose of-
 - i) the prevention of soil erosion;
 - ii) maintaining water quality;
 - iii) landscape protection

- and not intended to be harvested.

POLICY CRITERIA

Council will have regard to the following, in determining "Applications for Planning Consent" for "Private Tree Plantations" within the Scheme Area:

- (1) Council will not approve private tree plantations that will, in Council's opinion, adversely affect existing scenic views from the following recognised tourist routes - Ocean Beach Road, Mt Shadforth Road, McLeod Road, Parrys Road, William Bay Road, Scotsdale Road, Boat Harbour Road, Peaceful Bay Road and Valley of the Giants Road to areas of natural attraction such as the coastline, Bennett Ranges, Mt Lindesay, National Parks, existing rural landscapes, Wilson Inlet, etc.
 - (2) Council will seek comment from the Department of Conservation and Land Management regarding fire protection and control measures for proposed private tree plantations, within a one (1) kilometre radius of National Parks, Nature Reserves and/or Conservation Reserves prior to considering an application.
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- (3) Provided parts (1) and (5) are satisfied, Council will encourage the establishment of permanent tree cover on steep slopes and along watercourses.
 - (4) Council prefers private tree plantations to be integrated on farms in conjunction with other traditional rural uses (ie. shelter belts) rather than "whole of farm" plantings.
 - (5) For the purposes of tree preservation and the protection of remnant vegetation to maintain water quality, ecological values of waterways/foreshores and to prevent erosion, Council will require the existing remnant vegetation on slopes of 25% or greater adjacent to rivers, streams, creeks or drainage lines to a distance of 30 metres and remnant vegetation adjacent to estuaries to a distance of 100 metres is protected from clearing and introduction of non-native species.
 - (6) If it is proposed to graze stock within a private tree plantation to control undergrowth, Council will require areas of remnant endemic vegetation and watercourses be fenced to preclude stock from those areas.
 - (7) Council does not support the clearing of existing remnant vegetation for the purpose of establishment of private tree plantations.
 - (8) Council will seek comment from the Chief Fire Control Officer, the Fire Control Officer of the local Bush Fire Brigade and the Shire Ranger, regarding private tree plantations prior to considering approval/refusal.
 - (9) Road reinstatement contributions, fire control measures, etc., will be determined upon application and placed as development conditions.
 - (10) In all cases, the requirements of the Shire of Denmark Firebreak Notice will apply to all private tree plantations developed within the Scheme Area.
 - (11) All private tree plantations shall maintain a minimum separation of 50 metres from dwellings on the property and dwellings on neighbouring properties. This separation distance is to be maintained in a low fuel state at all times.
 - (12) All private tree plantations shall maintain a minimum separation of 15 metres (eucalypt) and 20 metres (pine) from Western Power overhead power transmission lines.
 - (13) All private tree plantation proposals should adhere to relevant reports of the Lower Great Southern Plantation Advisory Committee coordinated by the Bush Fires Board and where relevant the Plantation Fire Protection Guidelines of the W.A. Planning Commission Policy (DC 3.4).
 - (14) All planning consent approval notices for Private Tree Plantations shall be issued for a 20 year period and will include a requirement for the submission of harvesting management plan two years prior to the harvesting date. Council will consider that harvesting management plan with regard to its relationship to the occurrence of other plantations scheduled for harvest and potential vehicular conflict points along the main transport routes in an attempt to obtain a reasonable distribution of heavy haulage vehicles. Council will also address any particular road needs as part of its consideration of the harvesting management plan and may require action by the proponent in respect to particular roads.
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- (15) The issue of aerial spraying of private tree plantations to control insect damage is a matter Council will have regard to. This is particularly the case when a proposed private tree plantation is located near an existing urban area or an area proposed for urban development such as the nodal rural settlements identified in the Rural Settlement Strategy. As a general guide a 500 metre buffer will be required from these areas until such a time as regulatory authorities provide clear buffer guidelines on this matter. Council will require the private tree plantation operators to provide advice before a private tree plantation is to be aeri ally sprayed in order that monitoring of spray drift can be carried out by Council officers. As an alternative to the setback buffer Council will be prepared to accept a specific protocol to be prepared by the proponent which addresses the following points to Council's satisfaction:
- Restrictions will be placed on the wind direction and wind speeds under which aerial spraying may occur.
 - Provision for a buffer zone adjacent to the urban area that is not to be aeri ally sprayed, the width of which can be negotiated depending on the chemical types and any restrictions on wind direction that may apply.
 - An aerial spraying record to be logged by the pilot and submitted to the Shire prior to and following application events.
- (16) Council recognises the intentions of the timber industry in its Code of Practice for Timber Plantations in WA and supports the thrust of such a document. Council will administer this TPS Policy on the understanding that all operators will abide by the Code of Practice.

This Policy No. 9.1 supersedes TPS Policy No. 9.

Adopted on 27th March, 2001 in accordance with clause 8.2 of Town Planning Scheme No. 3
