



## POSITION PAPER

### STREET TREE CONSERVATION

#### NATIONAL TRUST ACTION TO CONSERVE STREET TREES

The National Trust has undertaken two street trees studies - The Lugarno Tree Study in 1989 and the Mudgee Tree Study in 1993. Many individual street trees and tree avenues have been listed on the National Trust Register including the O'Connell Anzac Memorial Avenue of Desert Ash (2008), King George V Avenue of English Oak Trees at Tamworth (2013), The Bridge Stairs Cockscomb Coral, The Rocks (2013), Australia's First Street Tree Plantings (Swamp Mahoganies), Royal Botanic Gardens (2013), Prime Ministers' Corridor Of Oaks, Faulconbridge (2013), World War 1 Honour Avenue Of Norfolk Pines, Cudgen (2014) and the Formal Row Of Six Silver Date Palms, Maroubra (2014).

#### THE THREATS POSED TO STREET TREES

Trees may be damaged or their health and stability threatened by construction works and other activities or events. Trees may also be threatened by poorly located infrastructure or excessive canopy pruning, and root damage. Trees may also be poisoned or illegally removed.

Government agencies prune street trees to reduce the likelihood of damage to electricity wires or bushfire ignition. In some cases this pruning work is poorly implemented or alternative strategies are available and may be more effective in reducing such threats.

#### NATIONAL TRUST POSITION

The National Trust urges that Councils adopt tree management policies aimed at achieving the following objectives to:

- establish commitment and future strategic direction for tree planting, protection, management and maintenance of urban forests
- address tree management and maintenance issues
- provide a framework for decision making, documentation and standardised processes to ensure consistency in the management of street trees and urban forest
- prioritise the maintenance and protection of the existing tree population
- broaden the emphasis of urban tree management to include urban forestry principles, with trees managed as a collective asset, to maximise the benefits canopy cover provides
- improve the quality and quantity of a local government area's canopy cover
- increase species diversity and improve the age spread of the urban forest
- recognise and protect trees considered significant due to heritage, cultural, social and ecological criteria
- increase awareness and educate the community, developers and Council staff on the value of trees in the urban landscape
- enhance each councils' reputation within the community as a steward and manager of trees.

The National Trust urges that Government Agencies adopt electricity asset tree management policies which:

- examine alternative management strategies to heavy pruning such as undergrounding of wires, bundling of wires or the use of separators
- ensure that their staff are properly trained in the latest tree pruning and lopping techniques.

#### ACTION TO CONSERVE STREET TREES

The Trust will publicise its position on street tree conservation and seek to actively encourage councils to adopt Tree Management Policies as set out above.

The Trust will continue to list significant trees and tree avenues on its Register.