

Planning and Infrastructure

December 2015

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Where not to plant trees, shrubs and palms

Do not plant in the following areas:

Over the top of underground services – Including power, water, sewerage, stormwater and telephones. Tree roots can cause stormwater, sewer and water pipe blockages that can cause interruption to services. Tree roots can cause damage to electrical and telephone services resulting in interruption to power and phone lines. Keep tree planting at least 3.5 m away from underground services. Shrub, palm and groundcover planting may be acceptable over underground services as long as services are not damaged during planting and root systems are not invasive. Refer Power Water website for [Allowable Planting in Power and Water Sewer and Water Easements](http://www.powerwater.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/14208/Allowable_planting_in_Power_and_Water_sewer_and_water_easements_-_August_2009.pdf)

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Very large trees such as *Ficus spp.* (Fig trees) and trees with vigorous root systems such as *Schefflera actinophylla* (Umbrella Tree) and *Melaleuca sp.* should not be planted within 30m of underground services.

Below overhead services – Do not plant trees that will encroach on the clearance zone around power lines. The clearance zone is 1 m around power lines and 1.5 m around high voltage power lines. Plant trees far enough from power lines so that if a fully grown tree blows over, it will not encroach on the clearance zone around the wires. Shrub and groundcover planting is acceptable under overhead services provided they do not encroach on the clearance zone.

Closer than 5m to a building for small/medium trees.

Closer than 10m to a building for large trees. The mature height of the tree is a guide to the planting distance away from the building. The exception to this is when large trees are planted with correctly installed root barriers allowing them to be planted closer than 10 m to a building. Very large trees such as *Ficus spp.* (Fig trees) and *Syzygium forte* should be planted no closer than 30m to buildings, pathways or paved areas. These trees all have vigorous root systems that will seek out water.

Closer than 1.5m to a path way or paved area. (See note above for very large trees).

In emergency or other access points that must be maintained.

Areas that may be affected by future development eg. Proposed buildings. However 'sacrificial' planting may be carried out if future development is many years away, or forward planting may be carried out if the nature of the development is known.

Where the effectiveness of security lighting will be affected.

In any position that will screen supervision of children.

In any position that will provide a mask for vandalism and break-ins.

Table 1. Where to Plant, summarises the above information on where plants should and should not be planted at your school

Table 1. Where to Plant

AREA OF SCHOOL	VERY LARGE TREES	LARGE TREES	SMALL/MEDIUM TREES	PALMS	SHRUBS/GROUNDCOVERS
On top of underground services	NO	NO	NO	YES Only if roots are not invasive	YES
Emergency access areas	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Below overhead wires	NO	NO	YES Only if tree species will not grow to height of clearance zone around wires	YES Only if palm species will not grow to height of clearance zone around wires	YES Only if shrub species will not grow to height of clearance zone around wires
Greater than 30m from a building	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Less than 30m but greater than 10m from a building	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Less than 10m but greater than 5m from a building	NO	YES Only if root barrier used	YES	YES	YES
Less than 5m but greater than 0.5m from a building	NO	NO	YES Only if root barrier used	YES	YES
Less than 0.5m from a building	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Within 1.5m from a pathway	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO