

Tree maintenance and arborist inspections – general information

This document should be read in conjunction with the Planting in schools – defining your requirements - general information.

Introduction

It is a requirement that all schools arrange for qualified arborists to complete 6 monthly inspections of all trees in school grounds. Schools can expect to be charged for the service and should manage this expense.

Schools are responsible, and are provided with funding for grounds maintenance. This includes the tree maintenance program to prevent injury to people, damage to buildings and underground services.

Ongoing tree maintenance is required as plants are living organisms that will, over their lifetime, require maintenance to look and perform at their best. When a tree is stressed due to lack of water, lack of fertiliser, damage by storms, machinery, insects or people, the way may be opened for disease or borer attack. Some plants at your school may have been planted in inappropriate locations or self sown by birds and require removal. Other plants may be poisonous or produce excessive amounts of pollens that can pose health problems. In all of these cases, informed decisions will have to be made about the pruning or removal of affected plants.

Tree maintenance and arborist inspections are expected to be paid from the school ground maintenance budget and should be undertaken by the school representative body before it gets to a dangerous level and needs removal. Where the tree has been damaged by termites or for other reasons cannot be maintained, and has been deemed to pose an imminent risk, the Education Urgent Minor Repairs (EUMR) process can be used after consultation with your regional Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics, Strategic Asset Management representative.

Relevant standards

All tree maintenance should be completed according to Australian Standard (2007), Pruning of amenity trees, AS 4373-2007 refers. Schools should ask their arborist to discuss the standard with them and explain how the proposed treatment meets the standard.

Operations responsibilities and funding sources

Priority	Actions required	Funding
Very high	Hazards pose immediate danger to health, safety or property: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• immediately control the risk• periodically review the risk.	Education Urgent Minor Repairs (EUMR) - include report and full quote with acquittal.
High	Hazards have a potential to fail, endangering health, safety or property: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• control the risk as soon as possible• periodically review the risk.	Education Urgent Minor Repairs (EUMR) - include report and full quote with acquittal.

Priority	Actions required	Funding
Moderate	<p>Hazards have a potential to fail, endangering health, safety or property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • control the risk within an acceptable timeframe • periodically review the risk. 	School ground maintenance budget.

Further information

You must contact your Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics representative before undertaking any tree maintenance under EUMR.

The contacts are Manager Repairs and Maintenance on (08) 899 92310 or Senior Infrastructure Officer Southern Region on (08) 895 15871 or by emailing RMEducation.DIPL@nt.gov.au