

Planning and Infrastructure

November 2015

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Tree maintenance and arborist inspections – All Regions

It is now required that all schools arrange for qualified arborists to complete six monthly inspections of all trees in school yards. Schools can expect to be charged for the service and should manage this expense.

Schools should manage inspections within the budget. If you are experiencing difficulty with your budget you should contact [Financial Services Schools Management Accounting](#) schoolsgrants.det@nt.gov.au for assistance.

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 fertilizer, 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. Detailed information is available in the other [Landscaping](#) fact sheets in this series.

Tree maintenance is expected to be paid from the school ground maintenance budget and should be undertaken by the school council 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 UMR process can be used after consultation with your regional DoE Planning and Infrastructure representative.

You must contact your DoE representative before undertaking any tree maintenance under UMR. The contacts are Senior Infrastructure Officer Northern Region on telephone 8901 4928 or Senior Infrastructure Officer Southern Region on telephone 8951 1619 or by email to RMInfrastructure.DET@nt.gov.au .

RELEVANT STANDARDS

All tree maintenance should be completed according to Australian Standards. Schools should ask their arborist to discuss the standard with them and explain how the proposed treatment meets the standard.