

## Planning and Infrastructure

December 2015

### ITEM DESCRIPTION: Tree maintenance and arborist inspections for non-government schools

**It is now mandatory for all schools to arrange for qualified arborists to complete six monthly inspections of all trees in school yards.** Schools can expect to be charged for the service.

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 school [Landscaping](#) information is available on the DoE internet site.

### 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.