**Illegal Clearing of Vegetation**

**KFA** Natural and Built Environment

**Status** Council

**Responsible**

**Division** Planning & Development Services

**Objective** To provide a clear direction as to the appropriate response by the City in the event of illegal vegetation damage on Council Reserves, particularly in respect to riparian or coastal foreshore areas.

**Context**

The City is committed to the effective management and protection of vegetation Illegal damage to vegetation on public land occurs from time to time particularly along foreshore and coastal areas. Vegetation is damaged for a number of reasons, ranging from random vandalism to deliberately planned acts, which may be occurring for private benefit such as the enhancement of views. This policy aims to discourage unauthorised removal of vegetation through the use of signage.

Vegetation within the City is of high importance and is significant in terms of:

* Conservation values such as habitat;
* Erosion prevention;
* Visual amenity;
* Landscape protection;
* Shade provision;
* Wind buffer for resident and users of foreshore and coastal reserves;
* Cultural and historical significance; and
* Verge streetscape.

**Statement**

*General*

* The City may prosecute where an offender is identified who has caused illegal damage to vegetation on public land;
* The City will provide a mechanism to encourage community members to

 report illegal damage to vegetation on public land; and

* The City will provide a significant deterrent against future illegal damage to vegetation on public land.
* The City will pursue, in conjunction with a prosecution, any replacement costs for the vegetation and in the case of trees, their value in accordance with the City’s Tree Register.

**Related documentation**

Nil

**Related Local Law/legislation**

*Local Government Act 1995*

*Local Government Property Local Law 2010*

*Regulation No.5 of Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions)*

*Regulations (1996)*

*Environmental Protection Act (1986)*

**Related delegation**

Nil

**Review History**

26 June 2012 (CP27.12)

23 June 2015 (CPS14.15)