

# Proposed Pruning Standard for Council-managed Ficus species

DRAFT



Two parts being:

**Part A** – Prune all branches less than 150mm diameter within 3.0m of a building ('building envelope'). Part A outlines the minimum requirement for all Council-managed Ficus species.

**Part B** – Any pruning beyond Part A will require an individual tree assessment.

Part B will allow branches larger than 150mm diameter to be pruned and greater adherence to clearances to be applied, where a suitably qualified arborist deems the Useful Life Expectancy of the tree is not significantly impacted. Pruning under Part B should:

- be assessed by a suitably qualified arborist engaged by council.
- be detailed for each tree through an individual tree pruning specification (refer Section 0).
- create and maintain building clearances, and establish a branching structure which minimises the requirement for additional pruning within a 5-7 year period.
- not affect the long-term health and structure of the tree.

A range of issues will need to be considered within the Part B assessment to ensure the standard is applied in a consistent and reasonable manner.

## Part B Pruning Considerations

Considerations	Particulars
Australian Standard 4373-2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ability for increased pruning to comply with Australian Standard: 4373-2007: Pruning of Amenity Trees and other best practice methods</li></ul>
Tree Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consideration of location and volume of live foliage to be removed &amp; implications on tree health</li></ul>
Tree Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consideration of size and location of pruning wound and weight distribution and any negative impacts on the structural condition of the tree</li></ul>
Sunburn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase in sun exposure to stems and branches</li></ul>
Disfigurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impacts to crown form and aesthetic value of the tree</li><li>• Consideration to existing site conditions and infrastructure such as power lines, street lights, buildings</li></ul>
Timeframe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requirement for additional pruning within a 5–7 year period.</li></ul>

The above considerations are important to achieve and maintain building clearance that will not reduce the Useful Life Expectancy of a tree and will minimise long-term impact or stress as a result of pruning.

Part B Individual Tree Pruning Specification

The objectives of Part B are to identify opportunities to create and maintain building clearance that will not reduce the Useful Life Expectancy of a tree, to minimise long-term impact and reduce tree stress from pruning.

Key definitions

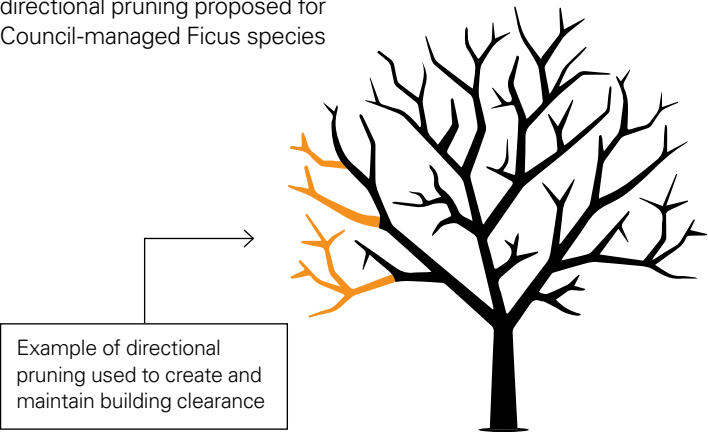
Key definitions for the Ficus Pruning Standard

Term	Definition
Clearance Space Compliant (CSC)	There are no branches growing within the clearance space
<150mmØ compliant	There are no branches smaller than 150mm diameter growing within the clearance space. Branches or stems greater than 150mm are present within the clearance space.
Building Clearance Envelope (BCE)	The horizontal and vertical space around the building that is clear of branches
Useful Life expectancy (ULE)	Useful Life Expectancy (ULE) approximates the amount of time a tree can be retained as a viable landscape component

1.1.1 Clearance Pruning Guidelines

Branches growing horizontally are of lower vigour than those growing more upright. However, larger (>150mm diameter) horizontal branches growing into the 3.0m ‘building envelope’ may be able to be removed over time through a proactive and staged approach. ‘Directional’ pruning should be used to create greater clearances from buildings in the future, promoting tree growth that is less likely to encroach into the specified building envelope. Pruning to achieve increased clearances is likely to intensify epicormic growth management. Epicormic growth is a stress response, however if managed appropriately will provide future pruning opportunities.

Figure 8: Example of directional pruning proposed for Council-managed Ficus species



Ten Year Implementation Plan

