

What is the Program?

The City of Marion has many Regulated/Significant trees across its landscape with many of these located on private property. These trees offer a range of benefits to the community, support a diverse range of wildlife, provide a connection to our history and contribute to the character of our neighbourhoods.

Accordingly, we have established a program to assist and encourage property owners in the City of Marion to adequately maintain these trees. The program recognises that there is much community interest in preserving them and provides financial assistance to enable this.

What can the funds be used for?

The Regulated Tree Maintenance Fund provides financial assistance for property owners to take action that helps maintain their Regulated/Significant tree. The fund covers the following

- Arborist report, when works are subsequently undertaken on the tree
- Tree Pruning
- Pest and Disease Control

Who can apply?

Applications for funding can only be submitted by property owners of Regulated and Significant Trees as defined by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* within the City of Marion.

Funding is available only for the maintenance and management of Regulated or Significant trees.

Tenants and residents occupying neighbouring properties are not eligible to apply.

What Funding is available?

A total of 50% of the combined costs of the Arborist report and the maintenance works conducted on the tree, capped at \$1,750 per tree can be sought.

Note - Reimbursement for up to 50% of the Arborist report will only occur when subsequent works on the tree are undertaken.

Funding will be in the form of a reimbursement payment once the tree report has been paid in full and or works are completed and a copy of the payment is provided to Council from the property owner.

Repeat applications may be considered if they clearly demonstrate that the work being undertaken is required maintenance outlined in an on-going tree management plan.

What is ineligible for funding?

No funding is available for:

- The removal of a tree
- Works which have previously occurred or commenced prior to seeking funding approval
- Repairs to infrastructure, private property or vehicles for damage caused or suspected to be caused by the tree
- Works that have not received Planning consent (if required) or would be considered tree damaging activities as defined by the regulations.
- Arborist report where no subsequent maintenance work on the tree is undertaken

How do I make an application?

The application process involves the following steps

Step 1:

Contact the Council to discuss your application

Property owners should contact Council to discuss their application. This will ensure that applicants are fully aware of the eligibility of their application and all relevant information will be included.

Step 2:

Expert Assessment of the Tree

Property owners should arrange for an expert Arborist to inspect the tree and provide a tree report that demonstrates that the work is necessary to minimise the risk to life or property, and/or will be beneficial to the long term health of the tree. The assessment should also include an ongoing maintenance/management plan for the tree..

The tree report must be from a qualified Arborist holding a minimum qualification of Certificate V in Arboriculture.

The report must clearly:

1. Identify the tree by species and location on an aerial photography map
2. Describe the immediate work to be undertaken and its effect on the health and safety of the tree
3. Detail the maintenance/management plan for the tree
4. State whether development approval is required for the work to occur and why
5. State the qualifications and experience of the Arborist providing the advice

Step 3:

Seek Development Approval if required

If planning consent is required to undertake works on the tree, the application for this consent/approval must be submitted via the Plan SA Portal, and approval granted before works are undertaken.

<https://plan.sa.gov.au/>

Step 4:

Complete Application Form

To apply for funding, property owners should seek quotes from businesses with suitably qualified staff (qualified arborist or tree-maintenance specialist) capable of undertaking the work.

A Grant Application form available on Council's website at <https://www.marion.sa.gov.au/> can then be completed and submitted with a copy of the tree report and quotation for the works.

Applications that are submitted and not accompanied by the tree report and quotation as detailed above will not be considered for funding and will be returned to the applicant.

Step 5:

Application assessment

The application is assessed on the contribution that the works will make to managing the risk of life or property, and/or supporting the long term conservation and protection of the tree.

Applications are reviewed by Council's staff consisting of the Arboriculture Coordinator and Open Space Operations Unit Manager. The decision to approve funding is at the discretion of staff and is final with no right of appeal.

Step 6:

Assessment outcome

Following assessment and a decision by Council staff, applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing. Works that have been successful in receiving funding can commence once notification has been received and any necessary Planning consent has been granted.

All work should be completed by the end of financial year in which the grant approval notification was provided otherwise funds may be forfeited unless the applicant requests in writing an extension of time which is granted by Council staff in writing.

Step 7:**Funding payment**

On completion of the works the applicant must submit of copy of the paid tax invoice for both the report and associated works and Council will provide the approved funding reimbursement.

GRANT APPROVAL CONDITIONS

The following grant approval conditions apply:

- All work funded by Council through this program must be undertaken by suitably qualified and licenced contractors. Funding is not available for tree removal or inappropriate lopping, pruning or works deemed to be 'Tree Damaging Activity" as defined by the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016*
- Approval of the funding does not confer any other form of approval (including Development Approval)
- Council reserves the right to inspect and photograph the tree before and after the maintenance/management work is completed and may add it to Council's Tree Management System (Forestree)
- Any liabilities arising from the works that is financially supported by Council shall attach to the funding recipient and not to Council.