

# CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE

## Significant Tree Assessment Criteria

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Category	Description
<b>1. Trees of outstanding aesthetic significance.</b>	These are trees whose form, seasonal beauty and/or placement is such that they are not only magnificent examples of their species but are also a significant aesthetic component of the streetscape, park, garden or natural landscape in which they grow
<b>2. Trees of outstanding dimensions in height, trunk circumference or canopy spread.</b>	The biggest, tallest, widest examples of any species will always attract attention and admiration. For example an outstanding example of the species in form, structure and health.
<b>3. Trees that are very old or venerable.</b>	These trees may not be particularly beautiful but their age and associated links to the past, makes them significant to the community. For example trees which reveal previous landscapes or land use such as estate boundaries or orchards.
<b>4. Trees that commemorate, or are reminders of, cultural practices, historic events or famous people.</b>	These trees are not necessarily old but have cultural significance through association with a significant person or event. This can include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trees that have strong associations with specific community or cultural groups for spiritual, cultural, religious or other associated reasons.</li><li>• Trees planted by royalty, political figures or community leaders or to commemorate significant international or local events.</li><li>• Trees that have a recognised association with aboriginal culture or heritage or are valued for continuing and developing cultural traditions.</li></ul>
<b>5. Trees that are recognised as a significant component of a natural landscape, historic site, town, park or garden.</b>	These are trees that enhance the unique character of a natural landscape, streetscape, park or town and whose loss would fundamentally alter that character. These trees are also those identified as contributing to the state or local significance of a historic site, private garden or estate.

<b>6. Trees that have local significance.</b>	These trees are trees that, as a component of a streetscape, park or garden, are important to the local community and are recognised features of the immediate landscape or provide a sense of place. The loss of these trees may impact on the local community.
<b>7. Trees of a species or variety that is rare or of very localised distribution.</b>	These trees have important scientific ecological or horticultural significance. For example trees that are endangered as a species or unique in distribution or position in the natural landscape. This can include remnant native vegetation that indicates the former extent of the species, rare/threatened species or those at the edge of their natural range, or locally uncommon species.
<b>8. Trees that are of horticultural or genetic value.</b>	<p>These trees could provide important and valuable propagating stock for scientific research, forestry or horticulture industries because their genetic characteristics differ from the type. For example trees that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are a source of seed from a local gene pool</li> <li>• Are particularly resistant to disease or climate extremes</li> <li>• Have a particular growth form</li> <li>• Have a tolerance to pests or disease</li> </ul>
<b>9. Trees that have a significant contribution to the integrity of an ecological community.</b>	These trees are remnant native species which provide significant habitat for rare, threatened or locally uncommon or common native species. For example trees that provide breeding and foraging habitat, roosting sites and refuge.
<b>10. Trees that are significant for reasons that are difficult to categorise.</b>	Very simply, these trees are significant because they are interesting! Whether they are examples of the art of topiary or simply growing in extraordinary circumstances, they will immediately catch the attention of the passer by. For example interesting growth forms, outgrowths, branch fusion or pruning.