

22 April 2020

Mr Ben Taylor  
Wollondilly Shire Council CEO  
c/- Environmental Services Department  
Wollondilly Shire Council  
PO Box 21  
Picton NSW 2521

Via email: [council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wollondilly.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Ben,

**Re: Draft Tree Management Policy**

The Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) NSW is the leading industry body representing the key participants in the development sector in NSW, with over 500 member companies including developers, planners, engineers, state agencies and local government. UDIA is grateful for the ongoing collaborative working relationship between industry and Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Council's draft Tree Management Policy (the Policy). UDIA supports the intent and objectives of the Policy, and both State and Local governments' vision for a greener Western Sydney. However, we have concerns with some aspects of the Policy and make the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1: Review the design guidelines, particularly on street tree location in verges.**

We expect that tree siting requirements in Part 4.5 cannot be practically implemented and will conflict with other requirements. We recommend that tree planting be guided by the specific opportunities and constraints of each verge location rather than insisting on a uniform standard across the Shire.

**Recommendation 2: Remove the prohibition in Part 4.6 on removing trees where they may cause damage to property (both Council and private property) and solar panels among other matters.**

UDIA believes there should be reasonable allowance for the removal of trees that are causing damage to private or public property.

**Recommendation 3: Ensure consistency with the Exempt and Complying Provisions of the Codes SEPP 2008 and Wollondilly LEP.**

We note that the application of this policy to any tree above 3 metres in height is inconsistent with both the Codes SEPP 2008 and Wollondilly LEP that adopt an 8 metre height limit. The Policy should be amended to adopt the 8 metre height limit.

Thank you for considering UDIA NSW's comments on the draft Tree Management Policy. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact me on 0435 243 182, or by email at [kthomas@udiansw.com.au](mailto:kthomas@udiansw.com.au).

Yours sincerely



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