

2024/25 Tree Incentive Rebate Guidelines

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1. Purpose

The City of West Torrens recognises the need to create a green and cool city to counteract the loss of trees and shading occurring in the private realm and to create a liveable city by building resilience to a drier climate with more heat waves.

The Tree Incentive Rebate provides financial assistance towards the purchase and planting of a shady tree to enhance shading and cooling of the private realm in West Torrens.

Examples of trees that have been planted with the rebate include lemon, orange, avocado, ornamental pear, maple, and crepe myrtle.

2. Rebate Amount

Two types of rebates are available, as outlined below. Applicants can only apply for one, not both.

Rebate 1: Purchase of an Established Tree

Successful applicants will receive up to \$100 towards the purchase of one or more trees (minimum of 1 metre high at time of purchase) for their property, if the eligibility criteria, listed in *Section 3. Eligibility*, is met.

Rebate 2: Purchase of an Established Tree (suburbs of lowest tree canopy cover)

Successful applicants who are located within suburbs of lowest tree canopy cover which include: Mile End South, West Beach, Camden Park, Glenelg North and Netley, will receive up to \$200 towards the purchase of two or more trees (minimum of 1 metre high at time of purchase) for their property, if the eligibility criteria, listed in *Section 3. Eligibility*, is met.

Total funding for the rebates is limited, and applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis while funds last. This rebate program is limited to one rebate per applicant/ per property per financial year.

See *Section 3. Eligibility* below to see if you are eligible to apply.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The property must be located within the City of West Torrens.
- Property owners and tenants can apply for the rebate.
- Tenants must provide approval in writing from the property owner, and applications for strata title properties must include written proof of support for the application by the body corporate.
- The subject tree(s) must be planted on the applicant's private property in West Torrens.
- The subject tree(s) must be planted at least 2 metres from the property boundary to minimise over hanging of neighbouring properties and/or the verge.
- Legible and clear supporting documentation must be provided with the application, including:
 - An itemised receipt showing payment of the tree.
 - A photo of the tree tag displaying the tree species.
 - A photo of the tree planted in the ground, and showing it is more than 2 metres from the property boundary.
- The tree must meet the selection criteria specified in *Section 4. Tree Selection Criteria*.
- The rebate can relate to tree purchases in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

4. Tree Selection Criteria

Selecting the right tree is important to ensure it will provide effective shade and is suitable to the local conditions.

The tree species can be either native or exotic but must:

- Be an established tree at time of purchase (at least 1 metre high at time of purchase);
- Be known to be a long-lived tree species (at least 15 years);
- Have the ability to grow to at least 4 metres in height; and
- Provide shade when the sun is at its highest point e.g. tree form is round, spreading, oval, open, weeping.

Council encourages applicants to seek specialist advice from a local garden centre or nursery on selecting a shady tree that meets the above criteria and your needs.

Other information to assist tree selection can be found on the Botanic Gardens Plant Selector Plus website where you can view suitable plants based on your postcode, or via The Which Plant Where Tool website:

<http://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/home.aspx>

<https://www.whichplantwhere.com.au/>

Council will not be held responsible for the growth or performance of the tree.

5. How to Apply

Applications for the rebate are lodged online through the City of West Torrens website westtorrens.sa.gov.au

The 2024/25 rebate program is open until 30 June 2025, unless funding is exhausted before this date.