

2025/26 Significant and Regulated Tree Assistance Rebate Guidelines

Civic Centre
165 Sir Donald Bradman Drive
Hilton, SA 5033
Tel: 08 8416 6333
Email: csu@wtcc.sa.gov.au
SMS: 0429 205 943
Web: westtorrens.sa.gov.au



1. Purpose

In South Australia, trees of a certain trunk circumference are classified as Significant or Regulated trees and controls are in place to protect these trees under the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016. There is growing awareness of the vital role Significant and Regulated trees play, some of which may be remnants of the native vegetation that once grew here or plantings by the early European settlers that perform a commemorative purpose dedicated to important people or mark significant events in history. This rebate program encourages the community to retain and maintain these important trees.

The *Significant and Regulated Tree Assistance Rebate Program* provides financial assistance for property owners/rate payers to take action that helps maintain their Significant/ Regulated tree.

2. Rebate Amount

The rebate amount is up to \$1,000 with a maximum of one (1) rebate provided per rateable property per financial year. The rebate amount can be used towards the following activities:

- Arborist report (when works are subsequently undertaken on the tree)
- Pruning the tree canopy by, or at the direction of, a qualified arborist (excludes root pruning and civil works)
- Pest and disease control.

Total funding for the rebates is limited, and applications will be processed on a first come first serve basis until funds last.

See *Section 4. Eligibility* below to see if you are eligible to apply.

3. Significant and Regulated Tree Criteria

A regulated tree is:

- A tree with a single trunk with a circumference of 1 metre or more (when measured 1 metre above natural ground level);
- A tree with multiple trunks with a total circumference of 1 metre or more and an average circumference of 310 millimetres or more (when measured 1 metre above natural ground level).

A significant tree is:

- A tree with a single trunk with a circumference of 2 metres or more (when measured 1 metre above natural ground level);
- A tree with multiple trunks with a total circumference of 2 metres or more and an average circumference of 625 millimetres or more (when measured 1 metre above natural ground level).

In accordance with the Regulations the following list of species cannot be used in the West Torrens rebate program:

- *Acer negundo* (Box Elder)
- *Acer saccharinum* (Silver Maple)
- *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven)
- *Alnus acuminata* subsp. *Glabrata* (Evergreen Alder)
- *Celtis australis* (European Nettle Tree)
- *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese Nettle Tree)
- *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel)

- *Cupressus macrocarpa* (Monterey Cypress)
- *Ficus* spp. (Figs), other than *Ficus macrophylla* (Morton Bay Fig) located more than 15 m from a dwelling
- *Fraxinus angustifolia* (Narrow-leaved Ash)
- *Fraxinus angustifolia* ssp. *Oxycarpa* (Desert Ash)
- *Pinus radiata* (Radiata Pine/Monterey Pine)
- *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane)
- *Populus alba* (White Poplar)
- *Populus nigra* var. *italica* (Lombardy Poplar)
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* (Black Locust)
- *Salix babylonica* (Weeping Willow)
- *Salix chilensis* 'Fastigiata' (Chilean Willow, Evergreen Willow, Pencil Willow)
- *Salix fragilis* (Crack Willow)
- *Salix x rubens* (White Crack Willow, Basket Willow)
- *Salix x sepulcralis* var. *chrysocoma* (Golden Weeping Willow)
- *Schinus areira* (Peppercorn Tree)
- *Melaleuca styphelioides* (Prickly-leaved Paperbark)
- *Lagunaria patersonia* (Norfolk Island Hibiscus)

Refer to: https://plan.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/799232/FAQ_-_Protecting_regulated_and_significant_trees.pdf. All species of Palm are not eligible under this rebate program.

Pruning is not to result in more than 30 per cent of the tree crown and cannot occur more than once in a 5-year period unless development approval is obtained.

For further information on significant and regulated trees and what rules apply to works undertaken on these trees, please visit the Plan SA website:

https://plan.sa.gov.au/our_planning_system/programs_and_initiatives/significant_and_regulated_trees

4. Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must be able to 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 residential properties must include written proof of support for the application by the body corporate.
- The rebate is intended for the applicant's tree, however if the subject tree is overhanging the applicant's property from a neighbouring property, a letter of support/approval from the property owner of the tree must be provided with the application.
- The subject tree must satisfy the criteria for either a significant or regulated tree as outlined in *Section 3. Significant and Regulated Tree Criteria*. Note: All species of Palm are not eligible for this rebate.
- The work undertaken to the subject tree must be in accordance with the rules that apply to works undertaken to Significant or Regulated trees as specified on the Plan SA website.
- All works must be undertaken by, or at the direction of, a suitably qualified arborist. A minimum qualification of Level 3 AQF (Certificate 3) Arboriculture is required to undertake pruning. The arborist report regarding tree health and management must be from an arborist with a minimum Level 5 qualification (AQF Diploma).
- Legible and clear supporting documentation must be provided. An itemised receipt showing payment of the arborist tree report (if applicable) and the pruning and/or pest and disease control activities must be provided with the application. Other information may also be required to be provided as part of the application.
- A maximum of one rebate will be provided per property per financial year as outlined in *Section 2. Rebate Amount*.
- The rebate can relate to activities undertaken in the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years.
- The removal of Significant and Regulated Trees is not funded through this rebate.
- Approval of a Significant and Regulated Tree Assistance Rebate does not infer any other approvals, including Development Approval.

- Rebates will not be provided for works deemed to be 'tree damaging activity' as defined by the Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016.
- Rebates will not be considered where there is currently an outstanding issue with Council regarding the Significant or Regulated Tree at the property.

5. How to Apply

Applications for the rebate are lodged online through the City of West Torrens website [westtorrens.sa.gov.au](https://www.westtorrens.sa.gov.au)

The 2025/26 rebate program is open until 30 June 2026, unless funding is exhausted before this date.