

2023/24 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 property owners with a rebate on the purchase and planting of a shady tree to enhance shading and cooling of the private realm and reduce urban heat 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 may apply for either Rebate 1 or Rebate 2, not both:

Rebate 1: Purchase of an Established Tree

Successful applicants will receive a rebate of up to \$100 towards the purchase of one tree (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 (Warmest Suburbs)

Successful applicants who are located within our warmest suburbs which include: Ashford, Keswick, Kurralt Park, Mile End South and Thebarton, will receive a rebate of up to \$200 towards the purchase of two 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 until all funding is exhausted.

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

3. Eligibility

To be eligible, applicants must be able to meet the following criteria:

- The property must be located within the City of West Torrens.
- Applicants must be the property owner, however if application is from a tenant, approval in writing from the property owner is required.
- Applications for strata title properties must include written proof of support for the application by the body corporate.
- The subject tree(s) must be located 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. An itemised receipt showing purchase of the tree, a photo of the tree tag displaying the species and a photo of the tree planted in the ground are required with the application.
- One rebate is available per applicant/property, unless the applicant is located in our warmest suburbs being Ashford, Keswick, Kurralt Park, Mile End South and Thebarton, in which two rebates for two trees are available at that property.

- The tree must meet the selection criteria specified in *Section 4. Tree Selection Criteria*.

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 (it is not to be columnar, conical, pyramidal, etc.).

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/>

5. How to Apply

Applications for the rebate are lodged online through the SmartyGrants website:
westtorrens.smartygrants.com.au/TI2023-24

The rebates open for applications on 29 September 2023 and close on 30 June 2024, or until the funding is exhausted.