

TREE FACTS

What are the rules?

Under the new Regulations a tree may be classified in two ways:

1. A tree with a girth of more than 3 metres will be classed as a 'significant tree' and you must provide your council with an arborist's report for permission to remove it;
2. A tree with a girth of more than 2 metres but less than 3 only requires council approval to have it removed.

Like many rules there are exceptions, and the Government has made a list of trees which don't require approval to remove because they are considered pest species; they may be prone to limb drop or have invasive root systems etc. A full list of these trees can be found over the page.

There are also exceptions to the exceptions; the 10 metre rule. According to the Regulations any tree within 10 metres of a dwelling or swimming pool may be removed without approval, except for any eucalypt species and the willow myrtle.

A full list of the new Regulations (rules) relating to Adelaide's trees can be found here:
<http://bit.ly/uHY2iE>

What's wrong with the rules?

The Liberal Party believes the Regulation's major failure is not to value attributes of trees other than by measuring their girth size. We have also raised concerns about:

- **The species of trees exempt from the regulations.** While eucalypts are an Australian icon, many types of gum trees, like the Tasmanian Blue gum are generally not suited for urban areas. Some natives destroy pipes with their strong root systems or more prone to falling limbs, while other natives are excellent street and garden trees;
- **Malicious removal of trees may occur through consecutive bouts of 30% pruning, poisoning, and for "applications" for pools and structures within the 10 metre zone which are subsequently not constructed.** The Regulations make it too easy for many trees to be cut down via 'loopholes', including hundreds in the scenic Adelaide Hills;
- **The trees included on the 'pest' list and on the 10m exempt list may be wrong;**
- **Dead trees won't be considered for the useful habitat for fauna that they can provide.**

What can you do to help?

There are plenty of ways you can make a difference:

1. Register your interest by 'liking' our Facebook page [Adelaide Trees](#) to receive updates on the Regulations (we promise we will never spam you!)
2. Provide a submission to Minister John Rau's office:

Hon John Rau MP
Minister for Planning
GPO Box 464
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Where can you find out more?

Visit: www.planning.sa.gov.au
www.conservation.sa.gov.au
www.treenet.com.au
www.michellelensink.com
www.nationaltrustsa.org.au
www.treesa.biz

