

Master Specification

Part PR-LS-C11

Tree and Shrub Pruning and Removal

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PR-LS-C11 Tree and Shrub Pruning and Removal

1 General

- a) This Master Specification Part specifies the requirements for tree and shrub pruning, tree and shrub removal, and tree stump removal, including the pruning and removal of vegetation for maintenance purposes, including:
- i) the documentation requirements, as set out in section 2;
 - ii) the tree and shrub pruning and removal requirements, as set out in section 3;
 - iii) the clearance envelope pruning and removal requirements, as set out in section 4;
 - iv) the fauna protection and habitat requirements, as set out in section 5;
 - v) the disposal of cut material requirements, as set out in section 6;
 - vi) the prevention of suckering and regrowth requirements, as set out in section 7;
 - vii) the tree stump removal requirements, as set out in section 8; and
 - viii) the Hold Point requirements, as set out in section 9.
- b) This Master Specification Part does not apply to:
- i) tree hollow relocation, which is addressed by PR-LS-C12 “Tree Hollow Relocation and Habitat Creation”; and
 - ii) the transplanting and relocation of trees and palms, which is addressed by PR-LS-C4 “Tree and Palm Transplanting”.
- c) The pruning and removal of trees and shrubs must comply with:
- i) the Reference Documents, including:
 - A. AS 4373 Pruning of amenity trees;
 - B. Native Vegetation Council Guideline: Clearance of *Acacia longifolia* (South East NRM Region);
 - C. Native Vegetation Council: Guide to the Native Vegetation Regulations 2017;
 - D. Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals#EHTM>);
 - E. Department Restricted Clearance Roads List (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>);
 - F. Department Rail and Roadside Significant Sites Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>);
 - G. Department Environmental Weeds List (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>); and
 - H. Department Phytophthora (Dieback) Control Environmental Instruction (available from: <https://dit.sa.gov.au/standards/manuals>); and
 - ii) all relevant Laws, including:
 - A. *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (SA);
 - B. *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA);
 - C. *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (SA); and
 - D. *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (SA).

- d) For the purposes of this Master Specification Part, the terms “tree” and “shrub” have the meaning ascribed to them in Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline.
- e) For the purposes of this Master Specification Part, “Roadside Significant Sites” refers to sites that are of natural and cultural significance, and includes locations nominated as Roadside Significant Sites in DataSA or other mapping tools such as NatureMaps and Location SA.
- f) Vegetation pruning and removal works within a Roadside Significant Site must be undertaken in accordance with Department Rail and Roadside Significant Sites Environmental Instruction.
- g) The Contractor must ensure that, where required under the *Controlled Substances Act 1984* (SA), and the *Controlled Substances (Pesticides) Regulations 2017* (SA), all workers undertaking pest control work must hold a current Pest Management Technician’s License. The Contractor must provide evidence of the Pest Management Technician’s Licenses prior to commencement of a spraying program, as part of the Quality Management Records.
- h) Prior to commencing vegetation pruning and removal works on Site, the Contractor must undertake a Phytophthora risk assessment to determine the required hygiene procedures and disposal requirements for the Works. The Phytophthora risk assessment must be undertaken in accordance with the Department Phytophthora (Dieback) Control Environmental Instruction and risk assessment report, submitted as part of the Construction Documentation or CEMP (as applicable).

2 Documentation

2.1 Construction Documentation

In addition to the requirements of PC-CN3 “Construction Management”, the Construction Documentation must include:

- a) if not included in the CEMP, a Phytophthora risk assessment, in accordance with section 1h);
- b) any Approvals required by Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline, in accordance with section 3.1c);
- c) any Approvals and agreements obtained from the relevant Authority for the transportation and disposal of weeds, in accordance with section 6.1d); and
- d) the method of preventing suckering and regrowth in accordance with section 7a).

2.2 Quality Management Records

In addition to the requirements of PC-QA1 “Quality Management Requirements” or PC-QA2 “Quality Management Requirements for Major Projects” (as applicable), the Quality Management Records must include current Pest Management Technician’s Licenses, in accordance with section 1g).

3 Tree and shrub pruning and removal

3.1 General

- a) All pruning of trees, including an on-site assessment of trees prior to pruning, must be undertaken in accordance with AS 4373 Pruning of amenity trees.
- b) The Contractor must not prune or remove any tree or shrub other than those specified in the Design Documentation.
- c) The Contractor must obtain all Approvals required by Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline, and submit these to the Principal, which will constitute a **Hold Point**. The Contractor must not commence tree and shrub pruning and removal work until this Hold Point has been released.

- d) The Approvals obtained under section 3.1c) must be submitted as part of the Construction Documentation after release of the Hold Point.
- e) If the Contractor removes or prunes trees or shrubs without the required Approvals, the Contractor must pay all applicable offset amounts in accordance with:
 - i) the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (SA) for native vegetation;
 - ii) the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* (SA) for regulated and significant trees; or
 - iii) the Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline, for amenity vegetation.
- f) If the Contractor recommends removal of a tree specified for pruning because an arborist has assessed that it poses an unacceptable risk to persons or property or will retain no habitat or amenity value following pruning, the Contractor must:
 - i) subject to section 3.1g), immediately notify the Principal and seek approval to remove the tree, which will constitute a **Hold Point**. The Contractor must not remove the tree until the Hold Point has been released; and
 - ii) subsequently remove the tree if approved by the Principal in accordance with section 3.1f)i).
- g) If removal of a tree specified in section 3.1f) is an emergency situation due to imminent risk to persons or property, the Contractor must remove the tree and notify the Principal immediately afterwards.
- h) All tree and shrub pruning and removal, including on-ground support work, must be carried out by personnel who are:
 - i) trained and qualified to the appropriate level for the type of work being performed; and
 - ii) have a full appreciation of the principles, techniques, hazards, and safety procedures involved.
- i) All equipment used for tree and shrub pruning and removal must:
 - i) comply with any applicable standard (including noise and spark arrestor requirements);
 - ii) be properly maintained and in good working order; and
 - iii) be appropriate for the type of works being undertaken.
- j) The Contractor must carry out the tree and shrub pruning and removal work in a manner which:
 - i) minimises disturbance to the non-target vegetation, soil, and watercourses; and
 - ii) does not spread weeds, Phytophthora or other soil borne pathogens.

3.2 Tree pruning and removal methods

- a) The Contractor must determine the most suitable method of tree pruning and removal unless stated otherwise in the Design Documentation.
- b) Equipment that wounds the bark or conductive tissues of trees (e.g. spurs, spikes, hooks) must not be used on sections of the tree to be retained.
- c) All cutting tools must be sharp, and branches must be undercut to prevent splitting or tearing of the branch collar or trunk.
- d) Clear felling must only be used for tree removal where there is sufficient area in all directions for the tree to be felled safely, without damage to persons, property, or existing vegetation.
- e) If tree climbers or an elevated platform is used, cut material must only be dropped to the ground if there is no risk to any person, property, or existing vegetation.

3.3 Control of bees and wasps

The Contractor must implement measures to control any bees and wasps to enable the tree and shrub pruning and removal work to be undertaken safely.

3.4 Coastal wattle removal

- a) Coastal wattle (*Acacia longifolia*) may be pruned up to an additional 2 m beyond the defined clearance envelope.
- b) Within the Limestone Coast Landscape Management region, clearance of coastal wattle to the property boundary must be undertaken in accordance with Native Vegetation Council Guideline: Clearance of *Acacia longifolia* (South East NRM Region).
- c) Anywhere the removal of coastal wattle is required, the Contractor must cut the vegetation to ground level and treat the stump to prevent regrowth.
- d) Provided that it is not within a Roadside Significant Site and subject to section 3.4e), cut coastal wattle material may be left where it falls, ensuring that it is not left on the road shoulder or road verge.
- e) It is preferable to cut coastal wattle prior to setting seed. If the cut coastal wattle material contains seed, the cut material must be removed from the Site.

4 Clearance envelope pruning and removal

4.1 General

- a) Where clearance envelope pruning and removal is required, the Contractor must remove vegetation within the defined clearance envelope in accordance with Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline.
- b) If the Contractor identifies a whole tree requiring removal from the clearance envelope:
 - i) the Contractor must immediately notify the Principal and seek approval to remove the tree, which will constitute a **Hold Point**. The Contractor must not remove the tree until the Hold Point has been released; and
 - ii) subsequently remove the tree if approved by the Principal in accordance with section 4.1b)i).
- c) Where trees of high environmental, aesthetic or social significance are identified, exceptions may be applied by the Principal to enable these trees to be retained within a defined clearance envelope.

4.2 Chainsaw and polesaw

Where a chainsaw or polesaw is used for clearance envelope pruning and removal, pruning must conform to AS 4373 Pruning of amenity trees.

4.3 Side trimming

- a) The use of side trimming machines is permitted for clearance envelope pruning and removal, except for flail mowers which are not permitted.
- b) Side trimming machines may be used on areas identified as Roadside Significant Sites if side trimming does not have any adverse effect on the vegetation beyond the clearance envelope.
- c) Side trimming machines must not be used within built up residential areas.
- d) The Contractor must minimise damage to vegetation (including ripping or tearing of limbs) caused by side trimming machines by:
 - i) ensuring blades are sharp;

- ii) driving at a speed that enables branches to be cut cleanly; and
 - iii) undertaking follow-up pruning by hand, chainsaw or polesaw (in accordance with AS 4373 Pruning of amenity trees) on all branches over 50 mm diameter, and any torn or ripped branches within one week of side trimming.
- e) If excessive ripping or tearing of limbs occurs during side trimming, the Contractor must cease work and modify work practices to ensure that this does not reoccur.

5 Fauna protection and habitat

- a) Prior to undertaking tree and shrub pruning and removal activity, the Contractor must undertake a fauna inspection of the areas impacted by the Works or Temporary Works (as applicable).
- b) The person undertaking the fauna inspection must be a suitably qualified ecologist or native wildlife management specialist.
- c) The Contractor must:
 - i) minimise disturbance to fauna and prevent injury to fauna;
 - ii) under the supervision of a suitably qualified specialist, relocate any native fauna to a similar habitat if that fauna's habitat will be destroyed by the Contractor's work. This suitably qualified specialist may be the person nominated in section 5b), a veterinarian, or a representative from Fauna Rescue SA or the RSPCA;
 - iii) contact Fauna Rescue SA, the RSPCA or a veterinarian for advice if any fauna is injured by the Contractor's Activities; and
 - iv) notify the Principal if the Contractor's Activities have injured or killed native fauna on the Site.
- d) Where the removal or pruning of trees results in the removal of tree hollows, the Contractor must relocate the tree hollows in accordance with PR-LS-C12 "Tree Hollow Relocation and Habitat Creation".

6 Disposal of cut material

6.1 Material containing weeds

Where cut plant material contains environmental weed species listed in the Department Environmental Weeds List, or weeds species declared under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (SA), the Contractor must:

- a) remove the cut material from the Site and dispose of it at a licensed waste depot, unless otherwise agreed to by the relevant Authority;
- b) obtain all required Approvals (and comply with all conditions of the Approvals) for transportation of declared weed species from the relevant Authority;
- c) undertake its Works in accordance with required hygiene procedures and disposal requirements for declared and environmental weed species; and
- d) provide any Approvals and agreements obtained from the relevant Authority in accordance with sections 6.1a) and 6.1b) to the Principal as part of the Construction Documentation.

6.2 Other material

- a) Where cut plant material does not contain weeds as defined in section 6.1, this plant material must be chipped and be spread on-Site by the Contractor.
- b) The chippings must:
 - i) pose no risk to public safety or property;

- ii) not be spread on pedestrian paths, shared paths, vehicle access tracks or the road shoulder;
 - iii) not be spread on turf areas or lawns;
 - iv) be evenly spread at a depth not exceeding 100 mm;
 - v) not obstruct drainage infrastructure such as swales, culverts, and open drains;
 - vi) not significantly increase the current fuel load;
 - vii) avoid native and amenity vegetation, including indigenous grasses and ground covers; and
 - viii) not be spread or disposed of within any Roadside Significant Site.
- c) If there is excess cut material, the Contractor must remove that excess cut material from the Site.

7 Prevention of suckering and regrowth

- a) The Contractor must determine the most suitable method of preventing suckering and regrowth and provide these details as part of the Construction Documentation.
- b) The Contractor must ensure that suckering or regrowth of a removed tree or shrub does not occur within the greater of:
 - i) 12 months of its removal; or
 - ii) the duration of the Defects Liability Period.
- c) The application of any herbicide by the Contractor for the prevention of suckering and regrowth must:
 - i) be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended rates;
 - ii) use Roundup Biactive (or equivalent) in and around waterways and wetlands;
 - iii) avoid impacting all non-target vegetation; and
 - iv) prevent spillage of herbicide on the soil.

8 Tree stump removal

In relation to tree stump removal:

- a) where the stump location will be unpaved or unsealed, the Contractor must cut the stump to existing ground level, ensuring no trip hazards remain;
- b) where the stump location will be paved or sealed, the Contractor must grind the stump to at least 300 mm below the underside of the pavement level and backfill so that the surface does not present a hazard;
- c) where the tree stump location will be landscaped, the backfill material must be in accordance with PR-LS-C7 "Topsoil and Earthworks";
- d) the Contractor must not undertake stump removal of a tree utilising a method that will affect the health or stability of surrounding trees that are to be retained; and
- e) the Contractor must not disturb underground Utility Services during tree stump removal.

9 Hold Points

Table PR-LS-C11 9-1 details the review period or notification period, and type (documentation or construction quality) for each Hold Point referred to in this Master Specification Part.

Table PR-LS-C11 9-1 Hold Points

Section reference	Hold Point	Documentation or construction quality	Review period or notification period
3.1c)	Submission of Approvals required by the Department EHTM Attachment 4B - Vegetation Impact Assessment Guideline	Documentation	5 Business Days review
3.1f)i)	Approval to remove trees that pose an unacceptable risk or will retain no habitat or amenity value	Documentation	5 Business Days review
4.1b)i)	Approval to remove whole trees from the clearance envelope	Documentation	5 Business Days review