



# Unauthorised Vegetation Damage Signage Policy

<b>Policy No:</b>	5.7
<b>Approved by Council:</b>	March 2025
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<b>Minute No:</b>	C92/6-2025
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<b>Version:</b>	5.0
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Manager Environmental Services
<b>Strategic Plan Reference:</b>	3.3 Council is able to demonstrate strong environmental stewardship and leadership.

### 1. POLICY STATEMENTS

- 1.1 Kingborough Council is committed to valuing and prioritising the natural environment.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the use and placement of signage in response to the illegal damage or removal of vegetation on Council owned and/or managed land.

### 2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 **“Aesthetic significance”** means a tree whose form, seasonal beauty and/or placement are such that they are a significant aesthetic component of the streetscape, park, garden or natural landscape in which they grow.
- 2.2 **“Authorised officer”** means a Council employee who is authorised for the purposes of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-Law No. 3 of 2021.
- 2.3 **“Conservation significance”** means a tree that is of a species listed in the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* or the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and/or provides potential or significant habitat for a threatened species listed in either of those acts; and/or is a native tree with a trunk circumference exceeding 220cm when measured at 1.5m above the ground; or in the case of an exotic species, is considered globally significant due to its conservation status in the country of origin.
- 2.4 **“Historical significance”** means a tree which commemorates a particular broader community interest associated with historical significance or event.
- 2.5 **“Landscape significance”** means the tree provides a key contribution to the environmental, cultural and/or historical landscape.
- 2.6 **“Vegetation”** means plant life whether native or exotic (not including declared weeds).

### 3. OBJECTIVE

- 3.1 To reduce and deter the illegal damage and/or removal of vegetation on Council managed land.
- 3.2 To provide an avenue for education where illegal damage and/or removal of vegetation has occurred on Council managed land.
- 3.3 To provide an avenue to respond to breaches of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-law 2021.

### 4. SCOPE

- 4.1 This policy applies to land owned or managed by Council.

### 5. PROCEDURE (POLICY DETAIL)

- 5.1 Educational signage may be erected at the site of the offence where breaches of the Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-law 3 of 2021, Division 2 9(1), 9(2) or 13(3) have been identified.
- 5.2 Signage may be erected regardless of whether those responsible for the damage have been identified.
- 5.3 The damaged site may be rehabilitated through either the undertaking of revegetation activities or through natural regeneration, including the use of techniques or materials which aid such regeneration.
- 5.4 There are two categories of signs. Wording on both signs is consistent, with the difference in categories reflected in the sizes:

5.4.1 Category A: 300mm x 450mm sign (approximately) on a post up to 3m high.

5.4.2 Category B: 1200mm x 900mm sign (approximately) on posts up to 3m high.

5.5 The wording for signage may be as follows:



5.6 The category of the sign to be used will be dictated by the scale of the vegetation removal and/or significance of the damage. Where appropriate, more than one sign may be erected.

5.6.1 Category A signage will be used where vegetation has been damaged, and it does not meet the requirements of a Category B sign as assessed by an Authorised Officer. .

5.6.2 Category B signage will be used at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer where vegetation has been damaged and is assessed by an Authorised Officer to have been either:

- i. one or more individual trees which are identified as having aesthetic, landscape, historical or conservation significance, or to be significant in size or age for the species type; or
- ii. to have resulted in a cleared or modified area exceeding 25m<sup>2</sup>; or
- iii. a combination of the above; or
- iv. where there is clear evidence of a direct benefit to adjoining properties such as improved sightlines.

5.7 Signage will remain in place until either the site has regenerated to pre-damage status, has regenerated to the satisfaction of the Chief Executive Officer, or has been in place for five years; whichever comes sooner.

5.8 Until signage is removed, regular site inspections and photo point monitoring is to be undertaken to assess both the rehabilitation of the site and to ensure no further damage has occurred.

## 6. GUIDELINES

6.1 Category A signage is intended to be used where damage or impact is minor in nature and/or there is no clear evidence of a direct benefit to adjoining properties.

6.2 Category B signage is intended to be used where there is a moderate or significant impact on natural, landscape or historical values and/or there is clear evidence of a direct benefit to adjoining properties such as improved sightlines.

## 7. COMMUNICATION

7.1 This Policy will be published and made accessible on Council's internet and intranet sites.

### **8. LEGISLATION**

- 8.1 Parks, Recreation and Natural Areas By-Law 3 of 2021 Division 2 9 (1), 9 (2) or 13(3).
- 8.2 *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993.*
- 8.3 *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995.*
- 8.4 *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.*

### **9. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 9.1 Kingborough Interim Planning Scheme 2015 or subsequent scheme.

### **10. AUDIENCE**

- 10.1 This Policy is intended for Council Employees and Councillors.
- 10.2 The policy is publicly accessible via Council's website.