

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REDUCTION**

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE**

Good Environmental management is now central to the whole range of services provided by Tree Tactics. The company contributes to, and relies on, the quality of the environment and regards environmental considerations as a fundamental part of its business.

Tree Tactics wishes to promote high standards of energy efficiency and foster a culture of mutually beneficial recycling options with all its clients, and thereby minimise all waste, reduce landfill tipping, increase recycling, and reduce vehicle movement.

Tree Tactics is actively passionate about wildlife preservation. Retaining and creating habitat trees and hollows can help the preservation of healthy habitats.

### **2. STANDARDS OF OPERATION**

The company will manage its activities with proper regard to the environment, tree preservation, relevant legislative requirements, Codes of Practice and will adopt high standards and principles throughout the business for sustainability, habitat preservation and environmental impact.

### **3. GOOD HOUSE KEEPING**

- We will promote tidiness and good appearance as important contributions to a successful business.
- We will seek to make effective use of all materials, supplies and energy, to reduce demand for natural resources.
- We will encourage recycling and the use of recycled materials, minimising waste wherever possible.
- We will endeavor to promote and aid in the re-use of sustainable resources used and produced by ourselves.
- Where possible we will strive to educate our clients and contacts in the benefits of sustainable resources and their uses.

### **4. EMPLOYEE INVOLVEMENT**

We will foster personal responsibility among all our staff in caring for the environment and will promote the development of appropriate skills awareness.

During the bi-monthly toolbox meetings employees are given the opportunity to share environmental concerns or issues associated with their duties and the workplace.

### **5. PROCEDURES**

#### **5.2 Pesticides**

- We will only use approved chemicals. Alternative treatments will always be sought.
- Only appropriately trained operatives will be used for the application of pesticides.
- If chemicals are to be used the lowest possible application rate will be applied to successfully complete the task.
- We will arrange for the safe disposal of chemicals and containers by suppliers, where possible, thereby preventing leakage into water courses and water systems.

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**5.3 Vehicles, Plant and Machinery**

- We will minimise both noise and air pollution by the use of unleaded petrol and diesel fuels in conjunction with regular servicing and ensure that our equipment is updated regularly to comply with emissions standards.
- We will reduce our impact on congestion and traffic pollution by our suppliers and ourselves by managing vehicle movement and creating bulk orders with supplies, thus reducing the number of deliveries.
- Where possible we will use alternative environmentally friendly means to carry out operations, e.g. (Turbo hand saw instead of chainsaw)
- We will reduce our impact of air pollution by only using machinery and vehicles when necessary, carpooling is required.

**5.4 Use of Materials**

- We will encourage the use of composted wood chippings around shrub borders and around trees where possible, reducing the use of residual and translocated herbicides.
- We will also encourage the re-use of core wood e.g., deadwood habitat, habitat logs and habitat trees etc.
- We will promote the use of eCommerce where possible, e.g. (email)
- We will recycle paper and use it in an environmentally sound manner.
- We will utilize local recycling facilities for glass, paper, textiles, and cans.
- We will use water in a conserving manner.

**5.5 Purchasing**

- Wherever possible we will purchase goods and materials, which can be manufactured, used, and disposed of in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- We will favour the use of supplies that conduct their operations in an environmentally sound manner.
- We will purchase recycled paper where possible, and low energy light bulbs/tubes to conserve energy.
- We will aim to use local suppliers in order to reduce the effects of transportation on the environment and support the local community.
- We will consider the likely life of products and invest in more durable quality products that offer better long-term value.
- We will recycle used computers for sale to staff or at an auction.
- We will avoid the use of non-renewable resources.
- We will avoid the use of products containing or manufactured using CFC's.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REDUCTION****6. ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS**

As a company we will continue to review our policies, principles, procedures, and their effectiveness to work in harmony with the environment and also ensure the continuing suitability of our waste products.

To meet our policy's aim, we will endeavor to:

- Be aware of all new environmental legislation and regulations
- Maximise the use of renewable energy sources where possible
- Maximise the use of material from renewable sources
- Maximise the re-use of materials and products
- Maximise the use of recycled materials and products
- Maximise the recycling of materials and products
- Maximise the use of local products and local workforce
- Minimise raw material consumption
- Minimise the generation of waste
- Minimise energy use and its associated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
- Minimise polluting emissions to air, land and water
- Minimise the use of polluting forms of transport
- Minimise the use of water
- Assess the environmental impacts of all working practices and product manufacture
- Assess the whole life environmental performance of all purchases
- Ensure that design and construction is undertaken in a manner compatible with sustainable development
- Review this environmental policy and its action plans periodically with a view to continuous improvement.

**7. RECYCLING AND SUSTAINABILITY**

Tree Tactics is committed to working in partnership with all of its clients in relation to waste reduction, greater recycling and the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our operations.

Tree Tactics recycles 98% of its wood waste from job sites. The majority of recycling takes place on the job where branches are chipped and converted into mulch. All suitable wood is transported to our Kilmore Depot and milled for timber or fence posts. Wood unsuitable for milling is converted into firewood.

Wood and plant material that is not suited to either of these applications is converted into mulch in our 18-inch 170hp woodchipper. The mulch is then used by local Residents and Councils.

**8. ENVIRONMENTAL REDUCTION**

- Reduction in fuel consumption is achieved by maintaining regular manufacturers service instructions for all vehicles and machinery, and monitoring fuel consumption.
- Minimal water use by utilising rainwater and monitoring consumption of authority supplied water.
- Biodiversity impacts are minimised by avoiding fauna nesting seasons.
- All branches and debris are chipped, producing a mulch by product. Mulch is used for gardening and water retention, reducing landfill and less water use.
- Ensuring vehicle/truck pooling (outside of COVID-19 restrictions) when possible.

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## **9. WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

Tree Tactics is proud to be actively participating in the creation of habitat trees and Tree Tactics Habitat Hollows.

An ecological goal for Tree Tactics is to continue to provide natural and effective habitat and breeding grounds for birds, reptiles, marsupials, small mammals, frogs and aquatic life.

### **9.2 Tree Retention for Habitat**

- A dead or dying tree shall be assessed by a qualified arborist for suitability to remain for the creation into a habitat tree before removal.
- All branches of a retained habitat tree will be assessed by a qualified arborist for the suitability of habitat hollow installation.
- Any trees near a water way will be assessed for the suitability for aquatic habitat before removal.

### **9.3 Wildlife Inspections**

All trees will be visually inspected for any living wildlife prior to commencing tree works.

All employees will be aware of the need to protect fauna that may inhabit the ground area on all jobsites.

#### **Procedure for inspection and relocation**

1. Visually inspect trees and hollows for wildlife
2. If wildlife sighted in hollows of a tree that is to be removed, the Supervisor must:
3. Contact DWELP approved zoologist for advice and relocation if on Council sites.
4. Contact local wildlife rescue organisations if on private jobsites for advice and relocation.

## **10. SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY & ECONOMICS**

Tree Tactics works together with the local Secondary Colleges to provide opportunities by offering School Based Apprenticeships to the students that may be looking for a more hands on career. We ensure employment opportunities are offered to local candidates and use local services and suppliers wherever possible.

Currently 95% of Tree Tactics employees are local to the Kilmore area.

## **11. INDIGENOUS OPPORTUNITES**

If the opportunity arrives, Tree Tactics will support Indigenous employment. Tree Tactics is currently liaising with Monivea College in Hamilton, Victoria for offering work experience for their indigenous student program.

Tree Tactics would ensure the support of local indigenous services and suppliers.

## **12. MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Tree Tactics management will review their principles, policies, procedures and instructions to ensure their continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.

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**12.2 Communication**

The Environmental Policy will be issued by Tree Tactics to all employees so that operatives have access to the content and will form part of the employee's induction to the company.

**12.3 Method of Working**

Works will be carried out in compliance with all company policies and procedures.

**12.4 Performance**

Management reviews Environmental Management Performance regularly with employees during the monthly Toolbox meetings or as environmental matters or issues arise. During the performance review management ensure systems are appropriate and working efficiently.

**12.5 Environmental Management Representatives**

The Director of Tree Tactics is the Representative.

**Environmental Risk Assessment**

All environmental hazards and associated risks that are possible or likely will be identified prior to any work taking place. This will enable us to control environmental risks to a manageable level

Hazard / Risk	Impact	Control	Further Action Necessary
Pruning of Incorrect trees	Contradiction of Local Authority Conservation Area, Risk of emergency TPZs, unnecessary pruning of Trees, amenity value loss	See whether trees are afforded any relevant protection, apply for any necessary permission, ensure that correct trees are pruned, thorough briefing to arborist team as to work Schedule and site location	Consultation with client Environmental Team to Ensure checks have been carried out
Bad pruning/ Unnecessary pruning	Tree open to disease, amenity loss, death of tree, Stability of tree	Ensure all pruning cuts are to AS4373 2007, all tools are sharp, correct identification of trees and work schedule	Proper training of arborists
Noise	Residents	Day time working, controlled night time Working, no machinery, weekend Working	Consultation with Client Environmental Team to ensure checks have been carried out, Mail drops
Chemicals	Local environment, waterways, Wildlife	All operators certificated in correct use, contingency plans in event of spillage	Consultation with Clients Environmental Team and Safety Dept to ensure checks have been carried out.

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<b>Hazard / Risk</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Further Action Necessary</b>
Waste / Debris	Untidy site, visual, unsafe environment	Recycle, Habitat creation, chipping	Confirmation on type of waste Management to be adopted by Clients Environmental Team
Outside Party trees	Confrontation, stress, upset, bad publicity	Consultation, information, agreement, only necessary works	Mail Drops
Sites of scientific interest and nature conservation	endangered species, prosecution, damage to site, poor publicity	Consultation with Ecology Unit and Local Authorities	Consultation with Clients Environmental Team to ensure checks have been carried out.
Removal of trees in tree protection zones	Prosecution in contravention of Tree Preservation Zones, poor publicity	Consultation with Local Authority Planning Dept, replacement trees	Consultation with Clients Environmental Team to ensure all checks have been carried out.
Bad trees / vegetation management	Bad publicity, unstable trees, diseased trees	All work will be carried out within the Australian Standard	Consultation with Clients Environmental Team to ensure all checks have been carried out
Tree removal without wildlife inspection	Unnecessary danger to wildlife that inhabits the tree	Wildlife relocation, tree retention	Ensure the inspection has been carried out.