

**Policy Title:** Coconut Tree Management Policy  
**Classification:** Parks & Gardens

**Date Adopted by Council**

23/09/2015

**Council Minute Number**

2015/09/23.37

**Effective Date**

23/09/2015

**Review Date**

May 2017

**Responsible Officer**

Manager Parks & Gardens

**Responsible Department**

Community & Environmental Services

**Revokes:**

Policy Number: POLC-CE-LL-003

Policy Name: Coconut Tree Policy

Adopted: N/A

**INTERNAL USE ONLY**

**Policy Number: 89      Version: 1**

**NOTE: This cover page is not to be included when submitting a report to a Council meeting**

## **1. BACKGROUND AND PRINCIPLE**

Coconut palms can grow in a range of environments and can be used as a tropical landscaping theme. Coconut trees can become a valuable landscaping asset for coastal locations and can add to the amenity of a location.

Whilst the presence of coconut palms can improve the amenity in the right location, the nuts and fronds can in some circumstances pose a safety risk to the general public. Coconuts can weigh up to 4.5 kilograms and a coconut palm can hold up to forty coconuts at one time. Coconut palms usually bear fruit once a year but in tropical areas and under maintenance, two loads can be produced per year. Coconut trees can grow to more than 20 metres high.

Council considers coconut palms as an asset which need to be retained where possible and appropriately maintained.

## **2. SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all public open spaces, including road reserves, in the Whitsunday Regional Council area.

## **3. POLICY OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- determine the criteria for the retention and maintenance of coconut palms in public areas;
- determine criteria to enable the removal and/or replacement of coconut palms; and
- develop a coconut maintenance and management regime which enables council to manage maintenance costs over time.

## **4. POLICY STATEMENT**

- 4.1 Council recognises that coconut palms provide an attractive tropical landscaping theme for the region.
- 4.2 Council shall retain and maintain coconut palms as listed in Table 1 below.

**Table 1:** Coconut palm management actions based on park classification

Park Class	Park Category	Risk to Pedestrians	Actions
1	Regional park High use public park	High	Retain and maintain
2	District park Moderately high use park	High	Retain and maintain
3	Neighbourhood park Low use park – non-foreshore	Low-Moderate	Retain and maintain
3	Neighbourhood park Low use park – foreshore	Low-Moderate	Retain and maintain
4	Open space/reserve Non-foreshore	Low-Moderate	Retain and maintain
4	Open space/reserve Foreshore	Low-Moderate	Retain and maintain
5	Bushland reserve	Low	Retain and maintain
14	Road reserve/streetscape	Moderate	Retain and maintain
14	Road reserve/streetscape Tourist setting/location	Moderate	Retain and maintain
-	Town entry statements and gardens	Low	Retain and maintain

4.3 Coconut palms may not be planted on public land without express written approval from Council.

## 5. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

*Local Government Act 2009*

## 6. DEFINITIONS

**Council** shall mean the Whitsunday Regional Council.

**Coconut** palms shall mean palms with the scientific name *Cocos nucifera*.

**Public land** includes land owner or controlled by the Whitsunday Regional Council.

## 7. DATE REVIEWED

May 2015

## 8. NEXT REVIEW

May 2017