

Dangerous trees on Crown land

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment—Crown Lands is responsible for the management of NSW's Crown land, covering 42% of the state.

From time to time, trees on Crown land may become a hazard to adjoining landowners or users of open, public space. A dangerous tree is defined as any tree or plant-related matter, which may pose a threat to life or property.

Crown Lands has procedures in place that allow us to:

- address environmental, heritage, and cultural considerations
- undertake a risk assessment
- ensure all statutory approvals are satisfied
- ensure that any proposed works are justified to mitigate dangerous tree hazards.

Removing a dangerous tree on Crown land

- Where overhanging trees are dropping limbs or leaves onto your property, you can prune or lop the overhanging limbs without formal approval from Crown Lands when:
 - the work is done from your private property only; and
 - your local council's Tree Preservation Order allows.
- You should seek authorisation from the department to enter Crown land to prune or lop overhanging limbs.
- If you want to remove a tree from Crown land and there is no immediate threat to life or property, you can apply for a short-term licence to authorise the work. We assess applications on a case-by-case basis.

How we assess a dangerous tree

The department will consider the following in its assessment:

Risk assessment

- Is the tree leaning or shifting?
- Is there canopy asymmetry?
- Is the tree dead, diseased or pest-infested?
- Are there large cracks in the tree?
- Is the tree hosting parasitic plants, for example Strangler Fig or other climbing vines, bracken, fungi?
- Are there hung-up branches in the tree?
- Are tree roots impacting on adjoining residences?
- Is the tree close to fences, houses, outbuildings or public walkways?
- Is a qualified arborist required to assess the tree further?

Environmental, heritage and cultural considerations

- Is the tree a threatened species or within an endangered ecological community?
- Is it a significant habitat tree?
- Is there a Local Council Tree Preservation Order in force?
- Is there an Aboriginal heritage item or site nearby?
- Is the proposed work allowable under the current legislation?

If the tree is a bushfire hazard

A separate assessment process applies if the tree is considered a bushfire hazard. We ask you to contact the [NSW Rural Fire Service](#) for advice and to arrange an inspection: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/about-us/contact-us or call 1800 679 737

How to report a dangerous tree

- When reporting a dangerous tree, please include as much detail as possible, including photos if available, so we can locate the site and arrange for the appropriate follow-up.
- You can also help by placing danger tape around the area or marking the tree if it is safe to do so.

Contact Crown Lands

Phone: 1300 886 235

Email: cl.enquiries@crownland.nsw.gov.au

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