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# Arborist Reports

Council may require an arborist report to:

- Support an application for tree removal
- Detail how trees will be protected on a development site

**Who Can Prepare an Arborist Report?**

- A qualified arborist holding the Diploma of Horticulture (Arboriculture) AQF Level 5 or equivalent experience
- Consultant arborists specialize in assessing tree health and structure — different from tree workers who prune or remove trees

Reports must comply with:

- AS 4970-2025 Protection of Trees on Development Sites

What Should the Report Include?

- Company name, address, and contact details
- Qualifications and experience of the arborist
- Site address and client name
- Site plan showing:
    - All regulated trees on the site or adjoining land
    - All public trees adjacent to the site
    - Location of above or below ground services/structures within 5 metres
- Tree table for each tree:
    - Scientific and common name
    - Age class, height, DBH, canopy spread
    - Health and structural condition
    - Useful life expectancy and hazard assessment
    - Legislative status (PDI Act 2017)
    - Ownership (private/public)
- Methods used in the inspection
- Site information: soil, drainage, pests, diseases, bushland proximity, habitat, landscape and amenity values
- Supporting evidence: photos, lab results
- Discussion of options and recommendations
- Recommended protection measures
- Technical references

# Checklist for Arborist Reports

**All Tree Reports**

- ☐ Title page: site, client, date, revision, author name and qualifications
- ☐ Introduction: purpose and scope
- ☐ Method: methods, limitations, documents reviewed, revision numbers
- ☐ Site: description of conditions affecting trees
- ☐ Tree Data: species, dimensions, health, and structure (reflecting current conditions)
- ☐ Discussion & Recommendations
- ☐ Bibliography: Harvard style
- ☐ Appendices: supporting info, photos, and site plans (exclude generic tree protection measures unrelated to the development)

**Additional Information for Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)**

- Summary of proposal
- Retention value, TPZ, and SRZ for trees within 5m of property boundaries
- Impact assessment:
    - Trees proposed for removal or retention
    - Percentage of NRZ, TPZ, SRZ encroachment
    - Classification: minor, moderate, major
    - Factors for major encroachments (clause 3.3.2)
    - Mitigation options and tree-sensitive design
- Pruning works:
    - Requirements, pruning class (AS 4373), branch size/location, % of crown removed
    - Annotated photos
- Plans: dashed line = removal, solid line = retention, NRZ, TPZ, SRZ, drawn to scale

**Tree Protection Specifications (TPS)**

- Required where trees are retained and works occur within or adjacent to TPZ
- Must include:
    - Protective fencing type and installation
    - Fencing location consistent with Tree Protection Plan (TPP)
    - Installation timing (before demolition/construction)
    - Ground protection measures
    - Excavation methodology within TPZ
    - Service installation methodology
    - Root investigation (if needed)
    - Project Arborist role (if required)
    - Monitoring and reporting
    - Prohibited activities within TPZ
- Fencing must remain for the duration of works

**Tree Protection Plan (TPP)**

- Drawn to scale
- Show all retained trees
- Identify TPZ and SRZ
- Show protective fencing
- Show proposed structures and services
- Clearly distinguish trees for removal (dashed) and retention (solid)

**Root Mapping Assessments**

- Scaled plan showing trench location, NRZ, TPZ, and SRZ
- Trench info: orientation, length, depth, obstacles
- Root info: location, size, orientation (>40mm)
- Discussion & recommendations for impact, mitigation, and tree-sensitive design
- Appendices: photos and tree locations

**Pruning Specifications**

- Reason for pruning and pruning class (AS 4373)
- Branch info: size, location, number, % crown to be removed
- Annotated photos showing individual branches (single vertical line photos not accepted)