

INTRODUCTION TO THE THYER TREE VALUATION METHOD January 2002

The Thyer Tree Valuation Method was developed in Sydney, Australia during 1984. It was distributed for public use in 1985 and there have been minor modifications since. The method is summarised and presented as a one page worksheet for ease of use.

Personnel engaged in tree valuation should be qualified, experienced and knowledgeable in arboriculture and landscape assessment. They should also be trained in the use of this method.

The method allows the calculation of monetary values for trees. It was designed to value trees on public or community owned land in city, town and suburban locations. It is assumed that tree values may be affected by the zoning and permitted uses of the land on which they grow. The method is not intended for use within bushland areas, or on rural land except near residences.

The valuation is an expression of the positive qualities of the tree, the contribution that tree makes to the landscape, and the extent to which this is appreciated.

The calculated value is a statement of the importance of the tree to the environment and human community, not just to the owner of the tree. Owners and neighbours may calculate different values depending on their opinion of, or problems with a tree. Values calculated for trees on private land indicate the value of those trees to the community.

Damage caused by the tree, cost to repair that damage, and cost to repair or remove the tree must be valued separately.

The method combines four factors to establish a **Significance Index** for each tree :

1. **Size** measures of height, side view of canopy area, dripline diameter, and girth.
2. **Age** of the tree.
3. **Physical** assessment of the tree and location.
4. **Social** benefit and how the tree is appreciated.

In the Physical and Social assessments, scores may be given between and above the box scores where appropriate eg :

- Environmental Benefit scores would extend above 8 for plants on the Endangered Categories recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- Tree health and other assessments may be given scores between the boxes, such as a score of 6 if it seems to fit between the descriptions at 4 and 8.
- Social Significance scores may extend above 16, trees with regional significance may score 32, national significance may score 64.

The method has been designed to give a Significance Index of approximately 1.0 to an average nursery production tree in a 5 litre/200mm pot, planted in a recently completed landscape.

A very large, old, socially significant tree may have a Significance Index of 12,000 or more.

To calculate **Svalue**, the Significance Index is multiplied by the local landscape industry current average 'supply and plant' cost of a tree growing in a 5 litre/200mm pot. This costing reflects inflation and community appreciation of trees. An equivalent product cost would need to be established in locations other than NSW Australia.

The **Planting Cost** recommended for use in NSW is that published in The Landscape Contractors' Association of New South Wales Inc. "2000 GUIDELINE SCHEDULE OF RATES FOR LANDSCAPE WORKS" page 63 :

Plants in lawn area supply and plant 5 lit. advanced (equiv 200mm pot).....Each \$15 00.