



ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABLE SERVICES

This month we look at companies helping the development industry keep pace with environmental and sustainable services.

PROTECTING TREES ON DEVELOPMENT SITES

Landscape design is an important component of most developments. The Australian Standard Protection of trees on development sites provides guidance for protecting and preserving trees during development and construction.

The document describes how to plan for and protect trees on development sites, based on plant biology and current best practices.

Brisbane-based company Arbor Operations is well versed in the standard, having provided high-quality tree management and landscaping services to developers throughout Brisbane and south east Queensland for more than 25 years.

The company's Managing Director Peter Mumford said councils are increasingly referring to the standard since it was introduced in 2009 and are enforcing its recommendations in development approval applications.

"A number of developers have actually had to redesign their plans completely after council has said that particular trees need to stay in place," Mr Mumford said.

According to the standard, procedures must

be in place to protect trees at every stage of the development process. This should be taken into account at the earliest planning stage of any design of a development project where trees are involved.

"Often trees are damaged beyond repair at the initial stage of development through construction work and the standard is there to preserve those trees," Mr Mumford said.

While established trees are a potential asset to development sites, their size, location and root system can have a major influence on the development. In fact, choosing which trees to retain and which to remove is where many developers come unstuck.

"We find that developers often plan to keep the wrong trees at the design stage. It's common to design around keeping the largest tree or random trees throughout the site, which can be unsuitably located therefore those trees will often decline and ultimately die as a result of inadequate protection measures during construction activities," Mr Mumford said.

"What we would like to see is developers engaging arborists at the planning stage of a project so as to determine a clear

course of action as far as advising which trees to retain and which trees to remove. We work with developers on strategies on how to optimize their development objectives, at the same time meeting local authority requirements."

Contact Arbor Operations for more information. ■

