



Arbor Operations

WE GET IT RIGHT

TOLL FREE: 1800 652 862

Myth – All the propaganda about lopping is an excuse to charge more!

Definitely not true! Lopping is always the more expensive option in the long term. It is fair to say that pruning a tree the correct way can be more involved and might take longer than lopping. This may translate to a slightly higher cost; however most arborists manage to compete very effectively against lopping operations. Increased levels of experience, training and specialised equipment promote much higher levels of productivity and therefore negate the additional time factor.

To a tree worker it is easier and quicker to lop than to use the skill, technique and judgement to prune correctly. In spite of this prices submitted are often very close, and differences are normally consistent with those you would find in any industry subject to standards, service and professionalism.

If you obtain quotes and an arborist has submitted a slightly higher estimate than a competing lopper, it might pay to remember that the pricing comparison should take into account the long term expenditure associated with the process including:

1. The legal ramifications of a lopped tree causing damage to people or property.
2. Once a tree is lopped it will require regular attention to maintain it.
3. The potential cost of treating the tree if termites or borers take up residence.
4. The potential for fungus, decay and disease.
5. The potential cost of removing the tree if it does die.
6. The potential cost of damage to property if epicormic shoots succumb to weather conditions.

Below is a table, which gives some indication of the kind of maintenance requirements a lopped tree will generate. We have used an example of a Forest Red Gum tree 18 metres high with a 500mm stem diameter, located on a typical suburban allotment. It is not entirely accurate as it does not consider inflation at all. Further, we have had to assume for the exercise that borers, termites and decay were not major problems ultimately necessitating the tree's removal.

Time Line	Arborist	Lopper
Initial Work	\$ 800 Pruning	\$ 750 Lopping
Year 1		
Year 2	\$ 600 Pruning	
Year 3		\$ 1,100 Re-lop
Year 4		
Year 5		
Year 6		\$ 1,400 Re-lop
Year 7	\$ 700 Pruning	
Year 8		
Year 9		\$ 1,500 Re-lop
Total	\$ 2,100	\$ 4,750
Results	Healthy, attractive, sound specimen with minimal maintenance requirements	Stressed, compromised, ugly and potentially dangerous specimen with very high maintenance requirements