



## Tree Lopping VS Pruning

**Why Tree Pruning is important to the Health of Australia's Trees - Please look after them.**

Trees have a number of their own natural defence systems, to ensure they have protection in an environment rich in pests and diseases, and keep them thriving for the rest of their growing and standing life.

One of which, arboriculturists term CODIT (Compartmentalisation of Decay in Trees).

During CODIT, the tree grows a layer of cambium around a damaged area and encloses that site within the tree, this could be a wound, a torn out branch from a storm, a split in the bark or even an old chain or nail that has been digging into the tree! It is also how a tree produces deadwood, shutting off the supply of nutrients to a branch that no longer harnesses adequate energy for the tree.

This process happens naturally of course, but particularly at certain areas of the tree's growth and areas within a branch such as branch bark collars and nodes. The process has been studied extensively by scientists such as Shigo, and pruning recommendations are followed closely by professional Arborists, and by the Australian standards. Pruning should be carried out in a way that honours this research. Arborists and Arboriculturists call this Natural Target Pruning. If your tree is pruned this way and to these standards, then you **shall support the vigour, longevity and beautiful form of your tree.**

The opposite of pruning, is known as Lopping (although unfortunately a lot of people do not know that there is a difference at all).

**Lopping is when the tree is cut, with no regard to the tree's health** - usually at internodes, this then leaves a peg like appearance or stub that the tree struggles to shed in a timely and safe manner, leaving it exposed to all sorts of pathogens (fungal and bacterial) and pests, whether airborne or waterborne. Often leading to sickness and death within the tree.

Depending on the species, the tree may also rapidly grow epicormic shoots from this wound, as a hope to generate nutrients to aid in the trees healing processes. Unfortunately these shoots are very weak, as they are grown for speed rather than support. And despite their eventual large size, will still be very prone to failure, as they do not have the integral structure that should be there.

If you choose to have your tree cut this way; you risk the health and aesthetic form of your tree, and in most cases the tree may also die as a result of illness.

**Please help protect the beautiful Australian landscape, your Tree and of course your Garden by choosing to have your tree pruned by professionals.**