



# PRESS RELEASE BY THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Reference Number: PR181703en, Press Release Issue Date: Aug 01, 2018

The Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change has issued new regulations on the Protection of Trees and Woodlands, which were drawn up by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and which entered into force yesterday, 31st July 2018.

This law is a review of the 2011 regulations which has improved the legislative framework following extensive consultation with the public. The new law has increased the protection of various trees in Malta. Amongst a number of changes in the law, there are now an additional thirty (30) new tree species which are considered as protected. There is also an increase in protection of trees in urban areas, while interventions on trees in urban, public open spaces are to be carried out by specialists in this field. Penalties for offenses on trees have substantially increased, especially if the unlawful intervention leads to the total destruction of the tree. At the same time, this regulation ensures that there is no additional burden on farmers and owners of trees in private gardens.

Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change José Herrera stated that people are recognising that our quality of life depends largely on the quality of our environment and therefore this amendment to the law will be one of the main frameworks to protect the quality of our environment.

ERA recommends that those planning interventions on trees become acquainted with the changes in the law and revert back to the Authority on 2292 3500 or [info@era.org.mt](mailto:info@era.org.mt) as may be required.