**Semi Mature Tree Pit Excavations**

Strip topsoil from the area of the pit and set aside for re-use. Excavate sub-soil and stone material to achieve desired width and depth of tree pit and deposit away from site. Any stone, rubble, rubbish and other foreign debris that is exposed in the digging of the tree pits shall be similarly removed from site.

Fork over the base and sides of tree pits to thoroughly loosen the soil and to relieve compaction to a minimum depth of 250mm. All smooth, glazed or compacted sides to tree pits shall be loosened by forking to encourage lateral rooting.

**Subsoil layers around tree pits**

The contractor is to ensure that subsoil layers are free-draining. Drainage is to be installed at the discretion of the Landscape Contractor in the event of potential ponding or waterlogging in the base of the pits. French drains, or similar approved.

**Backfilling of Semi Mature Tree Pits**

**The lower half of the tree pit** (below the rootball) shall be backfilled with:
- 300mm depth of 5 - 7mm diameter pea gravel
- 300mm depth washed, medium/coarse sand
(The bottom of the rootball of the tree shall sit within this layer and an aeration pipe shall be inserted around the rootball).

**The upper section of the tree pit** shall be backfilled with 700mm depth site topsoil, ameliorated with compost, fertiliser and sand (700mm depth to the surface).

The backfilling of the upper section of the tree pits shall be in layers using topsoil from site store, or imported topsoil in accordance with the specification.

Each backfill layer shall be 150mm deep and shall be lightly consolidated, thoroughly watered to expel air pockets and with due allowance being made for subsequent settlement.

When backfilling has been completed to mark the centre of the pit with a 1500mm long timber stake.

**Greenleaf aeration/irrigation pipe, or similar approved, as specified.**

**Trees to be secured with Platipus ‘Platimat’ anchoring system fixed to tree anchors.**

**Topsoil as specified in adjacent planting area. Minimum 150mm deep for turfed areas and minimum 450mm for shrub and hedge planting.**

**300mm medium coarse washed sand, as specified.**

**Typical Tree Pit Detail - Soft Landscape Areas**

Centre of tree pit to be marked with timber stake (Minimum 1500mm).

1000mm Ø, 50mm deep Melcourt ‘Ornamental Grade Bark Mulch’ around all trees to be planted in grass areas.

Topsoil backfill to be laid as per specification

300mm pea gravel 5-7mm Ø as specified.

Finished ground level

Sides and base of tree pit to be loosened.

Topsoil backfill to be laid as per specification

300mm medium coarse washed sand, as specified.