

Presented to	Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held 16 April 2024
Related to Item	15.1 Notice of Motion - Trees for Bus Stops
Submitted by	Acting Manager Natural Area and Parks
Attachments	Nil

There are 547 bus stops within the City of Melville (the City), with 141 of these having shelters. The majority of the shelters have been installed along our distributor roads.

This equates to 406 potential locations for consideration for additional trees. These locations are mostly on local roads adjacent to private residences. The City has not completed an analysis of every site to determine which locations have existing trees or assessed on the availability of space for trees at this stage.

At present, the City undertakes our verge tree plant in the property frontage of the verge through our Urban Forest Expansion program. The verge planting involves several consultation activities with adjacent residence and is based on a non-compulsory approach with the option for residents to 'opt out' of having a verge tree as part of our engagement process.

Bus stop verge tree planting would need to be undertaken under the same process. We have around the 50% uptake of verge trees within the current program.

The costs per tree, based on current tree expansion program costs, if applied to the 406 bus stops would have the following cost implications:

- Initial Tree installation and 2 year establishment - \$600/tree (\$487,200 in total)
 - Annual average maintenance - \$60 per tree (\$48,720 required annually and ongoing)
- For 812 trees this equates to – \$535,920.**

The City have limited capacity to increase our existing expansion program to include this program as a separate initiative as this would require additional resources and budget. This could be considered as part of the 2024-2025 budget.

Another option is that a proportion of the bus stop planting proposal (say 100 to 200 trees) could be undertaken within our existing tree expansion program without the need for additional resourcing and costs. This would involve targeting bus stops in areas where the City is planning expansion planting and/or in other locations where verge planting around bus stops would be suitable.