



Presented to	Ordinary Meeting of Council – 13 December 2022
Related to Item	Tree Canopy Cover
Submitted by	Cr Fitzgerald
Attachments	Nil.

With Notice	to be provided 5 clear working days prior to the meeting
Without Notice	an absolute majority resolution of the Council will be required for the motion to be considered
For Urgent Consideration	Mayoral approval required

1. **That the Council notes with concern the recent survey of the City's tree canopy cover which showed a dramatic reduction in tree canopy cover across the City of Melville.**
2. **Recommits to the goal identified in the Corporate Environmental Strategic Plan 2016 – 2025: 'Greening of the City by increasing the vegetation canopy coverage'.**
3. **Requests the CEO to prepare a report on:**
 - a. **the opportunities for further protection of mature trees in light of the Town of Nedlands and City of South Perth's proposed amendments to their Local Planning Strategy requiring development approval for removal of mature trees;**
 - b. **a realistic target for tree canopy coverage across the city, with specific targets for city controlled and private land; and**
 - c. **any other appropriate strategies or measures to ensure the preservation of tree canopy coverage across the City of Melville.**

Objective, Benefit and Potential Risks to be considered:

- Addressing the alarming reduction in tree canopy coverage across the City of Melville.

Reasons for the Motion

1. Elected Members will be aware that the City is in receipt of a report detailing that:
 - Previous estimates of tree canopy coverage across the City of Melville were overstated.
 - Current best estimates suggest that in 2016 tree canopy coverage was at 13.9%, rather than the then-estimated 24%.
 - Since 2016 tree canopy coverage across the City has declined to 12.5%.
 - The overall gain of 23ha of coverage for trees greater than 3m tall on City controlled land was offset by a loss of 107ha on private land, for a net loss of 83ha of tree canopy coverage.
 - Tree canopy coverage has declined in all suburbs except Murdoch.



2. Continuing with the status quo will ensure a continuing net decline in tree canopy coverage across the City. Arresting and reversing the decline will require us to change what we are doing.
3. Other local governments – including the City of South Perth and the Town of Nedlands have advertised amendments to their local planning strategy aimed at arresting the decline of tree canopy coverage on private land. The City of Melville should assess those proposals, and prepare an appropriate proposed amendment to our own planning scheme which can be actioned as soon as the WAPC's assessment of other LGA's proposed amendments are known.

I have discussed this matter with Officers

I would like to discuss this matter with Officers

Office Use Only

ECM Number

Date Received

Distributed

Officer Comment / Notes

