

Urban Forest and Green Space Policy

Policy Type: Council Policy Policy Owner: Manager Natural Areas and Parks	Policy No. CP- 102 Last Review Date: 17 March 2020
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Policy Objectives

1. To protect, preserve and enhance the aesthetic character of the City of Melville.
2. To realise the social, environmental and economic benefits of trees and other vegetation as an integral element of the urban environment.
3. To contribute to community wellbeing by integrating and aligning the efficient provision of physical, social and green infrastructure and management of natural areas to achieve community wellbeing today and tomorrow.
4. To encourage a sense of shared responsibility and balance individual and community rights to equitably distribute the costs and the benefits of a greener City.
5. To ensure that the urban forest and green spaces that are integral to the City's sense of place are not compromised in areas of increased residential density.

Policy Scope

This policy applies to land owned or controlled by the City, to activities for which the City's discretion or approval is required and to the City's function of advising and providing services to the community.

This policy is intended to give direction to operational strategies and where appropriate, the development of local laws and to guide decisions in circumstances of competing objectives.

Policy Statement

Plants comprise a critical element of the urban ecosystem contributing many social, economic and environmental benefits.

The protection of a healthy, resilient and diverse urban ecosystem is a shared responsibility of the City, other landowners, residents and businesses.

The City is committed to no net loss of plant cover within the City and to locally targeted increases in tree canopy and understorey cover where it is deficient.

The City seeks to achieve and maintain locally optimal levels of urban canopy cover that balance:

- the community benefits of trees,
- the benefits of biodiversity and a sustainable ecosystem,
- the needs and aspirations of land owners and users, and
- the health, safety and quality of life of the community.

The City will foster and facilitate innovative ways to engage the community in increasing urban forest and other green space across the City in all urban environments including streetscapes, parks, civic facilities, infrastructure reserves and private land.

Other than in natural areas, the City will plant trees and shrubs that are well-adapted to the specific site requirements and surrounding land use, are compatible with existing and planned adjacent hard infrastructure and are fit for the purpose for which they are planted.

Management of natural areas will minimise variation to the natural and unassisted species mix occurring in the environment, with intervention in natural areas limited to replacing senescent, diseased or dead plants with the same or similar indigenous species, removing weeds, addressing land and plant degradation and responsibly managing fuel load to reduce bushfire risk.

All future structure plans, Local Planning Scheme amendments and infrastructure asset plans will make explicit reference to urban forest and green space objectives.

The City will develop and maintain a publicly accessible tree inventory for public land and a database of potential planting sites to inform its tree planting program, and will regularly assess the extent, health and diversity of the City's urban forest, with the results made publicly available.

The implementation, monitoring and review of this policy will be based on the above data and risk management principles.

References that may be applicable to this Policy

Legislative Requirements:	The Local Government Act
Procedures, Process Maps, Work Instructions:	N/A
Other Plans, Frameworks, Documents Applicable to Policy:	CP-029 Street Tree Policy CP-086 Verge Treatment Policy Urban Forest Strategic Plan (Part A) Open Space
Strategy	
Policy alignment required:	CP-006 Land and Property Retention, Disposal and Acquisition Policy CP-030 Environmental Policy CP-040 Public Health and Wellbeing Policy CP-067 Amenity Policy CP-078 Residential Development Policy CP-087 Non-residential Development Policy CP-057 Sustainability Policy
Delegated Authority No:	N/A



ORIGIN/AUTHORITY

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Reviews

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