

10.4 OUTCOME OF ADVERTISING AND ADOPTION OF STREET TREE POLICY

- Attachments:**
1. **Attachment 1: Street Tree Policy - Final for Adoption**
 2. **Attachment 2: Street Tree Policy - Consultation Summary**
 3. **Attachment 3: Street Tree Policy - Guidelines and Procedures**
 4. **Attachment 4: Summary of Submissions & Admin Responses - Amendment - Street Tree Policy**
 5. **Attachment 5 - Street Tree Policy - Tracked Changes**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **NOTES the summary of submissions received in relation to the Street Tree Policy at Attachment 2 and 4;**
2. **ADOPTS the Street Tree Policy at Attachment 1; and**
3. **NOTES the supporting Street Tree Policy Guidelines and Procedures at Attachment 3.**

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present the outcome of community consultation and seek approval of the proposed Street Tree Policy at **Attachment 1**.

DELEGATION:

Section 2.7 of the *Local Government Act 1995* sets out the Role of Council as being to 'determine the local government's policies. There is no delegation to Administration to make, review or repeal policies.

BACKGROUND:

At the Council Workshop on 27 July 2023, Administration sought Council input on current and future street tree considerations including tree selection and maintenance requirements. Key feedback from the workshop was incorporated into the draft Street Tree Policy.

At its 21 November 2023 Meeting, Council approved conducting community consultation of its intention to amend the Street Tree Policy.

In accordance with the City's Community and Stakeholder Engagement Policy, community consultation was undertaken between Thursday 30 November 2023 – Thursday 18 January 2024 which is in excess of the 21 days required.

The policy was advertised on the City of Vincent website, social media and through the following public notices:

- Perth Voice – 30 November 2023; and
- notice exhibited on the notice board at the City's Administration and Library and Local History Centre.

At the close of consultation, Administration received 77 submissions, as shown in **Attachment 2**. A summary of the submissions with Administration comments can be found in **Attachment 4**.

DETAILS:

The Street Tree Policy provides guidance for the effective management and protection of all street trees located in thoroughfares within the City of Vincent.

The amended Policy focuses on enhancing and increasing the City's urban forest, as well as ensuring appropriate species selection to protect against current and future environmental threats.

The key policy changes are:

- Tree selection to preference native tree species (target of 75% new plantings across City managed public realm being native species).
- Enhanced streetscape diversity in-line with tree maintenance requirements.
- Continuity of canopy coverage over residential objections to verge trees.
- Street tree protection clauses to provide guidance for developers and landowners.

In addition to the above changes, the Guidelines and Procedures were removed from the Street Tree Policy as they are an administrative document and do not require Council adoption. The Guidelines and Procedures have been reviewed in-line with key policy changes and can be found in **Attachment 3**.

Following feedback from community consultation and Council Workshop on 7 May 2024, minor amendments were made to the draft Policy to provide clarity to existing clauses. These changes are reflected in track changes to **Attachment 5** and include the following:

- Inclusion of habitat and biodiversity benefits of street trees.
- Clarification on tree species selection process and factors.
- Clarification that the City is responsible for tree watering to ensure establishment as part of tree planting and maintenance works.
- Clarification that the City is responsible for all tree planting.
- Clarification that tree protection should have due consideration of tree protection zone requirements.
- Clarification that tree protection measures also include supplementary watering if required.

CONSULTATION/ADVERTISING:

The consultation showed strong support (+80%) for the amended policy with many positive responses in support of preferencing native tree species.

No further consultation is required as any changes to the draft policy following consultation are minor in nature and aim to provide clarity to existing clauses.

LEGAL/POLICY:

Section 2.7(2)(b) of the Act provides Council with the power to determine policies.

The City's Policy Development and Review Policy sets out the process for repealing and adopting policies.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Low: Adopting the proposed policy is low risk as the policy outlines how the City will effectively manage its urban canopy.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the City's *Strategic Community Plan 2022-2032*:

Enhanced Environment

Our urban forest/canopy is maintained and increased.

Accessible City

Our pedestrian and cyclist networks are well designed, connected, accessible and encourage increased use.

Innovative and Accountable

We embrace good ideas or innovative approaches to our work to get better outcomes for Vincent and our community.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following key sustainability outcomes of the *City's Sustainable Environment Strategy 2019-2024*.

Urban Greening and Biodiversity

PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS:

This is in keeping with the following priority health outcomes of the City's *Public Health Plan 2020-2025*:

Increased mental health and wellbeing

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications associated with adopting this policy.

COMMENTS:

The amended Street Tree Policy provides guidance to enhance and increase the City's urban forest. This aligns closely with the Sustainable Environment Strategy and Greening plan objectives to:

- Increase Canopy Cover on Public Land
- Enhance Habitat and Promote Biodiversity
- Greening the Town Centres
- Greening the Community

Administration recommends adopting the revised Street Tree Policy at **Attachment 1**.

STREET TREE POLICY

<p>Legislation / local law requirements</p>	<p><i>Local Government Act 1995, section 9.48</i> <i>Local Administration Act 1997, section 55</i> <i>Main Roads Act 1930, sections 24 and 27A</i> <i>Public Works Act 1902, Part V</i> <i>Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996</i> <i>City of Vincent Local Government Property Local Law 2021, Part 9</i></p>
<p>Relevant delegations</p>	<p>2.2.9 Control Reserves and Certain Unvested Facilities 3.1.5 Local Government Property Local Law 2021</p>
<p>Related policies, procedures and supporting documentation</p>	<p>Verge Treatments, Plantings and Beautification Street Tree Policy – Guidelines and Procedures (to be developed)</p>

PRELIMINARY

INTRODUCTION

Trees in urban environments provide many social, environmental and economic benefits. Key among these is increased habitat, biodiversity, and canopy coverage. Trees contribute to the amenity and walkability of local neighbourhoods through the provision of shade and the mitigation of 'urban heat island effect' which contributes to enhanced community well-being and property values.

The City recognises the significance of street trees within the urban setting in terms of creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes and has the responsibility for the planning, establishment, care, control and maintenance of all street trees in the City.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the effective management and protection of all street trees within the City of Vincent.

OBJECTIVE

To provide guidance for the planting and management of street trees to maximise canopy coverage within thoroughfares.

SCOPE

This policy sets out the process and conditions by which street trees are managed within the City and applies to all trees located in thoroughfares within the City of Vincent.

STREET TREE POLICY

POLICY PROVISIONS

POLICY

1. Street Tree Planting

- (i) The City is responsible for the planting of all street trees which will be undertaken through its annual planting program during the winter months.
- (ii) Suitable planting locations for new and/or additional trees will be determined by the City.
- (iii) Tree planting to provide continuity of canopy coverage will take precedence over adjoining property owners objection to street trees being located on the road verge.
- (iv) Adjacent land owners will be informed of the City's intention to plant street trees at least two weeks prior to planting.
- (v) Tree species selection will be determined by the City taking into account the following –
 - Provision of canopy coverage – larger growing species will be preferred due to their increased contribution to canopy coverage;
 - Preference of Australian native species to achieve an annual target of 75% new planting across City owned or managed land being native tree species;
 - Streetscape species diversity, in line with existing streetscape maintenance requirements, to improve the resilience of our urban forest against current and future threats, including climate change, and pest and diseases; and
 - Other factors such as life expectancy, drought tolerance, disease and pest resistance and maintenance needs.
- (vi) The City will undertake scheduled watering to ensure the establishment of new tree plantings. Ongoing watering will be undertaken where feasible, subject to weather conditions.

2. Unauthorised or Unsuitable Street Tree Planting

- (i) The City is responsible for the planting of all street trees. Any other planting without authorisation by the City is not permitted.
- (ii) A street tree planted without the City's approval may be retained at the discretion of the City providing it is a suitable variety for the specific location.
- (iii) Owing to the varying growth habit of tree species, certain trees or species may be deemed by the City to be unsuitable in particular locations (e.g. due to unpredicted growth characteristics, risk of disease / pest infestation, limb stability, etc). In such instances, a qualified Arborist will be engaged to provide a report and recommendations on the tree which will be carried out in accordance with the policy.

3. Street Tree Pruning

- (i) The City is responsible for the pruning of all street trees.

STREET TREE POLICY

- (ii) The City, or its nominated contractor, shall undertake the pruning of street trees on a scheduled basis, where required, to address at least one of the following requirements –
- Clear the canopy from interference with overhead powerlines and other essential services;
 - Remove overhanging branches considered hazardous to traffic, buildings or structures;
 - Under prune low growing branches considered hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists;
 - Remedial prune to form the shape of trees, encourage new growth or remove dead, dying or diseased limbs and branches; or
 - Property line prune (upon adjoining property resident request) to remove any canopy overhanging into private property.

4. Street Tree Removal

- (i) The City recognises that in some cases, street tree retention may not be feasible, owing to the condition, and possible location or species of the tree.
- (ii) All requests for street tree removal will be assessed by the City in accordance with this policy.
- (iii) The removal of a street tree may be considered where the tree is –
- Diseased or dying beyond remedial treatment, or completely dead;
 - Determined by the City to be structurally weak or irreparably damaged (e.g. by a storm or vehicle accident);
 - Hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists owing to interference with sightlines presented by the tree's alignment or spacing;
 - Affected by road widening, service modification/relocation or other infrastructure works and all other options to retain the tree have been deemed by the City to be unsuitable;
 - Adjacent to an approved development crossover and all other options to retain the tree have been deemed by the City to be unsuitable;
 - Not an approved variety and is unacceptable to the City; or
 - Causing damage to surrounding infrastructure and all options to repair the damage and retain the tree have been deemed unsuitable by the City. In such cases, a qualified Arborist will be engaged to undertake an assessment of the tree and provide recommendations.
- (iv) Owing to the hazardous nature of the task, tree removal shall only be carried out by the City or suitably qualified arborist approved by the City.

STREET TREE POLICY

- (v) Where a tree is removed, the City will plant a replacement tree of a suitable species as practicably close to the location of the removed tree as part of its annual tree planting program.
- (vi) Where a tree is approved for removal for a subdivision or development, a replacement tree is to be planted by the applicant at their full expense, with the tree species, size and location being determined by the City.

5. Street Tree Protection

- (i) Any person undertaking works on the verge or works that are likely to impact the verge shall take all necessary precautions to ensure a street tree is not damaged during the course of the works.
- (ii) The following measures are to be carried out to provide protection to any affected street tree for the duration of the works –
 - A street tree is not to be pruned, or damaged as a result of the works.
 - Provision of free standing mesh fencing to provide protection to the street tree with due consideration of the tree protection zone requirements. This should be a minimum two metres from the base of the street tree unless otherwise approved by the City. The structure must be appropriately braced and regularly checked to ensure it is not creating any hazards and no building materials are to be placed or stored within this area.
 - No excavation works are to be carried out underneath the drip line canopy of a street tree unless approved by the City;
 - The use of appropriately sized machinery to ensure that contact with the canopy of the street tree does not occur;
 - Supplementary watering is to be provided, where required, to ensure the street tree remains in good health.
- (iii) If the protection detailed in clause 5(ii) is unfeasible, the City may request, at the applicants full expense, a report from a suitably qualified Arborist approved by the City to guide management of the tree during the development.

6. Unauthorised Interference, Removal, Pruning or Damage to a Street Tree

- (i) In accordance with the *City of Vincent Local Government Property Local Law 2021* (Part 9), it is an offence to unlawfully damage a street tree.
- (ii) Where a person unlawfully damages a street tree by way of unauthorised pruning, removal, interference or damage, the City may by Notice require that person to pay the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the street tree within a specified timeframe.

7. Street Tree Attachments

- (i) An owner or occupier may on a street tree located on the verge immediately adjacent to their property, install a permissible street tree attachment in accordance with the policy.
- (ii) A permissible street tree attachment may comprise the following–

STREET TREE POLICY

- A swing;
 - A rope ladder;
 - A platform / structure (e.g. tree house); and
 - Decoration and lighting.
- (iii) A street tree attachment other than a permissible street tree attachment specified in clause 7(ii) may be considered permissible at the discretion of the City in accordance with this Policy.
- (iv) A street tree attachment –
- must not be permanently fixed to a street tree and must not incorporate sharp objects, protrusions or other elements which, in the City’s opinion would present a hazard to people or property;
 - must not, in the City’s opinion, obstruct or interfere with a clear line of sight for pedestrians, cyclists or motorists; and
 - must not, in the City’s opinion, adversely affect the health or structural integrity of the street tree to which they are attached.
- (v) Where a street tree attachment is determined to not meet the requirements of this Policy, the adjacent owner/occupier must remove and/or modify all or part of the street tree attachment to comply with the requirements to the satisfaction of the City.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Responsible Officer	Please use title only
Initial Council Adoption	DD/MM/YYYY
Previous Title	Applicable if the policy has been renamed
Reviewed / Amended	DD/MM/YYYY
Next Review Date	MM/YYYY

Have your say

SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

30 November 2023 - 18 January 2024

PROJECT NAME:

Street Tree Policy - Proposed Amendment



Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

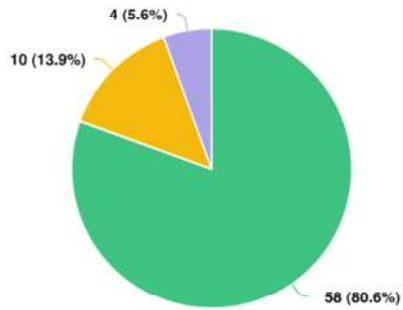


SURVEY QUESTIONS

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Q1 Are you supportive of the proposed amendments to the Street Tree Policy, including selection and planting preferences, intr...



Question options

Yes No Unsure

Mandatory Question (72 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Q2 Please take a few moments to tell us why/why not.

Screen Name Redacted

11/30/2023 06:25 PM

Fully support the move to adopt and use native species. It is also worth considering the expansion of the one tree per verge policy to allow two trees where there is space and owner approval to plant a second tree.

Screen Name Redacted

11/30/2023 10:09 PM

Tree selection should preference native Perth region trees to provide for increased forriaging for native bird life. Using the same logic there should be variety of tree varieties even in each Street and the verge should be a place to grow larger trees like tuart that are hard for landowners to be able to support themselves in increasingly subdivided lots. Using the trees for recreation is a no brainer and a great positive for Vincent.

Screen Name Redacted

12/01/2023 09:29 AM

Fixing lights to trees has become common. Not only are they put up at Christmas but they are left up all year round and consequently become unfit for use and just present as plastic rubbish left around the trunk.

Screen Name Redacted

12/01/2023 11:05 AM

Selection of native trees is important from a water wise point of view with the exception of the tree that drops the small hard round 'gum nut' type outside but cover. They are dangerous for pedestrians ie like marbles on the ground, result in unnecessary raised verges due to rotting on the grass and building up if not raked up, leave a mess on the foot path and verge. I'm not sure if it's a Box Tree or a Snuff Box Tree. City of Vincent and South Perth have them on the verges. Very annoying and dangerous to walk in the hard round nuts

Screen Name Redacted

12/01/2023 11:43 AM

It will be good to see more diversity of trees and more native trees instead of just more jacarandas.

Screen Name Redacted

12/01/2023 12:55 PM

Very happy to have a tree filled environment but care must be taken with selection and placement. Because a tree is a native species it does not mean it is native to our area. Many trees do not do well. Many trees require more space than a 10 metre by 3 metre verge. Many eastern states insurance companies refuse or load insurance premiums if you have a tree greater in height of a second storey within a certain distance from your boundary. Inability as council restriction on the home owner to "touch" verge trees with council not doing regular inspecting and removal of dead timber or low branches

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	<p>and those encroaching sidewalk. Many sidewalks are completely impeded and you must walk on the road or crouch to transverse. Council should undertake a proactive approach to maintain safe walkways. Many trees have been badly pruned because of the power lines and will never regain their balanced shape. Wrong tree planted in the wrong place. Root invasion into sidewalk paving causing hazard of broken paving and driveway cracking. Council should again undertake a proactive approach to maintain safe injury free pavement. Root invasion on the road by central tree road planting already causing lifting and destroying road base. Who is responsible for ongoing rectification?</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 03:11 PM</p>	<p>It's good, but the preference should be for trees local to the area, not just Australian native.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 01:31 PM</p>	<p>Native trees need careful selection due to the habit of some with continuous leaf, nuts and branch shedding and some are unsightly. Dangerous and messy. I would prefer fruit trees eg citrus. At least they provide food and look awesome.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 04:36 PM</p>	<p>New trees should be native, but don't remove existing old trees. Natives trees are great for wildlife, but no point until you finally introduce proper cat laws. Until you do that, you're just feeding native birds to cats.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 06:47 PM</p>	<p>Happy to have kids playing on the verge. Gives a more community feel.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 09:30 PM</p>	<p>I support native tree planting</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 11:10 PM</p>	<p>I'm in favour of every verge having a shady tree. Many native trees do not provide shade over the footpaths. It's too hot for many months of the year and Vincent should be promoting people to be active and encourage residence to walk / ride to their local amenities. Verge trees should be shady. Priority should not be given to natives only. Aesthetically streets lined with the same tree look charming and suits the heritage of the area. Mabel street is a great example of shade and lovely trees, attracting many birds too.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/05/2023 12:15 AM</p>	<p>Because the City does not actively maintain its current street trees</p>

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Screen Name Redacted

12/06/2023 02:12 AM

Jacarandas are beautiful but it's important to favour WA natives.

Screen Name Redacted

12/06/2023 08:45 AM

There are both positives and negatives with the proposed amendments. The council cannot consider a focus on native plants whilst at the same time allowing Camphor trees to flourish which subsequently kill native plants. There are numerous Camphor trees around the streets of Vincent which are killing native plants. The intrusive root systems of these trees makes it further difficult for native plants to thrive. The City of Vincent should consider the Q1 literature surrounding Camphor trees and work with residents to remove the Camphor tree and instead focus on planting native trees.

Screen Name Redacted

12/06/2023 04:53 PM

Love the push towards native selections. Permissions for non permanent things seems like a hassle and just one more thing to do.

Screen Name Redacted

12/06/2023 07:53 PM

I fully support the planting of native species as street trees, ones that will provide adequate shade when mature and food/habitat for wildlife. I would like council to go further with compulsory verge tree planting outside residences currently without any to improve green canopy and tackle the real issue of urban heat sinks.

Screen Name Redacted

12/06/2023 09:42 PM

Tree cover is important for shade and animal habitat. Natives are better for native animal species.

Screen Name Redacted

12/07/2023 04:07 AM

Native species will attract native birds, are more drought tolerant and better for waterways than deciduous or introduced species

Screen Name Redacted

12/07/2023 04:28 AM

Native species significantly improve biodiversity, as they provide more food and habitat for native birds and insects, including native bees and butterflies. Our local native birds and insects are not adapted to trees from overseas; so these trees are barren in comparison to natives. Deciduous trees contribute excessive nutrients to receiving wetlands. Their soft leaves decompose readily over a short period. This results in an excessive release of nutrients, causing poor water quality, algal blooms and death and illness of aquatic fauna. Even deciduous trees planted a long way from the nearest wetland can harm our wetlands and waterways via our traditional, piped drainage systems. See Water note 25: The effects and management of deciduous trees on waterways via www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/water-note-25-the-effects-

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and-management-of-deciduous-trees-waterways Choosing natives may help increase awareness that Perth is within an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot. Perth is internationally significant because of the huge diversity - with over 8000 species of native plant. It also internationally significant due to continuing loss of remnant vegetation by land clearing. About half of south-west WA's plant species are found nowhere else on earth. The City of Vincent can be a leader, teacher and champion, working towards greater awareness and better urban biodiversity.

Screen Name Redacted

12/08/2023 11:08 PM

I'm OK with the changes - but I have an old tree that drops dangerous nuts all over the pathway - if we don't keep it clean constantly you can slip on them and could really be injured. I have called the council several times and asked for it to be trimmed like the one on the other side of the road. The power line runs through the middle of the tree and only branches near the power line are trimmed whilst the other side is neatly fully trimmed. I pay the same rates I should have the same service - in fact since I renovated in keeping with the character of the house at extensive additional expense - I pay a further 943.00 due to the value of the house. I have been told its the cost as to why my side of the road cannot be fully trimmed. The tree is unwieldy - the amount of nuts on the ground is unsafe - they can get stuck in your shoes and can be all over the inside of the house. If the council will not trim it properly - allow me to when its greens pick up time. I am deeply unsatisfied with how the street looks one side neat and tidy the other side over grown and uneven - please do something about this!

Screen Name Redacted

12/09/2023 01:09 PM

The amendments proposed are vague and don't explain the problems they are seeking to address. I think that the attachments element is OK. I think that the protections, species, purpose, and surrounds requires more thought. Specific situations that should be addressed (in my view): 1. Trees with any type of allergy potential should be excluded from selection. 2. Trees must be selected with consideration for location parameters including: - expected size (including root system) - probability to damage roads, lift paths, interfere with power/public infrastructure/services drop branches. Examples - a. Placing gum trees on a 2-3m wide verge (Chelmsford st) b. Placing Trees under power infrastructure, knowing that they will eventually interfere with power (pick a street). c. Placing Trees near bus stops (eg fitzgerald/chelmsford) causing buses to collide and damage the tree/bus, and obscuring the passengers & drivers view requiring the passenger to hail buses at the last second, and causing secondary traffic hazards. 3. Protections should have reasonable provision for: a. Replacement (Trees can be problematic for many unanticipated reasons), while I'm principle I support /advocate for

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	<p>protection, it should not be designed as a deterrent and the administrative process should be simple and without expense (outside the activities involved). Council should have provision to assist Large projects like replacing an inappropriately selected Tree. b. Maintenance/pruning provisions should exist and not require administration. Residents should be empowered to maintain Trees with low hanging branches that cross roads and footpaths without constraint. Trees in suburban areas need maintenance, it's inevitable, and the city should not impede (and by extension) carry the burden of minor maintenance. c. Specific complexity for developers just makes what is probably an already necessary step, more costly and ultimately cost end owners or prevent necessary infill development. Just ensure there is a requirement to replace or remedy and make it reasonable, or and form of penalty should have a local area consult, ie, no blanket rule on how to penalise for, what in many situations is an accidental act.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/10/2023 05:13 PM</p>	<p>focus on natives is not needed - need best trees regardless of origin - speed of growth, canopy, leaf & bark shedding; water effectiveness</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/12/2023 06:51 PM</p>	<p>Anything that encourages members of the community to spend time outdoors in nature is a welcome initiative.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/15/2023 10:35 AM</p>	<p>Policy amendments look good. I can't see any mention regarding how ratepayers request a tree planting. We have 2 verges where trees have not been planted or have been removed for whatever reason. I'll submit a general request to see if we can have trees planted</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/17/2023 05:31 AM</p>	<p>I fully support the policy as it is essential street trees are protected and canopy is enhanced to mitigate urban heat and provide resilience to climate change (particularly in light of infill development and loss of trees and gardens in the private space). Preferring local native trees is supported to improve biodiversity and sense of place. A consideration is how to protect the soil zone around the base of the tree, as compaction and damage to the root zone severely impacts a trees health, longevity, height and canopy size.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/17/2023 08:21 PM</p>	<p>I personally know a number of people who prune their street trees and do a MUCH better job than the ridiculous tree loppers hired by the City. In those cases, these good folks should not be penalised for keeping their verge tree healthy and happy. I guess they can't be fined, since your policy only states potential payment for damages,</p>

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<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/17/2023 10:56 PM</p>	<p>and there is no damage. How do you deal with that kind of situation? Also, some folks plant (and maintain) useful trees like olive, fig, etc. These offer benefit to all neighbours. This use case is also not mentioned. Finally, the proposed penalty will do absolutely nothing to discourage developers, builders, contractors and tradies from damaging verge trees. Maybe try a fine like \$5,000 plus \$1,000 for every year of the age of the tree? Or more depending on the size of the development. And none of this having-to-catch-them-in-the-act rubbish. That never happens. Make the developer responsible for the state of verge trees in front of their development from the moment they apply for planning approval or, even better, the moment they own the block (just like any other resident).</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 12/17/2023 10:56 PM</p>	<p>Particularly like the policy of planting native trees and making sure developers take care to protect trees already planted on verges when doing construction.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 09:05 AM</p>	<p>I think it is important to active our streets. And to monitor plants selection.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 09:14 AM</p>	<p>Enjoy swings etc on verge for community feel / enhancement</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 09:41 AM</p>	<p>Love the swings on the verges. Creates a community with kids playing out the front of houses</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 09:41 AM</p>	<p>A verge can become an extension of the home owners garden by enhancing an under utilised space. I would like to see more endemic species planted and a replacement program of the infamous Queensland Box Tree.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 09:46 AM</p>	<p>The Council can't dictate tree requirements when they refuse to properly maintain the trees. You can't have it both ways. The tree at front of my house constantly drops FULL BRANCHES and hangs over my property. I have asked the Council to properly prune but you refuse to.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 10:04 AM</p>	<p>It makes the streets more vibrant and fun, and brings community into the shared areas.</p>
<p>Screen Name Redacted</p>	<p>Jacarandas should be an option to be in keeping with lots of other</p>

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1/02/2024 10:22 AM

trees in the City.

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 11:04 AM

I love that my suburb is filled with trees, and the verge swings and ladders are great for local children

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 11:06 AM

I fully support the proposed amendments to the Street Tree policy. The proposed changes continue the City's sensible approach to managing street trees and citizen stewardship of their verges. The abundance of adopted verges and play equipment on street trees is one of the great features of living in Vincent - it supports social interaction between neighbours and also helps slow traffic through the actual or perceived presence of children on the street. More local government's should be following Vincent's lead in this space. Keep up the great work!

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 12:38 PM

It's great to see kids playing on the tree attachments, makes the neighbourhood feel very welcoming and family friendly. I also feel these attachments help people meet more local neighbours and is good for the community!

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 01:39 PM

We need to do more to protect trees and reintroduce natives

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 02:05 PM

Keeps the streets nice and family friendly

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 02:14 PM

It is important to maintain a green streetscape. Areas devoid of trees retain too much heat and appear barren

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 02:16 PM

It's really important to maintain and improve the trees in our area. And it's great that families have the freedom to use their street trees for their kids

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 02:30 PM

Preference for native trees is a must

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 03:27 PM

We love a street with swings in their trees. What a great use of them to promote community spirit. Not everyone had a mature tree in their backyard so this is great.

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 03:27 PM

I said yes to question 1. hesitantly as no list of preferred species was in the Street Tree Policy. Definite lack of detail - not transparent public consultation. I would like to have seen a commitment to a target number of trees planted in the winter season. I would like to have seen a database of identified planting locations even if it were 1 per dwelling, 1 per rateable premises I find the Street Tree Policy lacking in any real detail of a 'forward plan' thus lacking in substance of meaning. Are medium strips included?

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 04:18 PM

This is very important - "Introduction of street tree protection requirements for developers and landowners carrying out works on or next to the verge area" Our neighbour recently added a second story extension by "Nexus Homes" and the damage caused to the very healthy verge tree during the process was sad to see. In saying that I have observed other developers protect verge trees by installing plastic cages around the trees etc to protect them It would be greta if this clause was included to make these developers accountable for their actions eg fines

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 06:51 PM

Support trees being retained as long as it's not used as an excuse to increase housing density. Less keen about permission being required for play equipment to be attached

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 06:51 PM

Native trees create the perfect avenue for the spread of fire in our suburbs. Stop finding more ways to hinder development, owners choices and get back to Council core responsibilities being roads, rubbish and rates (reduction)

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 07:08 PM

I love being able to have a swing on the verge bottlebrush. My kids are too big for it these days, but our footpath friends all know their kids are welcome to use it ☺ in my opinion it's another way to build a spirit of community. I'd love even more native trees as verge trees (no box trees or (evil) Robinias please!! ☹)

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 09:22 PM

We have a young child and enjoy having a swing on our verge.

Screen Name Redacted

1/02/2024 10:45 PM

Happy with natives, happy with swings etc. BUT all none native species should be allowed to be removed and changed to natives OR fruit trees, Olives, oranges, berries figs etc. If builders kill or damage trees and this includes, Western Power, Gas, Water Corp and NBN then remove and replace with natives or fruit trees.

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Screen Name Redacted 1/02/2024 10:57 PM	Street tree attachments add to the charm of the area.
Screen Name Redacted 1/03/2024 09:18 PM	I think swings on verges encourage children to go outside and play. I prefer native trees because they support local wildlife, provided they also have a big enough canopy.
Screen Name Redacted 1/04/2024 02:35 AM	I love that tree houses and swings are on our street verges. It says as a community we honour and respect childhood. I would like to see consistency in street trees as it is more aesthetically pleasing than different varieties in a street.
Screen Name Redacted 1/04/2024 09:05 PM	Playing out in your local neighbourhood is a vital step in children developing a relationship and therefore care of their natural environment and neighbourhoods. It's an important factor in developing independent mobility. Any incidental opportunities that allow for unstructured play around neighbourhood streets encourages this and more. For more information refer to the 1000 streets project by Play Australia and the City of Vincent's own Play street (Rae street) pilot project.
Screen Name Redacted 1/06/2024 04:47 PM	Street trees are not only beautiful, they provide habitat for birds and insects, provide shade and offset some of the carbon in our atmosphere. The more native street streets, the better!
Screen Name Redacted 1/07/2024 03:53 PM	Better for wildlife, water conservation, waterways including river because of deciduous, show pride in being Oz rather than foreign locality
Screen Name Redacted 1/08/2024 06:14 PM	Along with removal of overground power, a focus on improving canopy coverage will greatly improve the streetscape of the city.
Screen Name Redacted 1/11/2024 08:11 AM	Important to our urban ecology that we have species native to our local area that can withstand our climate and are food sources to local wildlife/insects. Tree canopy needs to increase to help keep our suburbs cool.
Screen Name Redacted 1/11/2024 08:23 AM	I would like to see a greener suburb but with more consistent planting that enhance the suburb rather than what seems a scatter gun approach to tree selection. In some cases i would like the council to

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

invest in replanting in different street to gain more consistency.

Screen Name Redacted

1/11/2024 10:27 AM

We need to preserve existing coverage and expand coverage of trees particularly in hot spots (eg Brisbane St between Stirling and Pier). The shift to natives is good but if smaller trees, closer planting is required to get the benefit. Canopy provides cooling which make streets more attractive for playing, walking and cycling.

Screen Name Redacted

1/11/2024 11:55 AM

I like trees! But, I think the council should take more care in what is planted, you say natives, like Queensland Box!! When selecting you should make sure the leaf drop is at a minimum. I live in a street that FLOODS and the drains are blocked and not maintained enough, there are Box trees and many natives in the nearby park, the leaf drop is a huge problem and the maintenance that goes with trees is not enough, thus impacting on homes nearby when drainage is inadequate.

Screen Name Redacted

1/11/2024 01:35 PM

agree with the 75% requirement for native trees.

Screen Name Redacted

1/12/2024 07:30 AM

I mostly agree with all of amendment, however in some circumstances when planting in parks to replace old trees etc I think some non native that grow quickly and provide a much wider canopy should be considered aswell as native trees. Trees that match up to growing conditions in our climate. A lot of native trees do not have that wonderful wide spreading canopy.

Screen Name Redacted

1/12/2024 09:54 AM

I fully support the selection of native trees for streets. In addition I would like to see the incentivisation for planting out of paved verges, fines or disincentives for removing or damaging street trees and a more sympathetic approach to tree pruning.

Screen Name Redacted

1/14/2024 01:47 PM

Preference for planting native trees: I think non-native species of trees have much to offer and should be considered for street trees: Shade in summer is often much denser and more cooling for introduced species; and deciduous ones the let light in in winter and this means houses and gardens are then less dingy. Some introduced species of trees seem to be doing well in the Perth climate. Some are also beautiful - a street full of flowering Jacarandas is very attractive and give the street a character which appeals to people. Some of the narrow streets might benefit from smaller trees also the big trees block out the view to sky from the house. If it is native trees, please consider the beautiful flowering species such as the red and pink

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Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

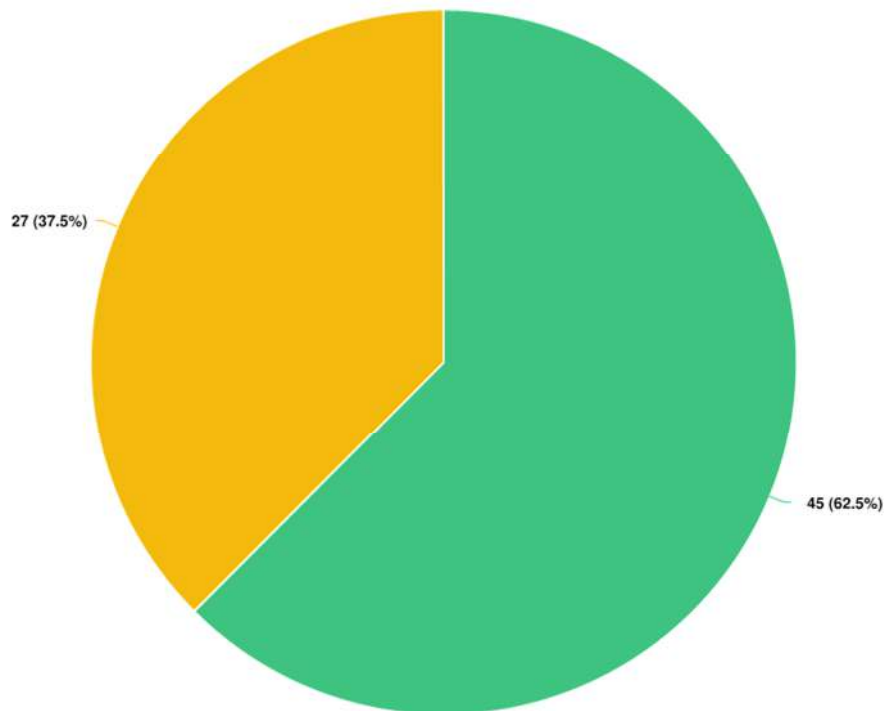
flowering gums.

Optional question (66 response(s), 6 skipped)

Question type: Essay Question

Have your say : Survey Report for 30 November 2023 to 18 January 2024

Q3 Would you like to be kept updated on this Policy?



Question options

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (72 response(s))
Question type: Dropdown Question

Mary Gray OAM, Environmental Scientist
43 Commonwealth Ave North Perth WA 6006
celiagray@bigpond.com
phone 9444 5647

Comments with suggested changes are made on some parts of the Street Tree Policy as below. Please note that I formerly worked for the State Government in the field of catchment management in the Swan region (which includes City of Vincent area). I also support the work and advice of the Claise Brook Catchment Group. I am also an Honorary Life Member of the Wildflower Society of WA Inc., and of the Urban Bushland Council of WA Inc.

PRELIMINARY

In the **Introduction** it would be good to add to the 'enhanced community well-being', the human health values of local native trees, as well as the benefit to local native wildlife such as local native birds and insects. Also add that an increased tree canopy will increase carbon sequestration and is a positive action against climate change.

In the **Objective** it would be good to add '**and to provide habitat and linkages for wildlife such as local native birds and native reptiles and insects**'.

POLICY

1. Street Tree Planting

(v) Under **Tree species selection**, the second dot point should be amended to: **'WA local native species should be required for new planting across City owned or managed land'**. Here the word 'local' means tree species that are native to the specific landforms as shown in the table on pages 82 – 83 of the excellent book **'Growing Locals'** by Robert Powell & Jane Emberson, 1996. Notably this book was published by the WA Naturalists' Club (Inc.), with support from the Water & Rivers Commission of Western Australia. Note also chapter 1: Why Grow Local Plants?

(v) The meaning of the last dot point is not clear. Does this include the risk of future extreme weather events?

Under (v), add another dot point: **'Avoid tree species which are known to cause human health problems including hay fever and allergies'**. A prime example is the London Plane Tree which should not be planted, and in some streets should be removed. Angove St outside the café strip is an example.

2. Unauthorised or Unsuitable Street Tree Planting

A third point should be added:

(iii) 'Deciduous trees are unsuitable and should not be planted. Deciduous trees cause catchment management issues from annual leaf drop with nutrient export to drains and water ways resulting in eutrophication of wetlands, which may later cause algal blooms, some of which can be toxic. Wetlands in Vincent are already suffering high nutrient levels.'

This is a very important issue for Vincent, and is reason alone for no planting of deciduous tree species. It is also reason for replacing recently planted exotic deciduous trees – such as Chinese Tallow in Scarborough Beach Road North Perth.

3. Street Tree Pruning

To significantly increase street tree canopy, there is a need for the City of Vincent to accelerate its proposed underground power program, so that street trees can grow and spread more. Some trees that have suffered from years of top pruning (especially if deciduous or semi-deciduous) may best be replaced by local native trees and they would not need to be top pruned. Some local native trees such as Marri and Tuart are fast growing. Underground power also removes the risk of falling power lines in strong wind and storm events – which are now an increased risk with climate change.

Tuarts should not be under pruned, especially when young, as branching near the ground is their natural form, and this is a natural adaptation to withstand strong winds. Also re-sprouting growth is more likely to break in extreme windy weather events. An example of a fabulous large Tuart that was not under-pruned is adjacent to (and partly overhangs) the Aspects shop in Kings Park.

So-called '*remedial pruning to form the shape of trees, encourage new growth...*' should be removed as it can be an issue of more branch breaks in extreme weather.

The last dot point, '*Property line prune (upon adjoining property resident request) to remove any canopy overhanging into private property.*' - should be removed.

I am available to further clarify and discuss these issues with officers of the City of Vincent. I may be contacted as above.

Sally Lake

51 Chatsworth Rd, Highgate

Please find below my comments on the draft Street Tree Policy.

The policy proposes a target of 75% of new planting to be Australian native species. The policy objective only refers to "maximise canopy coverage".

Species selection can have significant environmental impacts, particularly relating to water consumption and stormwater pollution. Given that street trees are generally located on streets, it is highly likely that they can impact stormwater quality, water which ends up in local wetlands, lakes and ultimately the Swan River.

Exotic deciduous trees impact negatively on water quality because they tend to lose their leaves all at once, placing a sudden heavy burden on natural systems to absorb/break down the leaf matter. In addition, native fauna (insects, microbes etc) are not adapted to chew/break down soft leaves of exotic vegetation. This causes sudden increases nutrients in stormwater and receiving water bodies which can cause algal blooms.

While I support the intent to have a high target for using Australian species for new plantings, I consider that all new plantings should be Australian species, unless there is a strong reason such as maintaining a heritage streetscape to use an exotic species.

Clause 1. (v) second bullet point – amend 75% to 95%, assuming that will allow enough lee-way for a relatively small number of exotic species to be planted where there are valid reasons to do so.

I also consider “reducing negative environmental impacts relating to species selection” should be added to Objectives.

Not within this policy, but relevant, I am concerned about the ongoing use of the Tree Selection Tool, particularly in relation to selecting species for street trees. As explained above, exotic species are a significant threat to the health of waterways, yet the Tree Selection Tool starts with a binary decision, exotic or native? If exotic is selected, all results are exotic, despite them being fundamentally unsuitable. This tool should be reevaluated as I consider it is not fit for purpose.

Thankyou for the opportunity to comment.

Joe and Anne Courtney
62 Palmerston St Perth

Dear Vincent

We write to provide feedback on the proposed street tree policy <https://imagine.vincent.wa.gov.au/street-tree-policy-amendment>

The policy is an improvement on the previous version to increase native plantings to 75% however we suggest it can be improved for the following reasons:

1. Tree species selection should also take into account other environmental impacts not just canopy cover especially the requirements to support bird and animal life and water requirements. The advice for Perth gardens to be water wise and bird and bee friendly is well established and we are surprised these considerations are not included in the policy. Some current tree plantings are exotics from tropical regions that require more water than local species.
2. The definition of Australian native species should be either supplemented or replaced by reference to indigenous trees to our area. Trees of the Perth coastal plain has evolved to suit our climate and provide habitat for our wildlife and hence are more appropriate than trees from elsewhere. Providing fod for cockatoos for example should be a priority. The Marri tree is one such tree though honkey nuts present a tripping hazard on paths - though this aspect is not included in the policy either. We suggest a target of 50% local to the area natives but this is quite arbitrary and ideally even higher.
3. For transparency it would be good if Vincent provided an online service like South Perth does Intramaps to show trees. This can also be used to indicate priority areas for canopy and show residents changes from year to year demonstrating changes to canopy.

<https://cosp.spatial.t1cloud.com/spatial/IntraMaps/?project=Public&module=Trees%20%26%20Environment&configId=29b80b8c-2c27-4a14-8f10-678c7947f7be&startToken=754a1dea-ca85-42b7-9a97-f34c2c6b5ae0>

Again, thanking you for this initiative and hoping for more trees in Vincent!

Andrew Main
North Perth
Resident and ratepayer since 1994

Introduction

The importance of street trees is briefly described in this section.

I request that the City consider including a statement about the importance of street trees as a food source for native bird species. This is becoming increasingly important due to the continued destruction of bushland on the urban fringes of the Perth metropolitan area, which has resulted in reductions in food sources for Native bird species, particularly the Carnaby cockatoo. It is noticeable that in recent years these cockatoos are spending more time in areas such as the City Of Vincent. For example, I recall that even 5 years ago, that the cockatoos would come into our area in March to feast on the food found in various trees. Most would be gone by the middle of the year. However, the situation, at present, is that they seem to be in the area all year round and are roosting here. In the past, they would fly away in the late afternoon to roost in other locations.

I also ask that the City consider including in this section, the importance of trees that provide all year shade. Perth is getting hotter, and the UV is generally at a very high level throughout most of the year. Jacarandas are one of the most common street trees the City uses. However, this species loses its leaves in July/August and as such, does not provide decent shade in the later months of each calendar year. This is at a time when shade is imperative.

I ask that the City consider including a statement that trees that are appropriate for the climate of, and water availability in, Perth should be key criteria for tree selection. In addition, trees that are relatively fast growing - and will provide shade sooner than later - should be a key guiding factor when determining what the suitability of a species.

Policy provisions

1 Street tree planting.

Subsection (I) states that the city is responsible for the planting of all street trees, however, in Section 2 "Unauthorised or unsuitable street tree planting" it is stated that the city may retain a tree that is planted without its approval. This seems to be contradictory, but notwithstanding this, should there not be a clause in section 1, subsection (I), that clearly states that a landowner or resident is to seek approval from the city before planting any tree?

Subsection (II) states that suitable, planting locations will be determined by the city. I draw your attention to the city's greening strategy, which has a map identifying tree planting locations for each street in the City and the priority. What is the relationship between that document, and this policy? Furthermore, will the City advise council and the public about where the city is planning to plant trees prior to a final decision being made?

Subsection (III) is strongly supported. In my dealings with the City, I have been repeatedly advised that trees will not be planted when adjoining property owners/tenants object.

Subsection (V), as stated in my proposed additions to the introduction section, elements, such as bird food sources, all year shade provision, suitability for the climatic conditions, and fast growing should be included in this section to reflect this.

Regarding the target of 75% of new planting to be native species, it is noted that this is for all council managed land. What is the target for new street tree planting to be native species? Why isn't a target incorporated into this policy?

In my view, 100% of new plantings should be native species.

Section 2, Unauthorised or unsuitable street tree planting.

As mentioned above, it should be quite clear that street trees are only to be planted by the city, and that approval is to be sought prior to this taking place.

Section 5, Street tree protection

I strongly support this section, and I'm grateful that the city has included it. In addition to the measures proposed, I have observed many street trees, even those protected from building works, have suffered or died, from the fact that there is no watering during the period where the works are undertaken. As such, I request that the City consider including a clause in this section that requires the builder or owner, to ensure the tree is adequately watered during the period of works. If the builder/owner does not agree to this requirement, then the city should consider including such trees on their tree watering schedule.

I also believe the city should consider including a clause here that states that new development applications, and in particular, the location of crossovers are positioned and/or minimised so as to protect existing trees and maximise permeable surfaces rather than paved surfaces. In addition, this clause should also require that adequate space for new trees to be planted, if required, once the development works have concluded, so that there will be the potential for adequate tree (and shade) coverage on the verge.

Dudley Maier

I believe that the Draft Policy needs modification. For ease of processing, I will address the issues in the same order as shown in the policy, rather than in order of importance. I am particularly concerned with the inadequately justified change from having consistency along streets, to an 'anything goes' approach which allows people to plant what they like (within reason) thus impacting what planners might describe as the rhythm of the street..

PURPOSE

I think that the purpose of this, and every policy, is somewhat the same in that the policy is developed to ensure a clear understanding of the City's objectives, actions and responses so that the community and staff are clear as to how the objectives of the policy will be delivered, and to ensure consistency of outcomes.

The purpose, as written, is just a variation on the 'objective' and adds nothing to the document.

Suggested change:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clarity to both staff and the community, and to ensure consistency of outcomes, when the City selects, maintains and protects our street trees.

OBJECTIVE

The provision of street trees is more than just providing canopy coverage. Street trees provide more than just shade and shelter. They have the potential to provide habitat and to significantly add to the aesthetic appeal of our neighbourhoods. They also have the potential to create or add to a sense of place. Sadly, they also have the potential to adversely impact on people's health, as well as the health of the environment.

Despite token efforts to encourage the increase in the number of trees on private properties, the reality is that our street trees will have to do the heavy lifting if we want to increase canopy coverage and provide habitat and travel corridors for animals. The City only has control of trees in our streets and parks, so these are the only areas where the community

as a whole can ensure that we get the desired outcomes. The approach must be based on the premise that *"the City will do the right thing in the public domain and individuals can do what they like on their property"*, rather than *"it's up to individuals if they want the right thing done"*.

'Canopy' is just one potential benefit from street trees. The provision of habitat for our native birds, insects etc is also important, particularly as less trees are found on private properties. It therefore makes sense to rely on native trees – hence Council's request that at least 75% of plantings are Australian natives. The selection of Australian natives should also be mindful of potential climate changes. For example, the Queensland Box was the favoured tree many years ago, however they come from an environment that gets a lot more rain

than we do and have subsequently suffered in our drying climate.

Street trees also improve the aesthetic appeal of our streets. We need trees that look good as well as provide shade/protection. They have the potential to provide a sense of place.

It should also be recognised that the selection of the wrong species can adversely impact on people's health and on the environment. Several years ago, I experienced an attack with asthma-like symptoms. After a series of tests it was determined that I had become allergic to the Japanese/Chinese Elm that was growing next door. The tree was removed. I also worked with a colleague who had to go for a meeting in Royal Street, East Perth – a street lined with London Planes (a tree recognised by the WHO as causing health issues). While the meeting only lasted less than an hour, she had a significant reaction to the trees as they were in flower at the time. I also know people who have allergic reactions to Callistemons. This must be recognised in the selection of trees.

It is also widely recognised that deciduous trees adjacent to our street drains has the potential to negatively impact on the health of the Swan River.

Suggested change:

OBJECTIVES

To provide guidance for the selection and maintenance of street trees in order to:

- *Maximise canopy coverage*
- *Provide habitat and travel corridors for native animals (birds, insects etc)*
- *Provide a selection of trees that are more likely to succeed in our drying climate*
- *Maintain or improve the aesthetic value of our streets and provide a sense of place*

- *Ensure selected tree species do not adversely affect the health of community members or the natural environment*

Clause 1 (iii) – continuity of canopy

This clause is a welcome inclusion (despite the typo). For too long we've had gaps in our street trees because individual property owners have objected, or even threatened to kill trees. This is about community good rather than individual preferences. The continuity of coverage is important for aesthetic reasons as well as sun/rain protection.

For this reason, it should extend beyond just canopy coverage - it should include species selection and spacing. We should strive for visual consistency rather than individual owner's often misplaced preferences. This is probably best addresses in 1 (v).

Clause 1 (v) – species selection

I think that street tree selection is worthy of its own section (i.e. number it as Clause 2 and renumber the rest).

I think that the policy must clearly address the issue of consistency of species along a street. The policy does not address this and in fact surreptitiously gives approval for removing this requirement by allowing residents to plant a street tree of their own choosing (Clause 2 (i)).

I think the fundamental rule of thumb should be that plantings should be the same species as the existing chosen species with one exception – where a decision has been made to replace that species in a street (e.g. they aren't coping with the change in climate or have proved to be unsuitable).

I also think that the statement of trying to achieve an annual target of 75% Australian natives is too vague – a property owner could always argue that their 'foreign' choice is OK because the 75% will be made up in a later planting somewhere else. It is tokenistic at best.

This then leads to the issue of what species to select if a street-wide change is deemed appropriate. I think that this is where the sentiment around '75% new plantings' comes into play. It could be expressed by saying that where a progressive street-wide change is deemed appropriate it will be by a suitable native species. This is better than an arbitrary target of 75%.

The current clause also vaguely mentions 'streetscape species diversity' in a way that could suggest that there would be a diversity of species in a single street. The species diversity should be on a street-by-street basis rather than a tree-by-tree basis.

Suggested change:

2. Street Tree Selection (and renumber the rest)

- (i) *Where a tree needs to be removed it will be replaced with the predominant existing species in the street unless the City has previously made a decision to progressively replace all the trees in the street (e.g. they have come to the end of their natural life, are not coping with climate change, or have proved to be otherwise unsuitable).*

- (ii) *Where a decision is made to progressively replace the species in a street a preference will be given to using an Australian native species at a spacing that will provide a contiguous canopy when mature.*
- (iii) *Where a decision has been made to replace the species, the replacements will be made as old trees need to be removed, or at a faster rate if sufficient funds are available.*
- (iv) *The selection of a replacement species will also address the need to ensure the minimising the potential of accepted allergic reactions by members of the community, and will avoid any potential threats to the river or waterways.*

Clause 2 – Unauthorised/Unsuitable planting

I do not support the intention of this clause as it stands. I think it is a massive change in philosophy and is giving the green light to anybody who wants to have a different tree to simply poison the existing tree and plant something new. I have seen this in my street, and I have seen the staff turn a blind eye because they want to avoid conflict, or because they do not have a sufficient policy framework to back them up.

Clause 2 (i) says that a 'suitable variety' may be retained without defining or giving what that means. I think that the only 'suitable variety' that should be accepted without prior approval is the existing predominant species. Even then I have my concerns. It is a community asset, and we should maintain community control and responsibility, and ensure that only healthy specimens are planted – we don't want people wasting (future) community resources because they selected a poor specimen of doubtful provenance.

In fact, I do not think we should accept the concept of individuals planting trees without prior approval. Again, we want to ensure only healthy specimens. If the intention is to allow people to fill gaps before the City has the funds to fill that gap then the obvious solution is to allow for residents to pay the City, at cost, to fill the gap.

Clause 2 (ii) then goes on to say that certain tree species may be deemed unsuitable and that an arborist will be engaged to provide a report. Because this immediately follows the clause that says people can plant their own choice it tends to imply that this relates to

'resident-planted' trees. It almost sounds as if somebody may plant an unsuitable tree; the City finds out; and the City has to pay an arborist to show why it is not suitable. This is arse-about. If they want to spend money planting the tree, they should pay the City to do it properly.

Because I do not support the planting of 'rogue' trees I think there is no need to retain clause 2 (ii). The issue of individual specimens that have proven to be unsuitable is covered in Clause 4 – Street Tree removal.

Suggested wording:

2. Unauthorised or Unsuitable Street Tree Planting

A street tree planted without the City's prior approval will only be retained if it is the same species as the predominant species in that street and is deemed to be a healthy specimen. In all other cases the tree will be removed.

Clause 3 – Street tree pruning

It needs to make it clear that it is an offence to prune a street tree. While it is mentioned in Clause 6 (i) it should be included here in case someone thinks that 'pruning' is different to 'unlawful damage'.

Suggested wording:

3 (i) The City retains sole responsibility for the pruning of street trees. Unauthorised pruning is an offence under Part 9 of the City of Vincent Local Government Property Local Law 2021.

Clause 5 – Street tree protection

I do not think that tree protection goes far enough. The clause says that no excavation may be carried out under the drip line, yet allows heavy machinery and materials storage to be located there, as long as it is 2 metres from the base of the tree. The two metres is an arbitrary choice and is overreach in the case of a street tree that is relatively young, or where a footpath or kerb is closer than 2 metres.

Suggested wording for 5 (ii) dot point 3.

A free standing mesh fence must be erected to protect each street tree. The structure must be appropriately braced and regularly checked to ensure it is not creating any hazards or impeding pedestrian access. No building materials are to be placed or stored within this area. The fence may be at the footpath or kerb line, and no closer than the tree drip line in all other cases.

Clause 6 (ii) Unauthorised interference

I do not support the 'optional' suggestion about requiring payment to repair any damage caused by unauthorised pruning. The word 'may' should be replaced with 'will' – remember, this is just about recovering costs for repairing or replacing a street tree, not a fine for doing something wrong.

Clause 7 – attachments

To cater for properties on corner blocks the wording should be changed from 'in front of' to 'immediately adjacent to' in clause 7 (i)

Also, clause 3 (iii) must make it clear that permission must be obtained for 'non-standard' attachments prior to installation.

Suggested wording:

(iii) permission to attach anything other than that specified in clause 7 (ii) requires prior approval from the City, and may be given approval at the discretion of the City.

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

INTRODUCTION

Management of the City's street trees is an extensive and complicated operation. Council's Street Tree Policy provides the overarching principles for the City's management of its street tree inventory. To assist in maintaining and enhancing canopy, the below guidelines have been developed to ensure both new and existing street trees can be managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of current and future residents.

STREET TREE REQUESTS

All requests for street tree planting, maintenance or inspection should be made in writing to mail@vincent.wa.gov.au or via the City's website [Trees » City of Vincent](#)

STREET TREE PLANTING

The City shall undertake tree planting on streets as part of its scheduled street tree planting program in accordance with the objectives and actions outlined in Council's adopted Greening Plan. Tree planting will usually occur May to September each year (subject to weather and prevailing conditions).

Resident requests for new or additional street will also be considered with planting to be carried out as part of the City's scheduled planting program.

For scheduling purposes, resident requests should be made prior to September each year to enable inclusion in the following planting season.

Street Tree Placement

Street trees shall be planted:

- To provide continuity of canopy coverage with a minimum of one tree per property verge.
- At no less than 5 metre centres (spacings to be dependent upon species type and specific locations).
- To ensure unobstructed sight lines and the safe passage of pedestrians, cyclists and motorists.

Variations under exceptional circumstances shall be at the discretion of the Manager Parks.

Street Tree Selection

Street tree species shall be selected to:

- Provide maximum canopy coverage. Where feasible, larger growing species will be preferred due to their increased contribution to canopy coverage.
- Achieve an annual target of 75% new planting across City owned or managed land being native tree species.

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

- Enhance streetscape species diversity to improve the resilience of the urban forest against current and future threats including climate change and pest and diseases.
- Provide continuity of existing streetscape maintenance requirements.
- Selected species to be suitable for location and surrounding infrastructure.

Street tree species selection shall be determined by the City with specific species requests from residents considered in accordance with the Street Tree Policy and these guidelines.

Street Tree Planting

When planting street trees, the following process will be undertaken:

- Seasonal weather conditions and forecasts will be assessed to maximise planting success.
- Sites to be visually inspected by City staff to ensure suitability of location and selected species.
- For streetscape planting projects, resident will be notified via Information Bulletin a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to tree planting.
- All suitable sites are to be planted ensuring continuity of canopy. In general, a minimum one (1) tree per standard residential property (10m frontage), where practicable.
- Trees to be double staked, tied and heavily mulched around base into a bowl.
- The City shall undertake the watering of all new street trees, as and when required, until the trees are established. Ongoing watering shall be undertaken where feasible, subject to weather conditions.
- Residents/occupants are encouraged to water the adjacent street tree during the establishment period and during summer if required.

Unauthorised Or Inappropriate Street Tree Planting

Where an unauthorised street tree planting is identified, the City shall determine whether the planting can be retained and whether it conforms to the City's planting guidelines and species choice.

Where the planting is of a recent origin and the tree is an appropriate species and suitable for transplanting, but on the wrong alignment or spacing, the City shall appropriately relocate the tree after the resident has been notified.

Where the planting is of a recent origin but is an inappropriate species, the resident shall be given the option of relocating the tree onto private property prior to the City considering its removal and replacement.

Where the inappropriate planting is more established, and unsuitable for transplanting, the tree will be removed by the City after the resident has been notified of the City's intent.

STREET TREE PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE

The City is responsible for the pruning and ongoing maintenance of all street trees. The City's scheduled street tree pruning program usually occurs June – December each year.

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

Tree pruning shall be undertaken in accordance with the Street Tree Policy to address one or more of the following requirements:

- Clear the canopy from interference with overhead powerlines in accordance with Western Power [Guidelines for the Management of Vegetation Near Powerlines](#)
- Clear the canopy from other essential services, nearby infrastructure (such as buildings or structures) and remove any low growing branches considered hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists.
- Remedial prune to form the tree shape, encourage new growth and remove dead, dying or diseased branches that are determined by the City to be hazardous.
- Prune the tree back to the property line. Note that this is only carried out upon request for the adjacent landowner/occupier.

Ongoing street tree maintenance in respect to watering and pest and disease management will be undertaken with an assessment of priorities, risk and Arborist assessment where required.

Street Tree Pruning – Residential Requests

Residents may contact the City to request specific pruning of a street tree. All requests will be registered and if required, inspected by a Parks Officer, or City contractor.

Specific requests for tree pruning will be carried out as part of the scheduled Street Tree Pruning Program unless deemed hazardous by the City, in which case, works will be programmed as soon as practical to remove the hazard.

Pruning requests will be assessed in accordance with the Street Tree Policy. Instances where requests for tree pruning will typically **not be approved** by the City include:

- Reducing the height of trees not located under powerlines.
- Reducing the height or crown thinning of trees to improve light penetration or reduce shading to properties.
- Reducing the canopy of trees to reduce leaf/fruit drop.
- Pruning trees back further than the property line.
- Pruning of trees to improve visibility of advertising (e.g. billboards)
- Pruning of trees to maintain or restore views from property.

Property Line Pruning

All requests for property line pruning must be made in writing before the end of July to be actioned in the following pruning season – typically June-December each year.

Requests must be made on an annual or as required basis. Property line pruning will not take place without a written request made in time for the upcoming season.

Where possible, trees are to be pruned back to the boundary line of the property and no further. In some instances, it may not be possible to clear all overhanging branches/vegetation owing to the size or shape of the tree. In such instances, trees will be pruned back as close as practicable to the property line whilst ensuring the tree canopy remains balanced and structural integrity of the tree is uncompromised.

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

Tree Pruning Disposal

Wherever possible, the green waste generated from tree pruning activities within the City shall be chipped/mulched.

Mulch generated from pruning activities shall be used for various parks projects or stockpiled at a City community mulch pile.

Mulch at a community mulch pile is provided free to the community and generally accessible at all times. Residents are required to load and transport their own mulch and the quality and quantity of the mulch will vary due to variety and condition of trees pruned.

Only the City or its contractors are permitted to deposit mulch at a community mulch pile, or on land controlled or managed by the City of Vincent.

STREET TREE REMOVAL

All requests for tree removal are to be made in writing, and will be considered the Manager Parks in accordance with the Street Tree Policy and assessment of the following criteria:

- Safety/health/condition tree
- Value of the tree in streetscape/landscape
- Potential for significant damage to persons or property
- History of requests and associated actions

Where practicable, adjacent residents will be provided notice in writing of the intention and reasons for impending tree removal.

If practicable, the City will plant a replacement tree of a suitable species as close as possible to the location of a removed tree. Replacement tree planting works will be undertaken as part of the City's scheduled tree planting program.

Street tree removal requests and their outcome will be included in a quarterly register presented in the Council Information Bulletin.

Circumstances Where Street Trees Will Not Be Removed

The City considers the following reasons not acceptable for the removal of street trees:

- the tree obscures or potentially obscures views (other than traffic/pedestrian sight lines).
- the tree variety is disliked.
- the tree variety causes nuisance by way of leaf, fruit and/or bark shedding, animal/bird/insect habitat or similar.
- the tree causes allergy and/or health problems.
- the tree is in the way of a non-essential crossover or verge paving option.
- the tree shades private gardens/solar panels

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

Unauthorised Interference, Removal, Pruning or Damage to a Street Tree

In accordance with the Street Tree Policy, it is an offence to unlawfully damage a street tree.

In instances where a tree has been unlawfully damaged, the City may display vandalised tree signage adjacent to such tree, to notify the public of the cause of damage.

STREET TREES PROTECTION ADJACENT TO DEVELOPMENTS

Any person undertaking works on a verge or works that are likely to impact the verge must ensure that street tree protection measures are carried out in accordance with the Street Tree Policy.

Street Trees Adjacent to Crossovers

The retention of street trees will take precedent over any landowner intent or desire to remove a street tree to accommodate a new or revised crossover. The City will require all options and efforts to be exhausted to ensure new or revised crossovers protect and preserve street trees.

The following shall apply to street trees adjacent to developments:

- In instances where tree retention is not feasible and removal has been approved by the City, the owner/developer of the adjacent property is required to pay (prior to removal) for a replacement tree to the City's requirements.
- New or revised crossovers shall be located a minimum of 1.0 metre from a street tree. Reduction to 0.5 metre may be considered, depending on availability of alternatives, tree species and location, sight lines and traffic safety.
- Where a person unlawfully damages a street tree by way of unauthorised pruning, removal, interference or damage, the City may by Notice require that person to pay the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the street tree within a specified timeframe.

STREET TREE ATTACHMENTS

An owner or occupier of land which abuts a verge may install a permissible street tree attachment on a street tree located on the verge directly in front of their property. Permissible street tree attachment include:

- Swings and rope ladders
- Platform / structure (e.g. tree house)
- Decoration and lighting

The City has developed the following guidelines to support residents in maximising the use of the verge by permitting safe, useful, recreational attachments to street trees.

- Street tree attachments must be setback from and provide clear access to any infrastructure or services located on the verge.
- All materials used as part of the installation are to be kept in good condition.
- All ropes or attachments around tree branches should be fitted as to prevent strangulation

STREET TREE POLICY

Guidelines and Procedures

and eventual decline in the tree's health and vigour.

- Street tree attachments are to be fitted to tree branches of safe and suitable dimensions.
- Platforms/Structures are not permitted in street trees located under power lines.
- Street tree attachments must be constructed of durable material, securely installed and so that scheduled pruning requirements can be undertaken where required.
- Street Tree Attachments must provide a minimum 0.5 metre setback from the face of the kerb.
- Only solar lighting is permitted to be attached to street trees.
- Street Tree Attachments shall not swing or protrude into and must not be able to swing or protrude into the space immediately above any road carriageway or path for pedestrians or cyclists.
- Residents must ensure that the tree remains healthy and attachments are well maintained.
- Residents must ensure any tools and materials are removed from the verge after the works are completed.

The below considerations have been developed to assist residents with installing street tree attachments:

- It is recommended that residents discuss the proposal with neighbours to identify any potential issues that may arise as a result of installing the street tree attachments.
- The City will not accept liability for any loss, injury, damage or impact caused to persons or property as a result of a resident's private installation of a street tree attachment.
- The City will not accept liability for any loss, damage or removal that occurs to street tree attachments as part of the City's ongoing street tree maintenance program.
- The City reserves the right to remove a street tree attachment at any time.
- When installing Street Tree Attachments to trees in proximity to Western Power infrastructure, it is recommended to contact Western Power on 13 10 87 or enquiry@westernpower.com.au to determine appropriate clearances.

Any other attachment maybe considered permissible at the discretion of the City subject to a visual inspection of the tree by City staff or qualified arborist and the trees health and structural integrity is not compromised.

PSHB AND OTHER PESTS AND DISEASES

The City recognises the importance of street tree selection to increase canopy and streetscape diversity to ensure resilience against pests, diseases and other environmental threats.

The City of Vincent is working with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) to help stop the spread of the invasive pest, Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer (PSHB). PSHB is a serious biosecurity matter across the Perth metropolitan area.

The primary source of information on PSHB is the [DPIRD website](#).

Summary of Submissions:

The table below summarise the comments received during the initial advertising period (30 November 2023 - 18 January 2024) of the proposed amendments, together with Administration's response to each comment.

Supportive of proposed amendments	Comment Received: *As Received unamended	Administration Comment
Yes	Fully support the move to adopt and use native species. It is also worth considering the expansion of the one tree per verge policy to allow two trees where there is space and owner approval to plant a second tree.	Noted. Policy provisions focus on continuity of canopy. Therefore, if sufficient space is available, more than one tree per verge will be planted.
Yes	Tree selection should preference native Perth region trees to provide for increased foraging for native bird life. Using the same logic there should be variety of tree varieties even in each Street and the verge should be a place to grow larger trees like tuart that are hard for landowners to be able to support themselves in increasingly subdivided lots. Using the trees for recreation is a no brainer and a great positive for Vincent.	Noted.
No	Fixing lights to trees has become common. Not only are they put up at Christmas but they are left up all year round and consequently become unfit for use and just present as plastic rubbish left around the trunk.	Administration will investigate situations as they arise. In accordance with clause 7(v) of the policy, administration will request removal of attachments if required.
Yes	Selection of native trees is important from a water wise point of view with the exception of the tree that drops the small hard round 'gum nut' type outside but cover. They are dangerous for pedestrians i.e. like marbles on the ground, result in unnecessary raised verges due to rotting on the grass and building up if not raked up, leave a mess on the foot path and verge. I'm not sure if it's a Box Tree or a Snuff Box Tree. City of Vincent and South Perth have them on the verges. Very annoying and dangerous to walk in the hard round nuts	Noted.
Yes	It will be good to see more diversity of trees and more native trees instead of just more jacarandas.	Noted.

Summary of Submissions:

<p>Unsure</p>	<p>Very happy to have a tree filled environment but care must be taken with selection and placement. Because a tree is a native species it does not mean it is native to our area. Many trees do not do well. Many trees require more space than a 10 metre by 3 metre verge. Many eastern states insurance companies refuse or load insurance premiums if you have a tree greater in height of a second storey within a certain distance from your boundary. Inability as council restriction on the home owner to "touch" verge trees with council not doing regular inspecting and removal of dead timber or low branches and those encroaching sidewalk. Many sidewalks are completely impeded, and you must walk on the road or crouch to transverse. Council should undertake a proactive approach to maintain safe walkways. Many trees have been badly pruned because of the power lines and will never regain their balanced shape. Wrong tree planted in the wrong place. Root invasion into sidewalk paving causing hazard of broken paving and driveway cracking. Council should again undertake a proactive approach to maintain safe injury free pavement. Root invasion on the road by central tree road planting already causing lifting and destroying road base. Who is responsible for ongoing rectification?</p>	<p>Administration acknowledges that tree selection needs to be undertaken to ensure the right tree for each specific location. Scheduled maintenance and pruning programs ensure issues are addressed. In addition, residents can request street tree maintenance which is assessed in-line with the policy.</p> <p>The City is in the process of undergrounding power and additional tree planting will follow in the project areas once complete.</p> <p>Administration acknowledges that the growth habit of trees can result in increased maintenance of surrounding infrastructure (e.g. roads and footpaths). The City's Engineering team undertakes repairs and maintenance of such areas either by request or through programmed maintenance schedules.</p>
<p>Yes</p>	<p>It's good, but the preference should be for trees local to the area, not just Australian native.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Local Native Trees are preferred if deemed the most suitable.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

No	Native trees need careful selection due to the habit of some with continuous leaf, nuts, and branch shedding and some are unsightly. Dangerous and messy. I would prefer fruit trees e.g. citrus. At least they provide food and look awesome.	Administration acknowledges that tree selection needs to be undertaken to ensure the right tree for each specific location. Whilst the City does not actively plant fruit trees due to their maintenance requirements (e.g. requirement to harvest fruit, specialised pruning, and watering/fertilising requirements), individual residents request for fruit trees are considered.
Yes	New trees should be native, but don't remove existing old trees. Native trees are great for wildlife, but no point until you finally introduce proper cat laws. Until you do that, you're just feeding native birds to cats.	Noted. Trees will only be removed in-line with policy provisions.
Yes	Happy to have kids playing on the verge. Gives a more community feel.	Noted.
Yes	I support native tree planting	Noted.
Unsure	I'm in favour of every verge having a shady tree. Many native trees do not provide shade over the footpaths. It's too hot for many months of the year and Vincent should be promoting people to be active and encourage residence to walk / ride to their local amenities. Verge trees should be shady. Priority should not be given to natives only. Aesthetically streets lined with the same tree look charming and suits the heritage of the area. Mabel street is a great example of shade and lovely trees, attracting many birds too.	Policy indicates preference for natives in tree selection. Due to the rise of PSHB and possible future threats from other pests/disease and climate change, the recommendation is to have species diversity within a street to ensure resilience. This has been reflected in clause 1(v).
No	Because the City does not actively maintain its current street trees	The City undertakes scheduled tree pruning programs in addition to inspections of verge trees to ensure they are actively maintained.
Yes	Jacarandas are beautiful but it's important to favour WA natives.	Noted.

Summary of Submissions:

No	<p>There are both positives and negatives with the proposed amendments. The council cannot consider a focus on native plants whilst at the same time allowing Camphor trees to flourish which subsequently kill native plants. There are numerous Camphor trees around the streets of Vincent which are killing native plants. The intrusive root systems of these trees makes it further difficult for native plants to thrive. The City of Vincent should consider the Q1 literature surrounding Camphor trees and work with residents to remove the Camphor tree and instead focus on planting native trees.</p>	<p>There are only selected streets/location within Vincent that have Camphor Laurel verge trees. Due to the size of these trees, they are no longer actively planted. Should any of these trees require removal, the City will replace with a different suitable species.</p>
Unsure	<p>Love the push towards native selections. Permissions for non permanent things seems like a hassle and just one more thing to do.</p>	<p>Administration is unsure of what this comment is referring to.</p>
Yes	<p>I fully support the planting of native species as street trees, ones that will provide adequate shade when mature and food/habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>I would like council to go further with compulsory verge tree planting outside residences currently without any to improve green canopy and tackle the real issue of urban heat sinks.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Clause 1(iii) of the policy states that continuity of canopy will take precedence over individual objections.</p>
Yes	<p>Tree cover is important for shade and animal habitat. Natives are better for native animal species.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Yes	<p>Native species will attract native birds, are more drought tolerant and better for waterways than deciduous or introduced species</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Yes	<p>Native species significantly improve biodiversity, as they provide more food and habitat for native birds and insects, including native bees and butterflies. Our local native birds and insects are not adapted to trees from overseas; so these trees are barren in comparison to natives.</p> <p>Deciduous trees contribute excessive nutrients to</p>	<p>Noted. The City acknowledges that in the majority of cases, native species can be chosen over deciduous trees. In some cases, deciduous may be the best option owing the shade from tall buildings, very small verges and/or residential preferences.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	<p>receiving wetlands. Their soft leaves decompose readily over a short period. This results in an excessive release of nutrients, causing poor water quality, algal blooms and death and illness of aquatic fauna. Even deciduous trees planted a long way from the nearest wetland can harm our wetlands and waterways via our traditional, piped drainage systems. See Water note 25: The effects and management of deciduous trees on waterways via www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/water-note-25-the-effects-and-management-of-deciduous-trees-waterways</p> <p>Choosing natives may help increase awareness that Perth is within an internationally recognised biodiversity hotspot.</p> <p>Perth is internationally significant because of the huge diversity - with over 8000 species of native plant. It also internationally significant due to continuing loss of remnant vegetation by land clearing. About half of south-west WA's plant species are found nowhere else on earth.</p> <p>The City of Vincent can be a leader, teacher and champion, working towards greater awareness and better urban biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Yes</p>	<p>I'm OK with the changes - but I have an old tree that drops dangerous nuts all over the pathway - if we don't keep it clean constantly you can slip on them and could really be injured. I have called the council several times and asked for it to be trimmed like the one on the other side of the road. The power line runs through the middle of the tree and only branches near the power line are trimmed whilst the other side is neatly fully trimmed. I pay the same rates I should have the same service - in fact since I renovated in keeping with the character of the house at extensive additional expense - I pay a further 943.00 due to the</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	<p>value of the house. I have been told its the cost as to why my side of the road cannot be fully trimmed. The tree is unwieldy - the amount of nuts on the ground is unsafe - they can get stuck in your shoes and can be all over the inside of the house. If the council will not trim it properly - allow me to when its greens pick up time. I am deeply unsatisfied with how the street looks one side neat and tidy the other side over grown and uneven - please do something about this!</p>	
<p>Unsure</p>	<p>'The amendments proposed are vague and don't explain the problems they are seeking to address.</p> <p>I think that the attachments element is OK.</p> <p>I think that the protections, species, purpose, and surrounds requires more thought.</p> <p>Specific situations that should be addressed (in my view):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trees with any type of allergy potential should be excluded from selection. 2. Trees must be selected with consideration for location parameters including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - expected size (including root system) - probability to damage roads, lift paths, interfere with power/public infrastructure/services drop branches. <p>Examples -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Placing gum trees on a 2-3m wide verge (Chelmsford st) b. Placing Trees under power infrastructure, knowing that they will eventually interfere with power (pick a street). c. Placing Trees near bus stops (eg fitzgerald/chelmsford) causing buses to collide and damage the tree/bus, and obscuring the passengers & drivers view requiring the passenger to hail buses at the last second, and causing 	<p>Administration does not actively plant trees that are known to cause allergies.</p> <p>Tree selection takes into account growth habits of trees as well as the specific constraints of each planting site.</p> <p>Street Trees are owned by the City and therefore maintained by the City.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	<p>secondary traffic hazards.</p> <p>3. Protections should have reasonable provision for:</p> <p>a. Replacement (Trees can be problematic for many unanticipated reasons), while in principle I support /advocate for protection, it should not be designed as a deterrent and the administrative process should be simple and without expense (outside the activities involved). Council should have provision to assist Large projects like replacing an inappropriately selected Tree.</p> <p>b. Maintenance/pruning provisions should exist and not require administration. Residents should be empowered to maintain Trees with low hanging branches that cross roads and footpaths without constraint. Trees in suburban areas need maintenance, it's inevitable, and the city should not impede (and by extension) carry the burden of minor maintenance.</p> <p>c. Specific complexity for developers just makes what is probably an already necessary step, more costly and ultimately cost end owners or prevent necessary infil development. Just ensure there is a requirement to replace or remedy and make it reasonable, or and form of penalty should have a local area consult, ie, no blanket rule on how to penalise for, what in many situations is an accidental act.</p>	
No	<p>focus on natives is not needed - need best trees regardless of origin - speed of growth, canopy, leaf & bark shedding; water effectiveness</p>	<p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions. This is reflected in the target of 75% native trees which was determined based on a review of previous years plantings.</p>
Yes	<p>Anything that encourages members of the community to spend time outdoors in nature is a welcome initiative.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

Yes	<p>Policy amendments look good. I can't see any mention regarding how ratepayers request a tree planting. We have 2 verges where trees have not been planted or have been removed for whatever reason. I'll submit a general request to see if we can have trees planted</p>	<p>Noted. Information on how to request tree works is contained within the supporting Policy Guidelines and Procedures.</p>
Yes	<p>I fully support the policy as it is essential street trees are protected and canopy is enhanced to mitigate urban heat and provide resilience to climate change (particularly in light of infill development and loss of trees and gardens in the private space). Preferencing local native trees is supported to improve biodiversity and sense of place. A consideration is how to protect the soil zone around the base of the tree, as compaction and damage to the root zone severely impacts a trees health, longevity, height and canopy size.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
No	<p>I personally know a number of people who prune their street trees and do a MUCH better job than the ridiculous tree loppers hired by the City. In those cases, these good folks should not be penalised for keeping their verge tree healthy and happy. I guess they can't be fined, since your policy only states potential payment for damages, and there is no damage. How do you deal with that kind of situation? Also, some folks plant (and maintain) useful trees like olive, fig, etc. These offer benefit to all neighbours. This use case is also not mentioned. Finally, the proposed penalty will do absolutely nothing to discourage developers, builders, contractors and tradies from damaging verge trees. Maybe try a fine like \$5,000 plus \$1,000 for every year of the age of the tree? Or more depending on the size of the development. And none of this having-to-catch-them-in-the-act rubbish. That never happens. Make the developer responsible for the state of verge trees in front of their development from the moment</p>	<p>Administration will investigate instances of unauthorised pruning as they arise. The City's fees and charges outlines bonds for verge trees to ensure they are protected. Unauthorised plantings maybe retained if deemed suitable in species and location. Clause 2(i).</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	they apply for planning approval or, even better, the moment they own the block (just like any other resident).	
Yes	Particularly like the policy of planting native trees and making sure developers take care to protect trees already planted on verges when doing construction.	Noted.
Yes	I think it is important to active our streets. And to monitor plants selection.	Noted.
Yes	Enjoy swings etc on verge for community feel / enhancement	Noted.
Yes	Love the swings on the verges. Creates a community with kids playing out the front of houses	Noted.
Yes	A verge can become an extension of the home owners garden by enhancing an under utilised space. I would like to see more endemic species planted and a replacement program of the infamous Queensland Box Tree.	Noted. Administration no longer actively plants Queensland Box Trees. If one requires removal, it is replaced with a different suitable species.
No	The Council can't dictate tree requirements when they refuse to properly maintain the trees. You can't have it both ways. The tree at front of my house constantly drops FULL BRANCHES and hangs over my property. I have asked the Council to properly prune but you refuse to.	Administration undertakes scheduled pruning of all street trees where required. Residents can also request property line pruning which is carried out in conjunction with pruning programs.
Yes	It makes the streets more vibrant and fun, and brings community into the shared areas.	Noted.
Yes	Jacarandas should be an option to be in keeping with lots of other trees in the City.	Noted.
Yes	I love that my suburb is filled with trees, and the verge swings and ladders are great for local children	Noted.

Summary of Submissions:

Yes	I fully support the proposed amendments to the Street Tree policy. The proposed changes continue the City's sensible approach to managing street trees and citizen stewardship of their verges. The abundance of adopted verges and play equipment on street trees is one of the great features of living in Vincent - it supports social interaction between neighbours and also helps slow traffic through the actual or perceived presence of children on the street. More local government's should be following Vincent's lead in this space. Keep up the great work!	Noted.
Yes	It's great to see kids playing on the tree attachments, makes the neighbourhood feel very welcoming and family friendly. I also feel these attachments help people meet more local neighbours and is good for the community!	Noted.
Yes	We need to do more to protect trees and reintroduce natives	Noted.
Yes	Keeps the streets nice and family friendly	Noted.
Yes	It is important to maintain a green streetscape. Areas devoid of trees retain to much heat and appear barren	Noted.
Yes	It's really important to maintain and improve the trees in our area. And it's great that families have the freedom to use their street trees for their kids	Noted.
Yes	Preference for native trees is a must	Noted.
Yes	We love a street with swings in their trees. What a great use of them to promote community spirit. Not everyone had a mature tree in their backyard so this is great.	Noted.
Yes	I said yes to question 1. hesitantly as no list of preferred species was in the Street Tree Policy. Definite lack of detail - not transparent public consultation. I would like to have seen a commitment to a target number of trees planted in the winter season. I would like to have seen a database of identified planting locations even if it were 1 per dwelling, 1 per rateable premises I find the Street Tree Policy lacking in any real detail of a 'forward	Noted. The current Greening Plan contains targets for tree planting.

Summary of Submissions:

	plan' thus lacking in substance of meaning. Are medium strips included?	
Yes	<p>This is very important - "Introduction of street tree protection requirements for developers and landowners carrying out works on or next to the verge area"</p> <p>Our neighbour recently added a second story extension by "Nexus Homes" and the damage caused to the very healthy verge tree during the process was sad to see.</p> <p>In saying that I have observed other developers protect verge trees by installing plastic cages around the trees etc to protect them</p> <p>It would be greta if this clause was included to make these developers accountable for their actions eg fines</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Verge tree preservation bonds are required to be paid by developers.</p>
Yes	<p>Support trees being retained as long as it's not used as an excuse to increase housing density.</p> <p>Less keen about permission being required for play equipment to be attached</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
No	<p>Native trees create the perfect avenue for the spread of fire in our suburbs.</p> <p>Stop finding more ways to hinder development, owners choices and get back to Council core responsibilities being roads, rubbish and rates (reduction)</p>	<p>Due to the urban nature of the City, the risk of fire is minimal with the planting of native tree species.</p> <p>The policy provisions for developments have been developed to provide guidance to ensure protection of street trees.</p>
Yes	<p>I love being able to have a swing on the verge bottlebrush. My kids are too big for it these days, but our footpath friends all know their kids are welcome to use it 😊 in my opinion it's another way to build a spirit of community. I'd love even more native trees as verge trees (no box trees or (evil) Robinias please!! 😊</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Yes	<p>We have a young child and enjoy having a swing on our verge.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

No	Happy with natives, happy with swings etc. BUT all none native species should be allowed to be removed and changed to natives OR fruit trees, Olives, oranges, berries figs etc. If builders kill or damage trees and this includes, Western Power, Gas, Water Corp and NBN then remove and replace with natives or fruit trees.	Administration focuses on retaining canopy wherever possible. Should a non-native tree require removal (in-line with policy provisions), then a suitable replacement will be determined with a preference to the use of a native species.
Yes	Street tree attachments add to the charm of the area.	Noted.
Yes	I think swings on verges encourage children to go outside and play. I prefer native trees because they support local wildlife, provided they also have a big enough canopy.	Noted.
Yes	I love that tree houses and swings are on our street verges. It says as a community we honour and respect childhood. I would like to see consistency in street trees as it is more aesthetically pleasing than different varieties in a street.	Noted. Streetscape consistency is not supported as this does not provide resilience and diversity against current and future environmental threats.
Yes	Playing out in your local neighbourhood is a vital step in children developing a relationship and therefore care of their natural environment and neighbourhoods. It's an important factor in developing independent mobility. Any incidental opportunities that allow for unstructured play around neighbourhood streets encourages this and more. For more information refer to the 1000 streets project by Play Australia and the City of Vincent's own Play street (Rae street) pilot project.	Noted.
Yes	Street trees are not only beautiful, they provide habitat for birds and insects, provide shade and offset some of the carbon in our atmosphere. The more native street streets, the better!	Noted.
Yes	Better for wildlife, water conservation, waterways including river because of deciduous, show pride in being Oz rather than foreign locality	Noted.

Summary of Submissions:

Yes	Along with removal of overground power, a focus on improving canopy coverage will greatly improve the streetscape of the city.	Noted.
Yes	Important to our urban ecology that we have species native to our local area that can withstand our climate and are food sources to local wildlife/insects. Tree canopy needs to increase to help keep our suburbs cool.	Noted.
Yes	I would like to see a greener suburb but with more consistent planting that enhance the suburb rather than what seems a scatter gun approach to tree selection. In some cases i would like the council to invest in replanting in different street to gain more consistency.	Noted. Streetscape consistency is not supported as this does not provide diversity and resilience against current and future environmental threats.
Yes	We need to preserve existing coverage and expand coverage of trees particularly in hot spots (eg Brisbane St between Stirling and Pier). The shift to natives is good but if smaller trees, closer planting is required to get the benefit. Canopy provides cooling which make streets more attractive for playing, walking and cycling.	Noted.
Yes	I like trees! But, I think the council should take more care in what is planted, you say natives, like Queensland Box!! When selecting you should make sure the leaf drop is at a minimum. I live in a street that FLOODS and the drains are blocked and not maintained enough, there are Box trees and many natives in the nearby park, the leaf drop is a huge problem and the maintenance that goes with trees is not enough, thus impacting on homes nearby when drainage is inadequate.	Noted. Administration carefully selects trees for each location to ensure they are the most suitable.
Yes	agree with the 75% requirement for native trees.	Noted.

Summary of Submissions:

<p>Yes</p>	<p>I mostly agree with all of amendment, however in some circumstances when planting in parks to replace old trees etc I think some non native that grow quickly and provide a much wider canopy should be considered aswell as native trees. Trees that match up to growing conditions in our climate. A lot of native trees do not have that wonderful wide spreading canopy.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Yes</p>	<p>I fully support the selection of native trees for streets. In addition I would like to see the incentivisation for planting out of paved verges, fines or disincentives for removing or damaging street trees and a more sympathetic approach to tree pruning.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>No</p>	<p>Preference for planting native trees: I think non-native species of trees have much to offer and should be considered for street trees: Shade in summer is often much denser and more cooling for introduced species; and deciduous ones the let light in in winter and this means houses and gardens are then less dingy. Some introduced species of trees seem to be doing well in the Perth climate. Some are also beautiful - a street full of flowering Jacarandas is very attractive and give the street a character which appeals to people. Some of the narrow streets might benefit from smaller trees also the big trees block out the view to sky from the house. If it is native trees, please consider the beautiful flowering species such as the red and pink flowering gums.</p>	<p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions.</p> <p>Depending on site constraints and residential preferences, an exotic species may be deemed to be the most appropriate choice.</p> <p>Wherever possible, Administration will select species that have aesthetic flowers as they also provide food and habitat to which increases biodiversity.</p>
	<p>Summarised Comments: In the Introduction it would be good to add to the 'enhanced community well-being', the human health values of local native trees, as well as the benefit to local native wildlife such as local native birds and insects. Also add that an increased tree canopy will increase carbon</p>	<p>Introduction will be amended to include habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	<p>sequestration and is a positive action against climate change.</p> <p>'WA local native species should be required for new planting across City owned or managed land'. Avoid tree species which are known to cause human health problems including hay fever and allergies'.</p> <p>'Deciduous trees are unsuitable and should not be planted. Deciduous trees cause catchment management issues.</p> <p>To significantly increase street tree canopy, there is a need for the City of Vincent to accelerate its proposed <u>underground power program</u>, so that street trees can grow and spread more.</p> <p>So-called 'remedial pruning to form the shape of trees, encourage new growth...' should be removed as it can be an issue of more branch breaks in extreme weather.</p> <p>The last dot point, 'Property line prune (upon adjoining property resident request) to remove any canopy overhanging into private property.' - should be removed.</p>	<p>The exclusive planting of WA local natives is not supported due to the limited number of species, many of which are unsuitable for most locations (e.g. Jarrahs and Marris). In addition, due to climate change, there is a possibility in the future that local species may not be the most suitable and more arid species should be considered.</p> <p>The City acknowledges that in the majority of cases, native species can be chosen over deciduous trees. In some cases, deciduous may be the best option owing to the shade from tall buildings, very small verges and/or residential preferences.</p> <p>The City is working toward implementing underground power. Additional tree planting projects will be undertaken following the undergrounding of power to further increase canopy coverage.</p> <p>Administration does not agree with the need to remove remedial pruning clause as this is sometimes required for tree maintenance.</p> <p>Administration does not agree with the removal of property line pruning requests as this will lead to a significant increase in unauthorised pruning which could be detrimental to our street trees.</p>
	<p>Summarised Comments: The policy proposes a target of 75% of new planting to be Australian native species. The policy objective only refers to "maximise canopy coverage".</p> <p>Species selection can have significant environmental impacts, particularly relating to water consumption and stormwater pollution. Exotic deciduous trees impact negatively on water quality.</p>	<p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions.</p> <p>The City acknowledges that in the majority of cases, native species can be chosen over deciduous trees. In some cases, deciduous may be the best option owing the shade from tall buildings, very small verges and/or residential preferences.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

	<p>While I support the intent to have a high target for using Australian species for new plantings, I consider that <u>all</u> new plantings should be Australian species, unless there is a strong reason such as maintaining a heritage streetscape to use an exotic species.</p> <p>Clause 1. (v) second bullet point – amend 75% to 95%</p> <p>I also consider “reducing negative environmental impacts relating to species selection” should be added to Objectives.</p> <p>Not within this policy, but relevant, I am concerned about the ongoing use of the Tree Selection Tool. This tool should be reevaluated as I consider it is not fit for purpose.</p>	<p>Administration uses the street tree selection tool where required to assist in tree selection. It is not solely relied on for tree selection.</p>
	<p>Summarised Comment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tree species selection should also take into account other environmental impacts not just canopy cover especially the requirements to support bird and animal life and water requirements. 2. The definition of Australian native species should be either supplemented or replaced by reference to indigenous trees to our area. We suggest a target of 50% local to the area natives but this is quite arbitrary and ideally even higher. 3. For transparency it would be good if Vincent provided an online service like South Perth does Intramaps to show trees. This can also be used to indicate priority areas for canopy and show residents changes from year to year demonstrating changes to canopy. 	<p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions. Natives are known for their provision of habitat and food source for native fauna.</p> <p>The exclusive planting of WA local natives is not supported due to the limited number of species, many of which are unsuitable for most locations (e.g. Jarrahs and Marris). In addition, due to climate change, there is a possibility in the future that local species may not be the most suitable and more arid species should be considered.</p> <p>Street Tree mapping project has identified locations where additional trees can be planted. Administration will implement planting projects in these locations.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

<p>Summarised Comment: I request that the City consider including a statement about the importance of street trees as a food source for native bird species.</p> <p>I also ask that the City consider including in this section, the importance of trees that provide all year shade.</p> <p>I ask that the City consider including a statement that trees that are appropriate for the climate of, and water availability in, Perth should be key criteria for tree selection. In addition, trees that are relatively fast growing - and will provide shade sooner than later.</p> <p>1 Street tree planting. should there not be a clause in section 1, subsection (I), that clearly states that a landowner or resident is to seek approval from the city before planting any tree?</p> <p>Subsection (II) states that suitable, planting locations will be determined by the city. I draw your attention to the city's greening strategy, which has a map identifying tree planting locations for each street in the City and the priority. What is the relationship between that document, and this policy? Furthermore, will the City advise council and the public about where the city is planning to plant trees prior to a final decision being made?</p> <p>Subsection (III) is strongly supported.</p> <p>Subsection (V), as stated in my proposed additions to the introduction section, elements, such as bird food sources,</p> <p>Regarding the target of 75% of new planting to be native species, it is noted that this is for all council managed</p>	<p>Introduction will be amended to include habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>The exclusive planting of WA local natives is not supported due to the limited number of species, many of which are unsuitable for most locations (e.g. Jarrahs and Marris). In addition, due to climate change, there is a possibility in the future that local species may not be the most suitable and more arid species should be considered.</p> <p>Clause 2 will be amended to clarify that the City is responsible for all tree planting.</p> <p>Street Tree mapping project has identified locations where additional trees can be planted. Administration will implement planting projects in these locations. The Current Greening Plan is under review and will be incorporated into the new Enhance Environment Strategy.</p> <p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions. Natives are known for their provision of habitat and food source for native fauna.</p> <p>The target for 75% is across all City Owned Land (i.e. Verges and parks/reserves). There is no specific target for street trees as following a review of previous years planting, Administration deemed it best to have an overall target. This will enable ease of reporting and tracking.</p> <p>Clause 5 will be amended to clarify that tree protection also involves watering if required.</p> <p>Verge paving requirements are contained within the Verge Policy. Current verge paving applications must not exceed one</p>
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Summary of Submissions:

	<p>land. What is the target for new street tree planting to be native species? Why isn't a target incorporated into this policy? In my view, 100% of new plantings should be native species.</p> <p>Section 5, Street tree protection I strongly support this section. I request that the City consider a clause in this section that requires the builder or owner, to ensure the tree is adequately watered during the period of works.</p> <p>I also believe the city should consider including a clause here that states that new development applications, and in particular, the location of crossovers are positioned and/or minimised so as to protect existing trees and maximise permeable surfaces rather than paved surfaces.</p>	<p>third paving, as per current application form. Street Tree Policy Guidelines and Procedure contain more detailed information on crossovers.</p>
	<p>Summarised Comment: Concerned with the inadequately justified change from having consistency along streets, to an 'anything goes' approach which allows people to plant what they like (within reason) thus impacting what planners might describe as the rhythm of the street.</p> <p>The provision of street trees is more than just providing canopy coverage. They have the potential to provide habitat and to significantly add to the aesthetic appeal of our neighbourhoods. They also have the potential to create or add to a sense of place. Sadly, they also have the potential to adversely impact on people's health, as well as the health of the environment.</p> <p>The selection of Australian natives should also be mindful of potential climate changes.</p>	<p>Due to the rise of PSHB and possible future threats from other pests/disease and climate change, the recommendation is to have species diversity within a street to ensure resilience. This has been reflected in clause 1(v).</p> <p>Introduction will be amended to include habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>Administration acknowledges that the best species for each location is required. This can generally be achieved by selecting natives that are best suited to our climate and other environmental conditions.</p> <p>Clause 1 (v) will be amended to clarify what is meant by streetscape diversity.</p> <p>Clause 2 will be amended to clarify that the City is responsible for all tree planting.</p>

Summary of Submissions:

<p>It should also be recognised that the selection of the wrong species can adversely impact on people’s health and on the environment.</p> <p><u>Clause 1 (iii) – continuity of canopy</u> This clause is a welcome inclusion. We should strive for visual consistency rather than individual owner’s often misplaced preferences. This is probably best addresses in 1 (v).</p> <p><u>Clause 1 (v) – species selection</u> I think the fundamental rule of thumb should be that plantings should be the same species as the existing chosen species with one exception – where a decision has been made to replace that species in a street (e.g. they aren’t coping with the change in climate or have proved to be unsuitable).</p> <p>The current clause also vaguely mentions ‘streetscape species diversity’ in a way that could suggest that there would be a diversity of species in a single street. The species diversity should be on a street-by-street basis rather than a tree-by-tree basis.</p> <p><u>Clause 2 – Unauthorised/Unsuitable planting</u> I do not support the intention of this clause as it stands. I think it is a massive change in philosophy and is giving the green light to anybody who wants to have a different tree to simply poison the existing tree and plant something new.</p> <p><u>Clause 3 – Street tree pruning</u> It needs to make it clear that it is an offence to prune a street tree. While it is mentioned in Clause 6 (i) it should</p>	<p>Clause 5 (iii) states that if the protections required in 5(i) +(ii) are unfeasible then a management plan must be sought from an arborist at the applicant’s expense. Due to the small size of many verges in Vincent, tree canopy is often greater than the entire verge. 2m has been nominated to protect whilst also allowing works to occur if managed correctly.</p> <p>Clause 7 (i) will be amended to clarify ‘immediately adjacent’.</p>
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Summary of Submissions:

	<p>be included here in case someone thinks that 'pruning' is different to 'unlawful damage'.</p> <p><u>Clause 5 – Street tree protection</u> I do not think that tree protection goes far enough. The clause says that no excavation may be carried out under the drip line, yet allows heavy machinery and materials storage to be located there, as long as it is 2 metres from the base of the tree.</p> <p><u>Clause 6 (ii) Unauthorised interference</u> I do not support the 'optional' suggestion about requiring payment to repair any damage caused by unauthorised pruning. The word 'may' should be replaced with 'will' – remember, this is just about recovering costs for repairing or replacing a street tree, not a fine for doing something wrong.</p> <p><u>Clause 7 – attachments</u> To cater for properties on corner blocks the wording should be changed from '<i>in front of</i>' to '<i>immediately adjacent to</i>' in clause 7 (i). Also, clause 3 (iii) must make it clear that permission must be obtained for 'non-standard' attachments prior to installation.</p>	
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STREET TREE POLICY

Legislation / local law requirements	<i>Local Government Act 1995, section 9.48</i> <i>Local Administration Act 1997, section 55</i> <i>Main Roads Act 1930, sections 24 and 27A</i> <i>Public Works Act 1902, Part V</i> <i>Local Government (Uniform Local Provisions) Regulations 1996</i> City of Vincent Local Government Property Local Law 2021, Part 9
Relevant delegations	2.2.9 Control Reserves and Certain Unvested Facilities 3.1.5 Local Government Property Local Law 2021
Related policies, procedures and supporting documentation	Verge Treatments, Plantings and Beautification Street Tree Policy – Guidelines and Procedures (to be developed)

PRELIMINARY

INTRODUCTION

Trees in urban environments provide many social, environmental and economic benefits. Key among these is increased habitat, biodiversity, and canopy coverage, their contribution Trees contribute to the amenity and walkability of local neighbourhoods through the provision of shade and the mitigation of 'urban heat island effect' which contributes to enhanced community well-being and property values.

The City recognises the significance of street trees within the urban setting in terms of creating functional and aesthetic streetscapes and has the responsibility for the planning, establishment, care, control and maintenance of all street trees in the City.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the effective management and protection of all street trees within the City of Vincent.

OBJECTIVE

To provide guidance for the planting and management of street trees to maximise canopy coverage within thoroughfares.

SCOPE

This policy sets out the process and conditions by which street trees are managed within the City and applies to all trees located in thoroughfares within the City of Vincent.

STREET TREE POLICY

POLICY PROVISIONS

POLICY

1. Street Tree Planting

- (i) The City is responsible for the planting of all street trees which will be undertaken through it's annual planting program during the winter months.
- (ii) Suitable planting locations for new and/or additional trees will be determined by the City.
- (iii) Tree planting to provide continuity of canopy coverage will take precedence over adjoining property owners objection to street trees being located on the road verge.
- (iv) Adjacent land owners will be informed of the City's intention to plant street trees at least two weeks prior to planting.
- (v) Tree species selection will be determined by the City taking into account the following –
 - Provision of canopy coverage – larger growing species will be preferred due to their increased contribution to canopy coverage;
 - Preference of Australian native species to achieve an annual target of 75% new planting across City owned or managed land being native tree species; **and**
 - Streetscape species diversity, in line with existing streetscape maintenance requirements, to improve the resilience of our urban forest against current and future threats, including climate change; and
 - Other factors such as life expectancy, drought tolerance, disease and pest resistance and maintenance needs.
- (vi) The City will undertake scheduled watering to ensure the establishment of new tree plantings. Ongoing watering will be undertaken where feasible, subject to weather conditions.

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2. Unauthorised or Unsuitable Street Tree Planting

- (i) The City is responsible for the planting of all street trees. Any other planting without authorisation of the City is not permitted.
- (ii) A street tree planted without the City's approval may be retained at the discretion of the City providing it is a suitable variety for the specific location.
- (iii) Owing to the varying growth habit of tree species, certain trees or species may be deemed by the City to be unsuitable in particular locations (e.g. due to unpredicted growth characteristics, risk of disease / pest infestation, limb stability, etc). In such instances, a qualified Arborist will be engaged to provide a report and recommendations on the tree which will be carried out in accordance with the policy.

3. Street Tree Pruning

- (i) The City is responsible for the pruning of all street trees.

STREET TREE POLICY

- (ii) The City, or its nominated contractor, shall undertake the pruning of street trees on a scheduled basis, where required, to address at least one of the following requirements –
- Clear the canopy from interference with overhead powerlines and other essential services;
 - Remove overhanging branches considered hazardous to traffic, buildings or structures;
 - Under prune low growing branches considered hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists;
 - Remedial prune to form the shape of trees, encourage new growth or remove dead, dying or diseased limbs and branches; or
 - Property line prune (upon adjoining property resident request) to remove any canopy overhanging into private property.

4. Street Tree Removal

- (i) The City recognises that in some cases, street tree retention may not be feasible, owing to the condition, and possible location or species of the tree.
- (ii) All requests for street tree removal will be assessed by the City in accordance with this policy.
- (iii) The removal of a street tree may be considered where the tree is –
- Diseased or dying beyond remedial treatment, or completely dead;
 - Determined by the City to be structurally weak or irreparably damaged (e.g. by a storm or vehicle accident);
 - Hazardous to pedestrians, cyclists or motorists owing to interference with sightlines presented by the tree's alignment or spacing;
 - Affected by road widening, service modification/relocation or other infrastructure works and all other options to retain the tree have been deemed by the City to be unsuitable;
 - Adjacent to an approved development crossover and all other options to retain the tree have been deemed by the City to be unsuitable;
 - Not an approved variety and is unacceptable to the City; or
 - Causing damage to surrounding infrastructure and all options to repair the damage and retain the tree have been deemed unsuitable by the City. In such cases, a qualified Arborist will be engaged to undertake an assessment of the tree and provide recommendations.
- (iv) Owing to the hazardous nature of the task, tree removal shall only be carried out by the City or suitably qualified arborist approved by the City.

STREET TREE POLICY

- (v) Where a tree is removed, the City will plant a replacement tree of a suitable species as practicably close to the location of the removed tree as part of its annual tree planting program.
- (vi) Where a tree is approved for removal for a subdivision or development, a replacement tree is to be planted by the applicant at their full expense, with the tree species, size and location being determined by the City.

5. Street Tree Protection

- (i) Any person undertaking works on the verge or works that are likely to impact the verge shall take all necessary precautions to ensure a street tree is not damaged during the course of the works.
- (ii) The following measures are to be carried out to provide protection to any affected street tree for the duration of the works –
 - A street tree is not to be pruned, or damaged as a result of the works.
 - Provision of free standing mesh fencing to provide protection to the street tree with due consideration of the tree protection zone requirements. This should be being a minimum two metres from the base of the street tree unless otherwise approved by the City. The structure must be appropriately braced and regularly checked to ensure it is not creating any hazards and no building materials are to be placed or stored within this area.
 - No excavation works are to be carried out underneath the drip line canopy of a street tree unless approved by the City;
 - The use of appropriately sized machinery to ensure that contact with the canopy of the street tree does not occur.
 - Supplementary watering is to be provided, where required, to ensure the street tree remains in good health.
- (iii) If the protection detailed in clause 5(ii) is unfeasible, the City may request, at the applicants full expense, a report from a suitably qualified Arborist approved by the City to guide management of the tree during the development.

6. Unauthorised Interference, Removal, Pruning or Damage to a Street Tree

- (i) In accordance with the *City of Vincent Local Government Property Local Law 2021* (Part 9), it is an offence to unlawfully damage a street tree.
- (ii) Where a person unlawfully damages a street tree by way of unauthorised pruning, removal, interference or damage, the City may by Notice require that person to pay the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the street tree within a specified timeframe.

7. Street Tree Attachments

- (i) An owner or occupier may on a street tree located on the verge directly in front of immediately adjacent to their property, install a permissible street tree attachment in accordance with the policy.
- (ii) A permissible street tree attachment may comprise the following–

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STREET TREE POLICY

- A swing;
 - A rope ladder;
 - A platform / structure (e.g. tree house); and
 - Decoration and lighting.
- (iii) A street tree attachment other than a permissible street tree attachment specified in clause 7(ii) may be considered permissible at the discretion of the City in accordance with this Policy.
- (iv) A street tree attachment –
- must not be permanently fixed to a street tree and must not incorporate sharp objects, protrusions or other elements which, in the City’s opinion would present a hazard to people or property;
 - must not, in the City’s opinion, obstruct or interfere with a clear line of sight for pedestrians, cyclists or motorists; and
 - must not, in the City’s opinion, adversely affect the health or structural integrity of the street tree to which they are attached.
- (v) Where a street tree attachment is determined to not meet the requirements of this Policy, the adjacent owner/occupier must remove and/or modify all or part of the street tree attachment to comply with the requirements to the satisfaction of the City.

OFFICE USE ONLY	
Responsible Officer	Please use title only
Initial Council Adoption	DD/MM/YYYY
Previous Title	Applicable if the policy has been renamed
Reviewed / Amended	DD/MM/YYYY
Next Review Date	MM/YYYY

STREET TREE POLICY

