## 3. GREENING PLAN 2018-2023

### Objective 1: Increase Canopy Cover on Public Land

Tree canopy cover is defined as foliage that is 2.5 meters or higher above the ground and therefore provides overhead shade for people and for the surfaces and materials that people interact with in the environment.

A lack of tree canopy in built up urban centres creates a heat island effect, resulting in temperatures at ground level that are significantly hotter during summer than in nearby 'leafy' areas.

In recognition of this, cities around the world are increasing urban tree planting. Targets for urban canopy cover internationally range from 17 to 34%. Best practice for urban residential and light commercial areas is 25%.

Taking into consideration local factors such as a drying and warming climate, declining access to groundwater and competition for space both above and below ground, the following targets and actions have been created.

Targets:

- Tree canopy cover of 35% on public land by 2050 (interim target: 23.33% by 2023 based on 2019 mapping data)
- Net increase in canopy cover of 1.88% compared to each previous imaging cycle (imaging to be completed every five years)
- Net year-on-year increase in street tree numbers – 100 trees on average per year (current number ~13,000)
- 51 kilometres of greenways established by 2050 (interim target: 26.5 kilometres by 2023, building on 25 kilometres of greenway planting completed between 2014 and 2018)

Actions:

- Plant more trees than are lost or removed
- Complete 1.5 kilometres of additional greenway planting per year
- Select trees to maximise overall canopy cover for each planting area
- Implement quality pruning & management techniques to maximise the canopy of each individual tree