

6.4 OUTCOME OF ADVERTISING AND ADOPTION OF STREET TREE POLICY

- Attachments:**
1. **Attachment 1: Street Tree Policy**
 2. **Attachment 2: Street Tree Policy - Consultation Summary**
 3. **Attachment 3: Street Tree Policy - Guidelines and Procedures**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **NOTES the summary of submissions received in relation to the Street Tree Policy at Attachment 2;**
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 72 submissions, as summarised at **Attachment 2**.

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; and
- Street tree protection clauses to provide guidance for developers and land owners.

The amended Policy also addresses the below items following feedback from Council Workshop on 7 May 2024:

- Tree species selection to improve resilience of our urban forest against current and future threats, including climate change, pests and diseases;
- Scheduled tree watering to ensure establishment of new plantings and ongoing watering where feasible, subject to weather conditions; and
- Tree protection with due consideration of tree protection zone requirements.

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.

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

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 their contribution 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; and
 - Streetscape species diversity, in line with existing streetscape maintenance requirements, to improve the resilience of our urban forest against current and future threats.

2. Unauthorised or Unsuitable Street Tree Planting

- (i) 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.
- (ii) 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.
- (ii) The City, or its nominated contractor, shall undertake the pruning of street trees on a scheduled basis 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;

STREET TREE POLICY

- 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.
- (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

STREET TREE POLICY

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, 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.
- (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 their property, install a permissible street tree attachment in accordance with the policy.
- (ii) A permissible street tree attachment may comprise the following–
- 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 –

STREET TREE POLICY

- 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

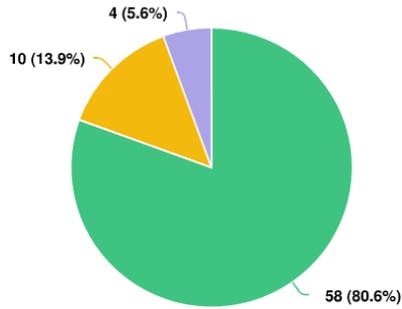


SURVEY QUESTIONS

Page 1 of 14

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

Page 3 of 14

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

	<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 12/02/2023 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 04:08 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 12/06/2023 12:15 AM</p>	<p>Because the City does not actively maintain its current street trees</p>

Page 4 of 14

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-

Page 5 of 14

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

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

Page 6 of 14

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

	<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 12/10/2023 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). 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>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>

Page 7 of 14

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

<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>

Page 8 of 14

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

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 11:08 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 02:18 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.

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 07:09 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.

Page 10 of 14

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 02:38 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 03:59 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

Page 11 of 14

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

Page 12 of 14

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

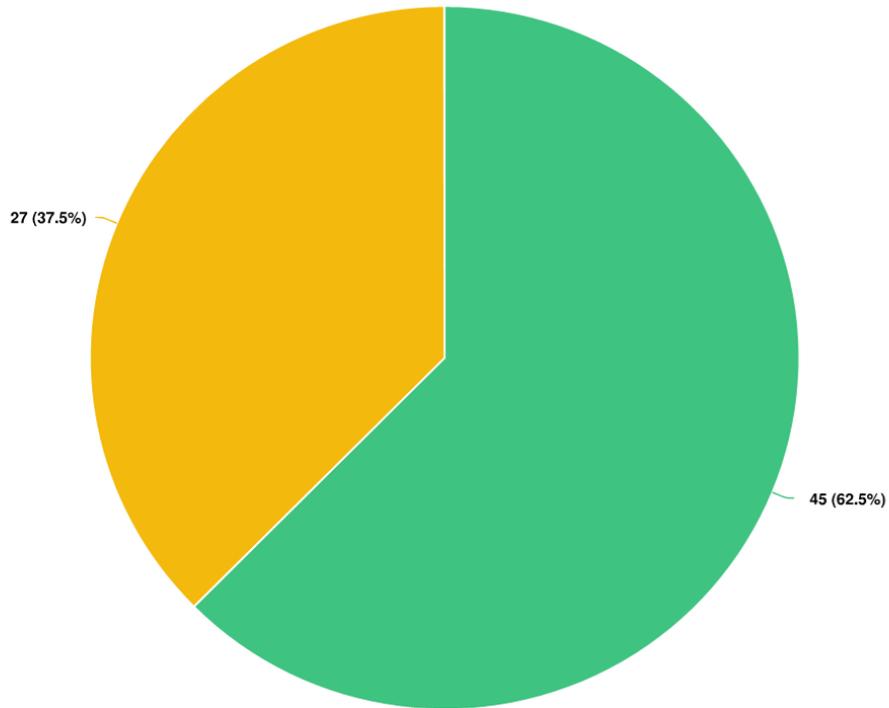
flowering gums.

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

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](#).