


CITY OF KALAMUNDA

Draft Urban Forest Strategy

ENGAGEMENT REPORT
JULY 2023



Table of Contents



03

Executive
Summary

04

Setting the
Scene

05

Stakeholder
Promotion

06

Agency
Feedback

09

Raising
Awareness

11

Engagement

12

Survey Results

18

Comments

25

Demographics

26

Direct
Submissions

Executive Summary

Council endorsed the Draft Urban Forest (UFS) Strategy 2020 on 24 November 2020 for the purpose of public consultation. Following the public consultation period, a peer review of the Draft UFS 2020 was undertaken and a revised Draft UFS 2023–2043 prepared in response to submissions received and the outcomes of the peer review. The UFS will guide the City in designing, managing, and improving the urban forest to protect and grow the urban forest canopy for the wellbeing of our residents, enterprise, and ecosystems.

Described collectively as ‘urban forest’, this vital asset includes canopy cover from trees on public and private land.

Leafy cover from tree canopy benefits our entire City. From protecting our environment, purifying our air quality, providing homes for birds and animals, and playing a vital role in carbon sequestration; to our social, psychological, and recreational wellbeing, reducing the “urban heat island effect” through natural shading and cooling effects, reducing utility costs, and increasing property values; community benefits are vast and varied.

To realise these benefits to the community, economy and environment, the City aspires to achieve a target overall urban canopy cover across the City of 30% by 2043.

This target aligns with international best practice targets for canopy cover.

Broadly, the goals of the UFS are based on the pillars to Protect, Grow, Engage, and Investigate.

This provides a holistic and strategic approach to achieving our aspirational target.

The City of Kalamunda released the updated Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043 for public comment from 30 March 2023 to 5 June 2023.

The engagement attracted:

162

Aware Visitors

88

Informed Visitors

13

Surveys Received

3

Direct Submissions

Setting the Scene

1

What is an urban forest?

Urban forest is a population of trees and vegetation growing within an urban setting for the purpose of improving the liveability of that urban setting whilst providing social, economic and environmental benefits to the community as a whole.

2

Why do we need a Strategy?

To maintain, preserve and protect our urban forest we face many challenges.

Some of these include:

- pathogen management
- public perception and perceived risks
- limited influence on private land
- competing priorities with utility providers
- changing urban environmental conditions
- ongoing budget constraints
- climate change including temperature changes and water availability
- available space to plant
- requirement to increase urban density

In order to appropriately address these issues and challenges, it is crucial that the city establish a holistic urban forest strategy to guide in the planned, systematic and integrated approach to managing the City's urban forest.

3

What are the goals of the draft Strategy?

The City of Kalamunda is well known for its bushland, forests, parks and leafy streets. To realise these benefits to the community, economy and environment, the City aspires to achieve a target overall urban canopy cover across the City of 30% by 2043. This target aligns with international best practice targets for canopy cover. Broadly, the goals of the UFS are based on the pillars to Protect, Grow, Engage, and Investigate. This provides a holistic and strategic approach to achieving our target.

4

When will the final version be released?

The two-month community consultation period closes on 5 June 2023. Feedback and suggestions will be reviewed, updates made and the final draft will go to Council for adoption in the second half of 2023.

From there it is hoped that the adopted Urban Forest Strategy will be available on the City's website for download end of 2023.

Stakeholder Promotion

The City made direct contact with the following stakeholders to inform them about the Strategy and asked for feedback:

- City of Armadale
- City of Belmont
- City of Canning
- City of Gosnells
- City of Swan
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- Department of Education
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Department of Health
- Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
- Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation
- Development WA
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Freight and Logistics Council
- Housing Industry Association
- Kalamunda Chamber of Commerce
- Main Roads Western Australia
- Metronet
- Nature Reserves Preservation Group
- Perth Airport
- Property Council
- Public Transport Authority
- Rotary Club of Kalamunda
- Rotary Club of Perth
- Shire of Mundaring
- Shire of York
- Tourism WA
- Urban Development Institute of Australia
- Urban Bushland Council
- Water Corporation
- Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA)
- Western Australian Planning Commission
- Western Power

Stakeholder Responses

The City received direct feedback from the following agencies, groups and community members:

- Department of Fire and Emergency Services (pg 6)
- Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (pg 6)
- Department of Water and Environment Regulation (pg 7)
- Main Roads Western Australia (pg 7)
- Tourism WA (pg 8)
- Nature Reserves Preservation Group of Kalamunda (pg 26)
- Urban Bushland Council WA (pg 32)
- Chas and Bev Dornan (pg 35)

Agency Feedback

DFES

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 31 May 2023 9:10 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: City of Kalamunda Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043-Public Consultation

Hi [REDACTED]

I have read through the City of Kalamunda's Draft Urban Forest Strategy.

DFES will not be providing any response or comments with respect to the Strategy and as there was no reason to assess any referral documents against State Planning Policy 3.7 Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (SPP 3.7) and the Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas (Guidelines), no assessment was conducted to issue an advice letter.

Regards

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central, WA 6164
 [REDACTED]

DPLH

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 1 June 2023 3:51 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: City of Kalamunda Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043-Public Consultation

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for providing the Land Use Management Division (LUM) of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) the opportunity to comment on the attached Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2024 (DUFS). It is understood that the City has also referred the matter for comment to DPLH's Land Use Planning Division as part of its public consultation.

Please note that at this stage LUM has no comment to provide regarding the DUFS however, any future proposals we receive will be subject to our standard process which includes consultation with the local government, where they can provide input around their Urban Forest Strategy if desired.

Should you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
 140 William Street, Perth WA 6000
 [REDACTED]



The Department is responsible for planning and managing land and heritage for all Western Australians – now and into the future

The Department acknowledges the Aboriginal people of Western Australia as the traditional custodians of this land, and we pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

Disclaimer: this email and any attachments are confidential and may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, distribution or copying of this material is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by replying to this email, then delete both emails from your system.

Agency Feedback ... continued

DWER

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
 Date: Wed May 24 10:38:35 AM AWST 2023
 Subject: : City of Kalamunda Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043-Public Consultation
 To: Enquiries

To whom it may concern,

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has assessed the Urban Forrest Strategy [sic] and has no objections.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
 Swan Avon Region
 7 Ellam St, Victoria Park, WA 6100

[REDACTED]

MRWA



Enquiries
 Our Ref:
 Your Ref:

10 May 2023

City of Kalamunda
 PO Box 42
 KALMPERTH WA 6001

Attention: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

DRAFT URBAN FOREST STRATEGY 2023 - 2043P – CITY OF KALAMUNDA - PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Thank you for your correspondence dated 5 April 2023 inviting Main Roads to comment on the above proposal. Main Roads have no comments to make in relation to the draft strategy.

Main Roads requests that should amendments to the current document take place, then these amendments are to be sent to [REDACTED] quoting the file reference above for review and possible further comment.

If you require any further information, please contact [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Agency Feedback ... continued

Tourism WA

Good afternoon,

Thank you for providing Tourism Western Australia (Tourism WA) the opportunity to make comment on the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (the Strategy) for the City of Kalamunda.

Tourism WA recognises the natural assets of the City of Kalamunda, which provide a nature-based tourism drawcard and form an integral part of the attraction of the hills area to visitors to WA.

Tourism WA supports the initiatives outlined in the strategy from a tourism perspective and recognises the importance of protecting the unique and diverse natural environment of the City of Kalamunda to maintain its appeal.

Once again, Tourism WA would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and congratulates the City of Kalamunda on the production of this Draft Local Planning Strategy.



WESTERN
AUSTRALIA
WALKING ON A DREAM

Level 10, 1 William Street PERTH WA 6000

GPO Box X2261 PERTH WA 6847



[Tourism WA Corporate](#) [Visit westernaustralia.com](#)



Raising Awareness

Community Promotion

Promotion

The City issued information regarding the Strategy and encouraged people to Have Their Say via:

EDM:

City Subscribers (2,423 email addresses)
– Promotion in May 2023.

Social Media:

Promotional posts were published the City's digital channels – with the most popular post reaching 1,286 accounts.

Engage Portal:

The online engage project received 162 visits and 13 survey submissions.

Echo Newspaper:

We ran a 1/4 page advert in the March issue which delivers both traditional and digital reach



Engagement Outcome

Reviewing the community engagement uptake, the following should be noted:

- Engagement was open for two months.
- Promotion to the community was weighted towards digital contact – EDM, social media and website.
- Hard copy surveys were distributed to libraries and the City's Admin Building.
- Those wishing to comment had to read the Strategy.

With this in mind, project engagement key takeaways are:

- The City boosted awareness via community groups including the Wildflower Society of WA and the Eucalypt Australia Community
- Promotion to City email subscribers received below-average open rate and click through rate
- 162 unique visitors to the City's engage portal indicating awareness was being raised.
- Conversion rates dropped off here, the assumption could be made for positive sentiment towards the Strategy.

Performance

Reach		Engagements		Negative interactions	
Total		Reactions		Total	
1,286		11		0	
Organic	1,286 (100%)	Comments	6	Unique	0
Paid	0 (0%)	Shares	4		
		View details			

Promotion ... continued

Examples

Communications included:

- Community Survey/Feedback Form
- Social Media Awareness
- Website Visibility/Link
- Media Release
- Inclusion in City commissioned EDMs
- Face-to-Face discussions led by Project Team
- Collateral was housed at libraries and the City's Admin Building
- Advert in local paper



Draft Urban Forest Strategy

30 March 2023 12:00 AM

The City of Kalamunda has released the Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043 for public comment.

The City of Kalamunda has released the Draft Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) 2023-2043 for public comment.

The Council endorsed the Draft UFS 2020 on 24 November 2020 for the purpose of public consultation. Following the public consultation period, a peer review of the Draft UFS 2020 was undertaken and a revised Draft UFS 2023-2043 prepared in response to submissions received and the outcomes of the peer review.

The UFS guides the City in designing, managing, and improving the urban forest to protect and grow the urban forest canopy for the wellbeing of our residents, enterprise, and ecosystems. Described collectively as 'urban forest', this vital asset includes canopy cover from trees on public and private land.

Leafy cover from tree canopy benefits our entire City. From protecting our environment, purifying our air quality, providing homes for birds and animals, and playing a vital role in carbon sequestration; to our social, psychological, and recreational wellbeing, reducing the "urban heat island effect" through natural shading and cooling effects, reducing utility costs, and increasing property values: community benefits are vast and varied.

To realise these benefits to the community, economy and environment, the City aspires to achieve a target overall urban canopy cover across the City of 30% by 2043. This target aligns with international best practice targets for canopy cover. Broadly, the goals of the UFS are based on the pillars to Protect, Grow, Engage, and Investigate. This provides a holistic and strategic approach to achieving our aspirational target.

It's now over to you to let us know what you think of the Strategy and the proposed actions.

Have your say via:

Online: engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au/draft-urban-forest-strategy-2023

Via post: Chief Executive Officer

City of Kalamunda

PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926

Via email: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Comments close 5 June 2023

Advertisement: Echo Newspaper March 2023

Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043

The City of Kalamunda has released the Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023-2043 for public comment.

The Urban Forest Strategy guides the City in designing, managing, and improving the urban forest. Leafy cover from tree canopy benefits our entire City and community benefits are vast and varied.

It's now over to you to let us know what you think of the Strategy and the proposed actions.

Feedback regarding the draft Strategy can be lodged:

Online: engage.kalamunda.wa.gov.au
Via post: Chief Executive Officer
 City of Kalamunda
 PO Box 42, Kalamunda WA 6926
Via email: enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Feedback closes 5pm, Tuesday 5 June 2023

City of Kalamunda
kalamunda.wa.gov.au

City eNews Promotion: May 2023



Get Involved, help out and have your say!

[The Big Picture](#)

Closes Monday 3 July 2023

[Commemorative Tree Planting](#)

Closes Monday 30 May 2023

[Nominate Your Local Hero](#)

Give recognition to local volunteers!

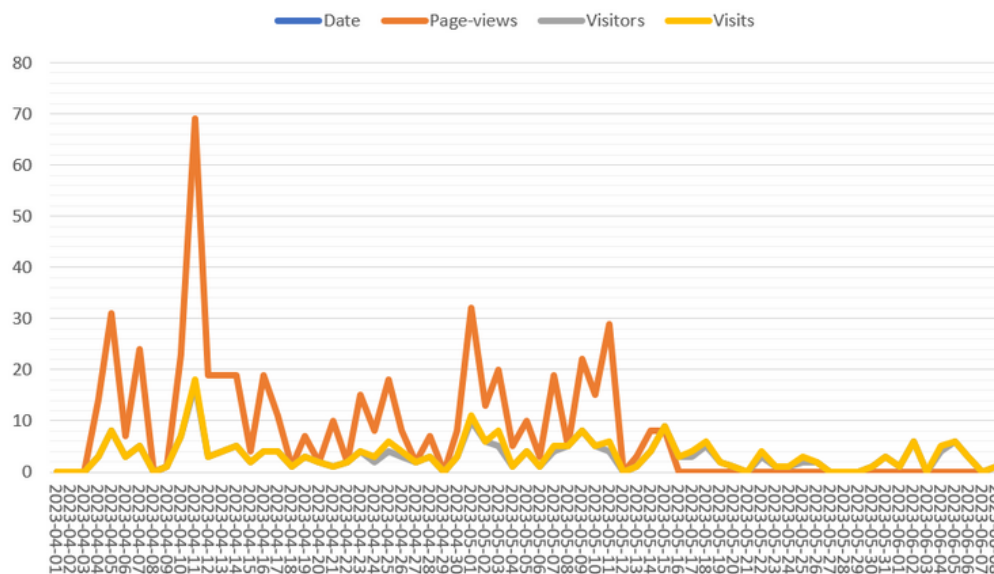
[Draft Urban Forest Strategy](#)

Closes Monday 5 June 2023

Engagement

Overview

Visitors Summary



228

Total Page Visits

88

Informed Visitors

162

Aware Visitors

13

Surveys Received

103

Document Downloads

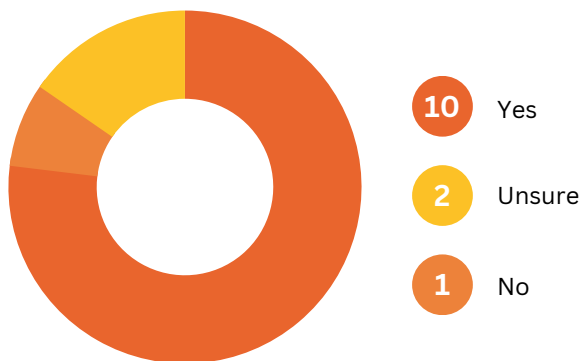
3

Direct Submissions

Survey Results

Responses

1. Did you find the draft Urban Forest Strategy easy to understand?



2. How would you rate the draft Strategy?



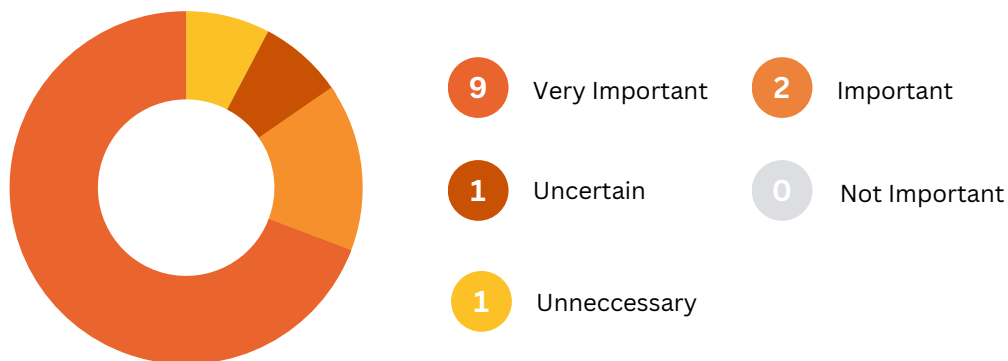
Responses

The Strategy proposes four (4) key focus areas for the City.

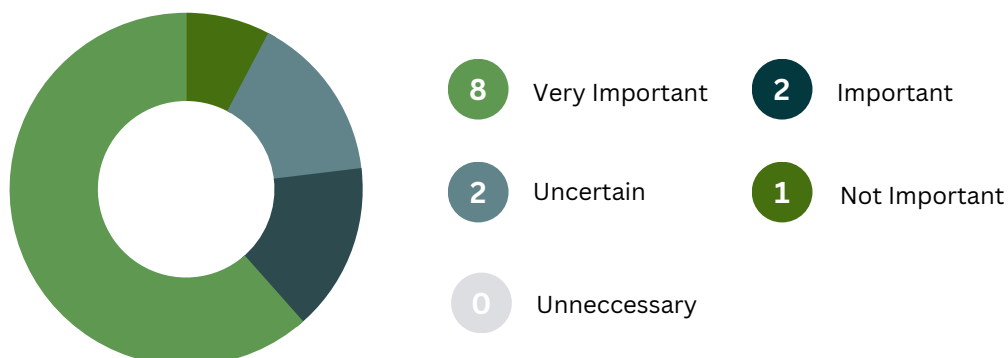
- i. Protect the City's existing urban forest on public and private land.
- ii. Grow the urban forest on public and private land through new tree plantings to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits of trees and urban greening.
- iii. Engage the community, research institutions, schools, government, and private sector to care for the urban forest and broaden the understanding of the benefits it provides.
- iv. Investigate new resourcing and research opportunities to enable further investment in on ground actions using best practice science to manage and grow the urban forest.

3. How would you rate the importance of the following?

Plant enough trees by 2030 to achieve a minimum of 20% canopy cover (at maturity) in roads across the City.

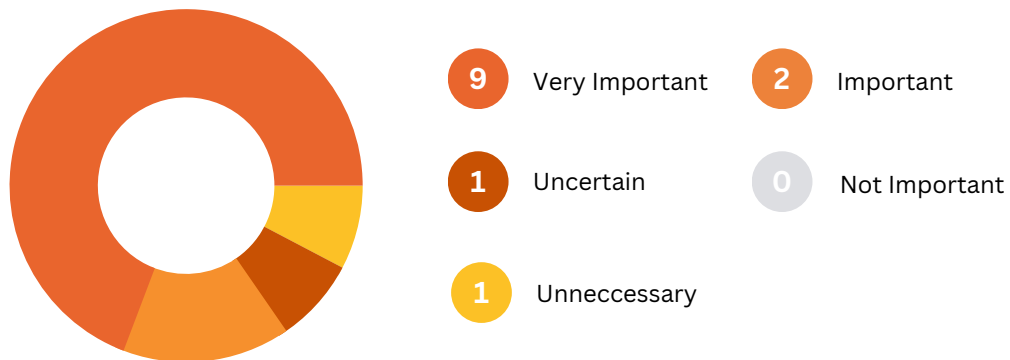


Encourage landowners/ managers to increase tree planting and diversity on private land.

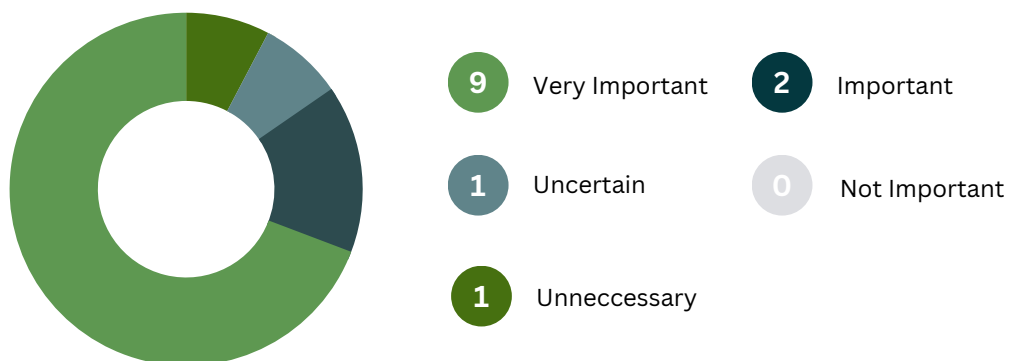


Responses

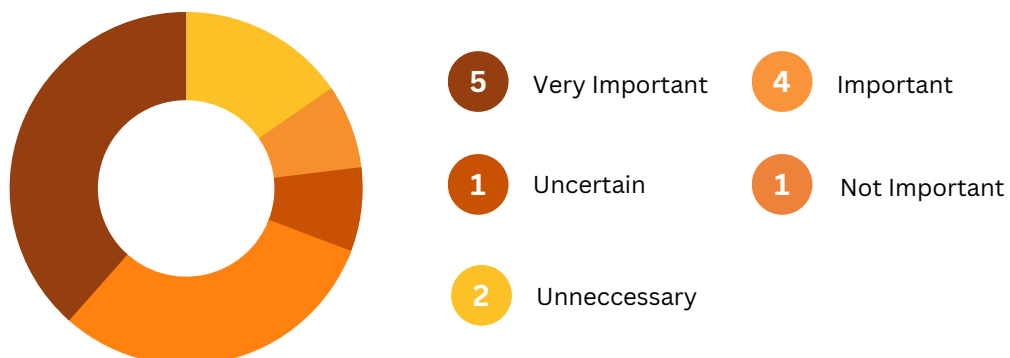
All new industrial developments to achieve 10% canopy cover (at maturity).



All new Urban, Centre, District Centre, Commercial, Mixed Use developments to achieve 20% canopy cover (at maturity).

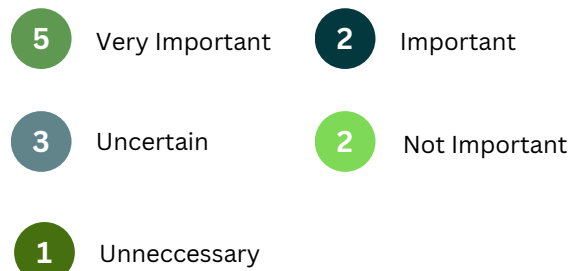


Ensure diversity of trees for City projects and City tree planting, including no more than 10% of the same species or 30% of the same genus.

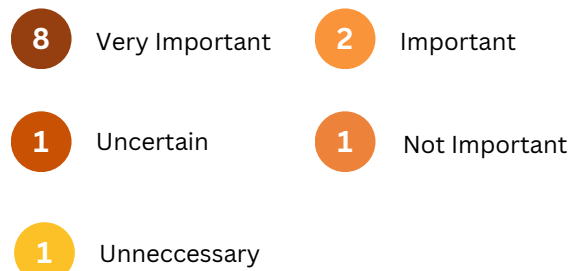
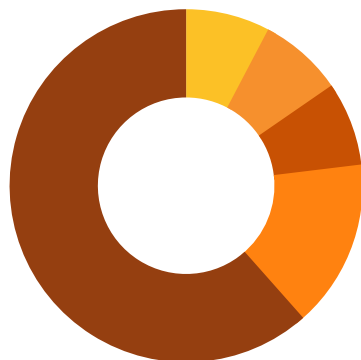


Responses

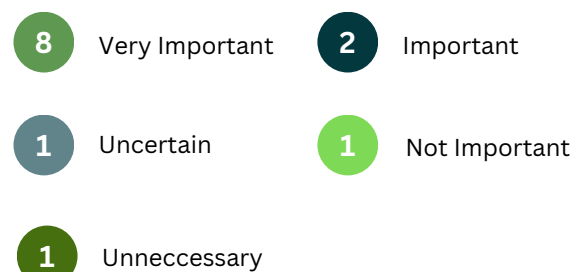
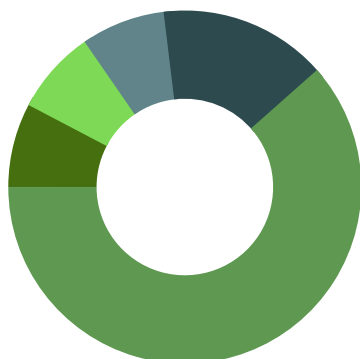
Maintain or increase the physical and fiscal support provided for volunteer groups within the City for urban forest initiatives.



Increase participation in tree planting initiatives that educate and inspire the community

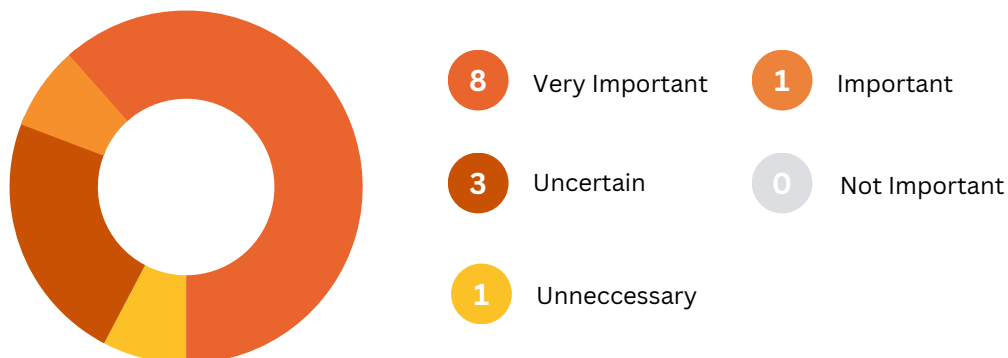


Increase engagement of private landholders and developers in supporting urban forest initiatives.



Responses

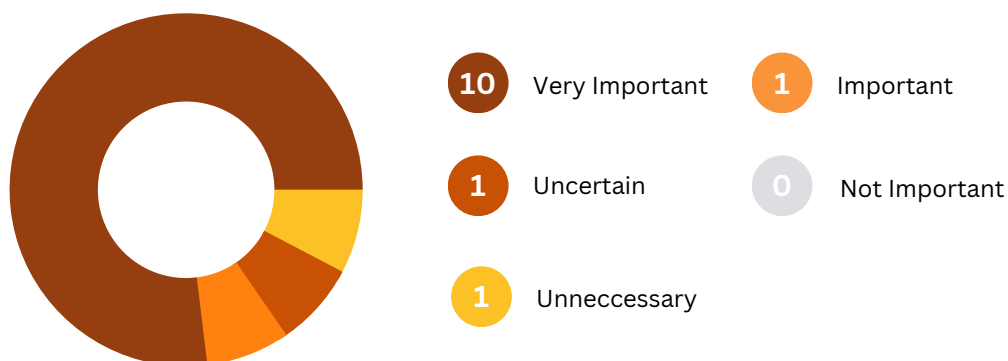
Increase available funding to facilitate protection and enhancement of the City's urban forest.



Identify and secure opportunities for offset tree planting under State and Commonwealth legislative approvals for private and government projects.

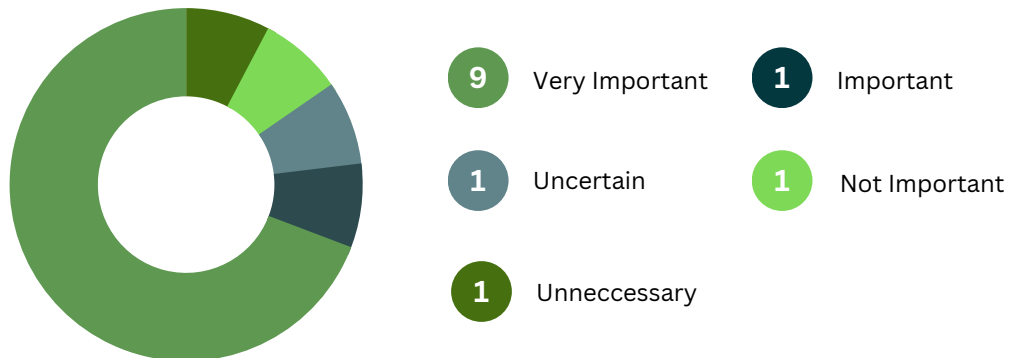


Continually improve urban forest practices and outcomes.

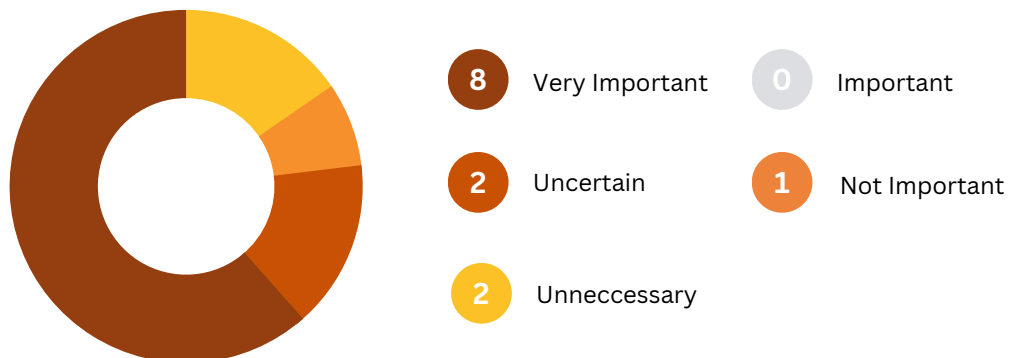


Responses

No net loss of canopy cover on public and private land.



All reported compliance matters relating to tree removal actioned within 10 business days.



Comments

What do you like about the Strategy?

Respondent 1: That it appears to commit the City to increasing tree cover
Respondent 2: Clear and concise
Respondent 3: Saving and re-planting Bushland
Respondent 4: Everything, it seems to finally tackle a very important matter in all fronts
Respondent 5: Protection of trees for wildlife
Respondent 6: It sets out some kind of direction and obligation where are we going as far as trees and stuff are concerned
Respondent 7: Trees improve our lives and mental health. Hopefully our wildlife will benefit too
Respondent 8: What about an option what I don't like about the strategy
Respondent 9: It states the need for careful selection of trees planted and that natives can be used.
Respondent 10: That council is finally looking at the importance of tree canopy

Comments ... continued

Respondent 11: I love the fact that the council now recognises the benefits of trees and our tree canopy and plans are afoot to achieve protection and growth of our tree canopy. A publically available GIS layer allowing everyone to monitor tree canopy progress is a fantastic initiative. I was also happy to see plans to enforce the strategy, as without that, it would not have the teeth to achieve anything.

Respondent 12:

1. The rationale for the strategy - in terms of human health and happiness, a healthy natural environment, and economic benefits.
2. A focus on collaboration and the integration of strategic action and their alignment with internal processes (as indicated in S2 and 3.6 for example)
3. Comprehensive and (looks like) very do-able goals, objectives and strategies
4. A focus on ecological linkages as well as urban canopy is brilliant.
5. Engagement with community stakeholders, and the focus on motivating them to support the success of the strategy.
6. The process for monitoring and reporting.

Respondent 13: That the CoK is recognizing that something must be done to stop this devastating and ongoing loss of trees!



Comments

Is there anything in the draft Strategy that you would change?

Respondent 1: It doesn't really address the conflict between this strategy and the fire control officers apart from a vague statement around education. It also seems to place the burden on private land. I suspect we are going to have the usual issues where one City department demands trees be cut, and then the other department fines us for cutting them. Also the City needs to own a 30% cover commitment, not 20% or 10%.. and the trees to be planted should be native to the area.
Respondent 2: Enable landowners to care for trees, ie prune, make safe, etc without too much red tape and obstruction.
Respondent 3: Any new buyers of properties in this Shire should be required to plant and maintain native plants on their verge.
Respondent 4: Ensure that tree planting is undertaken by properly trained and enthusiastic persons. I have seen several times landscaping teams just dig a hole, drop a plant in it from standing and moving on. No wonder so many new plants die, a waste of resources. I also would hope that in the first few years there's regular checkups to ensure trees are growing straight; staking and ties are still good; no competition from weeds; regular watering.
Respondent 5: No
Respondent 6: It's all a bit wordy doesn't make for easy reading we need to have a lot of faith and trust in the people that are proposing to implement this plan.
Respondent 7: Speed up the timeline. Any new subdivisions should be a mixture of housing, allowing high density, to allow more land for trees. The mono culture of single dwellings just makes for a sea of black rooves and the size of the houses ratio to the blocks, allows no room for trees.

Comments ... continued

Respondent 8: Restrict it to city lands, promote it to private property owners by all means but the laws the city want, propose are draconian and a gross infringement on the rights of land owners.

Respondent 9: include the need for horticulture trained staff to maintain trees and gardens throughout the council area. Also plan for protection of trees when planted. Central Mall plants have been damaged or killed by being trampled or driven on. The parks and gardens that have been established are showing sign of needing maintenance.

Respondent 10: Include rural residential areas in the strategy as these areas are a important aspect due to the environmental sensitivities and significant tree canopy these areas provide as proven by councils own studies and tend to be destroyed for profit and in the past the council has supported this destruction of the environment..these areas have endangered flora and fauna which has been proven especially in Wattle Grove South. And yet the council still support urban redevelopment in these areas going against their push for preserving environmental sensitive areas to reduce the affects of climate change. Also the importance of under storey in any environmental ecosystem and should be included in the strategy. Industrial must retain a much larger tree canopy what was done in Wattle grove - Roe Hwy Industrial Park was disgusting the effect on the Brixton Wetlands and the destroyed environment for wildlife and destroying nesting areas for red and black cockatoos. and not one tree was replanted on any of the factories!!! Profit over environment.

Respondent 11: Provide more clarity on how the overall City's urban canopy cover percentage is calculated (with assurances that suburbs within this area that are already achieving more than 30% canopy cover will also be protected and grown)

Respondent 12:

1. Risks to urban canopy need to be explicitly explained (such as climate change, lowering of groundwater water tables lack of compliance on the part of landowners for example) and what the CoK will do to manage those risks should be described in the Strategy in a risk management section. Obviously, the drying climate risks, for example, a lower rate of seedling survival, so the success of the strategy needs to focus on retention as well as new planting.
2. A lot of the proposed action seems to rely on the motivation (an cultivating the motivation) of stakeholders to retain or build urban canopy and ecological linkages, but it's not clear to me what the consequences of non-compliance will be to landowners and developers.

Continues >>>

Comments ... continued

<<< Continued

Respondent 12:

3. New plantings must be of endemic species, otherwise the ecological advantages and objectives of the Strategy and its alignment with other CoK environmental policies will be compromised.
4. The process for monitoring and reporting needs to be in the body of the Strategy and not as what looks like an afterthought.

Respondent 13:

1. I would take measures to ensure that potential buyers of property in the City of Kalamunda are made aware of the rules, preferably BEFORE opting to buy a property here and certainly no later than when they register as ratepayers. Too many people have bought properties in our area and then proceeded to destroy their beautiful trees with zero regard for the environment.
2. I would provide an emergency phone number that can be called when someone is perceived to be cutting down a tree illegally. This could help save some trees from destruction, instead of reacting when the damage is already done.
3. I would give it more teeth to penalise persons who do the wrong thing. (Fines, higher rates, etc.) I would also provide incentives for persons who are prepared to have more trees than the minimum. (Reduction in rates, maybe??)
4. I would place some emphasis on planting and protecting the trees that provide food for our wildlife and particularly the black cockatoos who are losing their food trees at a frightening pace. Of course native trees are preferred, but some alien trees may also be suitable and could simultaneously reduce fire risk or, if they are deciduous, be suitable for planting where sunshine is required in winter, etc.
5. I would place more emphasis on the linking of forests and the creation of wildlife corridors or alternatively the provision of underground or treetop links over roads etc. to protect crossing wildlife.
6. I would increase the number of trees required by LPP33 (Tree Retention Policy), especially for larger properties, as the numbers are insufficient for a City that claims to be a Home in the Forest.
7. I would look again at the number of plants put on offer by Plants for Residents. This year they ran out very quickly and if there had been more plants, there would have been more takers.
8. I would consider the effect on our trees of boreholes which may cause stress to our trees by lowering the water table, especially on the escarpment.

Comments

Any other comments or ideas you have to that are important in finalising the Strategy?

Respondent 3: Create incentives for verge planting to create green corridors
Respondent 5: We have recently lost several large well established trees in the area due to house development directly impacting the birds and wildlife in the area.
Respondent 6: I sometimes travel to the city on the bus, looking out the window as we drive along Welshpool Road, it's heartbreaking to see the destruction that's been inflicted upon the landscape, Great piles of trees waiting to be burnt or turned into Mulch. This year we've been inundated with cockatoos it's almost as though they're starving to death, they've been at our trees and eaten anything they can, we should do more for these magnificent birds.
Respondent 7: Encourage native front gardens instead of artificial grass.
<p>Respondent 8: Comments relating to the above:</p> <p>1a. So if one tree is removed another tree much be planted somewhere else on the property?</p> <p>1b. So we form a "tree police' force.</p> <p>2a. Dont plant trees that will rip up roads, footpaths which is your current practice.</p> <p>2b. Yes encourage don't mandate, legislate.</p> <p>2c. Have employment creating industries got enough restrictions?</p> <p>2d. Another imposition to increase the cost of housing. Great!</p> <p>2e. You couldn't get more nit picking intrusive.</p> <p>3c. Support and encourage but not force.</p> <p>This will be a bureaucratic nightmare especially if it is overseen by an environmental zealot. The costs and time delays will be enormous.</p> <p>Development approval is already too long. In developed areas this amounts to retrospective legislation which is the antithesis of good law. Start it in greenfields developments! I love trees but this is going too far.</p> <p>Why are "visitors" given a voice? They don't pay rates.</p>

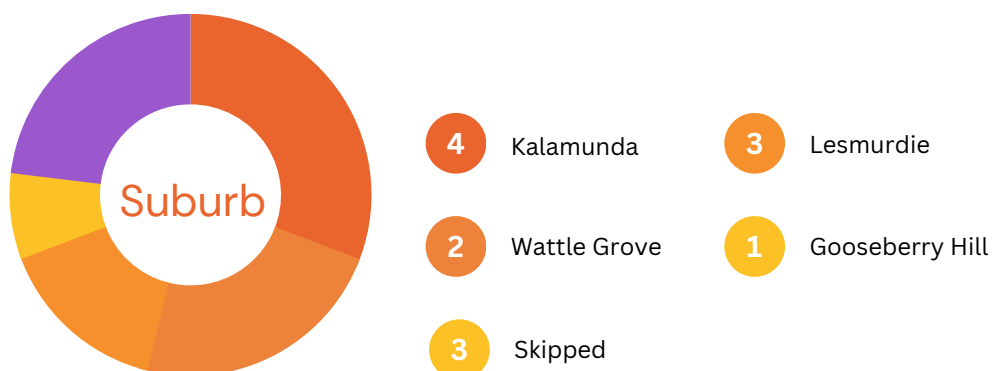
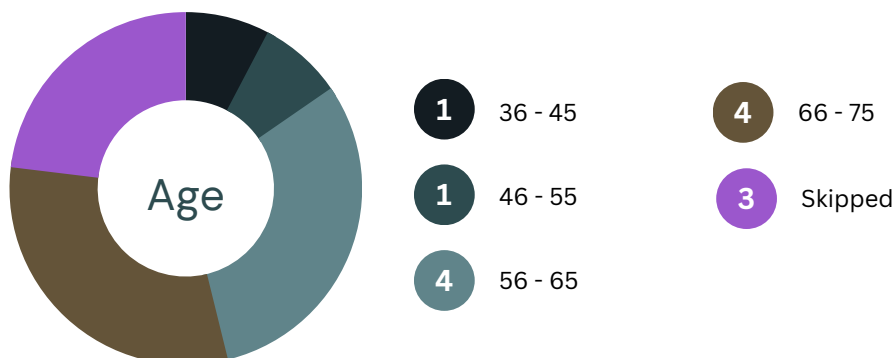
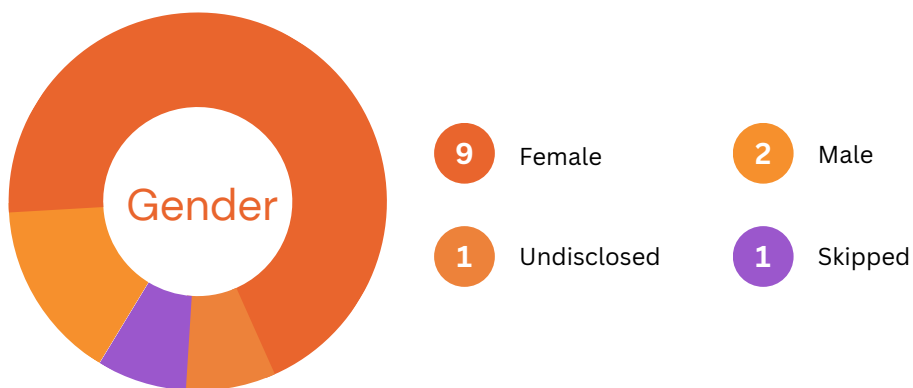
Comments ... continued

Respondent 9: CoK to employ sufficient horticulturally trained staff to maintain trees and parks and gardens.
Respondent 10: Environment over profit..don't allow developers to destroy the environment for profit especially when the majority of private land owners in an area wants to keep the tree canopy and protect the flora and fauna and have been fighting the council for over 10 years to protect these sensitive areas ..learn from the past action of the council and the destruction of the tree canopy in this City the council has allowed. Listen to the people and keep this a Home amongst the trees..
Respondent 11: Any chance of considering wildlife corridors in new developments and associated tree planting? When trees have to be removed, could the provision of nest boxes (type and quantity as appropriate for the area) with the new urban and industrial developments be made mandatory until appropriate tree maturity is achieved?
Respondent 12: Off setting - should be a not considered where a proposed destruction of habitat will have a detrimental impact on rare and vulnerable species, such as black cockatoos and chudich etc.
Respondent 13: Only to commend the City of Kalamunda for initiating this essential and vital Strategy and to wish it every success in its implementation. You have my full and complete support.



Survey Results

Demographics



Direct Submissions

NRPG



Nature Reserves Preservation Group
of Kalamunda, Inc.

2 June 2023

TO: City of Kalamunda enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION ON THE CITY OF KALAMUNDA DRAFT URBAN FOREST STRATEGY (UFS) 2023

The NRPG appreciates the opportunity to comment on this draft Strategy, and welcomes and supports the need to increase the urban canopy cover, particularly in light of the changing climate. Comments therefore address our points of concern and provide constructive suggestions.

Page 8. Vision.

The City's Vision is strongly supported and the significant work of the Kalamunda Environment and Sustainability Advisory Committee (KESAC) and its Urban Forest Working Group, are acknowledged and applauded.

Page 10. Strategy and Scope.

Achieving a balance between the pressures of growth and development and preservation of the natural Environment will become increasingly important, given the pressures of a changing climate, and the dire situation documented in the federal "State of the Environment Report 2021".

The proposed target of 30% canopy cover, given it represents an increase of only 0.5% per year, seems far too low, and means that approximately 70% of the land area will still remain fully exposed to the full intensity of the sun. The area will still remain significantly hotter than the original fully-vegetated coverage before land clearing.

A major reason for this Strategy is to improve resilience to increasing temperatures, but how can the proposed target achieve this? In order to have a significant benefit, perhaps the 30% target should be increased significantly, possibly to at least 50%?

Page 11. Monitoring and Reporting.

These actions will be essential if the Strategy is to have the desired effect. Given the rapidly changing climatic conditions (for Western Australia, chiefly the drying and warming trends), these will give clear indications of any need for adjustments.

The updating of the urban canopy data by DPLH is welcome but it should be stated the data "WILL" be analysed and that commitment clearly made. Annual reporting is welcome, as is the four-yearly review.

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

NRPG

Page 13. 1.2 What is an Urban Forest?

The phrase *"guided by the City's strategic planning framework"* (last paragraph), does not make clear whether or not rural lands are included in the Strategy. Please clarify this.

Page 14. 1.3 Purpose of the Urban Forest Strategy.

The 30% *"long term aspirational target"* canopy cover, as noted earlier, is a relatively unambitious one. We would expect to see much greater than 30% as a minimum target, with around 50% as an *"aspirational"* target (a format used for example, in Major Development Plans). Correspondingly, the proposed 85,000 medium sized trees, equating to 4,250 trees per year, seems inadequate and needs to be significantly increased if it is to achieve the intent of reducing the heat island effect, particularly in light of forecast increasing temperatures.

Page 15. 1.4 Strategic Context.

Building on encouraging initiatives such as the Local Planning Schemes, Policies and Strategies, planned increases in the canopy must be integrated early in the planning process if the UFS is to succeed.

Page 18. 1.5 Urban Forest Planning. Table 1.

While the use of endemic native species is encouraged as a means of preserving and improving biodiversity, NRPG acknowledges there are instances where their use may not be as beneficial overall. Deciduous (non-invasive) trees in situations which provide both shade in summer months and which allow solar access in winter should be considered. For example, with the increasing use of solar electricity and hot water, the planting of non-deciduous and/or tall trees on the eastern, northern and western aspects of a property may not be desirable. On the other hand, having deciduous trees on these aspects, has double the benefits of non-deciduous types of vegetation. Careful orientation of buildings, together with selective deciduous and suitable-height trees enables passive solar heating, solar PV generation and solar water heating to be maximised.

Although trees are the focus of this Strategy, recognition of the important role played by understorey, in providing valuable habitat and improving the resilience of our wildlife, should be noted and strived for also.

Page 20. 2 Benefits of an Urban Forest.

It is encouraging to note emphasis is now placed on the benefits to health and mental wellbeing, neglected or forgotten in the past.

While Appendix 1 details the benefits of tree canopy cover, it may be useful and convenient to the reader to illustrate graphically the impacts of tree cover by including heat-map image examples here, in the body of the document, along with a summary of the benefits, ie. areas with only 5-10% cover are 8-10 deg. hotter than those with 40% cover (draft UFS 2020). That emphasis can also state the role of canopy in the reduction of electricity costs through reduced air conditioning loads required.

Page 21. Plate 2: Urban Forest Benefits (City of Bendigo 2021).

Considering the possibility of Kalamunda experiencing higher average temperatures than Bendigo and more days above 38 degrees, close examination of those data may lead to recognition of the need for a more ambitious coverage target for Kalamunda.

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

NRPG

Page 24. 4 The City's Urban Forest. 1. The Swan Coastal Plain.

It is encouraging to note the apparent high priority to be given to increasing canopy in this area. In addition to the benefits to the immediate neighbourhood, the flow-on benefits of such canopy increases will be felt by residents of the Escarpment. Currently, the cooling afternoon coastal winds from the south west (the Fremantle Doctor), pass over the heat sink that is now Perth Airport and many similar 'heat-retaining' industrial areas on the coastal plain. The end result is a significant reduction in the cooling effect of the 'Doctor'.

Page 36. 4.2.1 Year 2020 Urban Canopy Cover.

Given that 2020 is to be the baseline from which results will be assessed, having urban canopy cover "*estimated*" to be 32% should be treated with caution when assessing progress.

Page 41. 4.4 Year 2020 Urban Canopy Cover.

With Pickering Brook one of the areas with canopy cover below 30%, consideration should be given to allocating this area a high priority under the UFS. The 2015 Pickering Brook Townsite Expansion proposal to rezone from 'Rural' to 'Urban' under the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS), if still in place, should emphasise the need for a high priority. Table 3 Page 26, suggests this has been acknowledged, with the "*Grow*" priority rating.

Page 50. 5.1.1 Challenges.

Strategic Urban Infill proposals pose perhaps the greatest threat to this UFS. A sustainable balance between development demands and maintaining natural environmental values, will prove increasingly difficult to achieve. Such a balance will demand the City allocates an appropriate value to the environment and that staff and Councillors give their full support to ensuring this strategy succeeds.

Page 51. Opportunities.

The adoption of LPP 33 by the City, was welcomed by NRPG with its higher-than-State tree planting requirements for new developments. The benefits of continuing the 10% public open space requirement, must be fully utilized by the City in implementation of this Strategy.

Page 55. 5.3.2 Industrial Development Opportunities (cont'd).

Plantings for shade in carparks is certainly one area where the Strategy will bring benefits to the residents. Apart from the aesthetic improvement, any shade-generating plantings should be encouraged.

The target of 10% canopy cover for new industrial developments is a step in the right direction, as it can only improve the living environment of nearby residents (see earlier comment on Page 24), as well as the workers who park cars and work there. Despite the restraints noted on "*green retro fitting*" existing industrial sites, every effort should be made to encourage the cooperation of site owners/operators, citing the benefits as incentives.

Page 57. 5.5.2 Parks, Opportunities.

As noted earlier, the Swan Coastal Plain, with its development and infill projects requires positive action, if its coverage deficit is to be adequately addressed. The recognition of the opportunities presented is welcome but, NRPG would prefer to see that retrofitting plantings to increase shaded areas **WILL** be given a high priority, in lieu of "*should*".

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

[Add sticky note](#)

NRPG

Page 58. Opportunities. (cont'd).

The need to increase canopy in new developments should be factored in to plans at the earliest stage. The District Structure Plan should contain a section on the Urban Forest Strategy in the 'Local Planning Context' section. The Local Structure Plan should also provide an opportunity to implement the strategy. This will avoid or remove many of the perceived "constraints" mentioned.

Page 60. 5.9.2 Bushfire, Opportunities. Point 3.

While supporting the statement at 3, acknowledging the need for ecologically sustainable bushfire management and best practice, NRPG would emphasise the importance of new scientific evidence calling into question long held beliefs relating to prescribed burning regimes.

The data shows that burning bushland more frequently than 25-30 years creates a greater fire hazard than long-unburned bushland. After fires, the rapid regrowth creates large amounts of elevated fuels, which are much more flammable than low understorey and leaf litter fuels, (found after long unburned periods of 25yrs plus).

Ref. "Self-thinning forest understoreys reduce wildfire risk, even in a warming climate", Zylstra, P. J.; Bradshaw, S. D.; Lindenmayer, D. B. *Environmental Research Letters* (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac5c10>

Page 61. 6 Action Plan. As commented at Page 14. 1.3

NRPG would prefer to see an aspirational target significantly higher than 30%. Given the acknowledged benefits stated in this strategy and ignoring 'international best practice' as dubious at least, why is this figure the best the City can aspire to?

Page 62. Table 4. Urban Forest Goals, Objectives and Actions. 1.2

In order for City staff to provide these "dedicated responsibilities" the City must ensure budgeting provides for adequate resources to be made available, in order to carry out this strategy successfully. The current staff shortages must be addressed as soon as possible.

Page 63. Table 4 (cont'd) 1.8 5)

In addition to incentives to promote retention of trees on new developments, this action should include similar incentives for initiatives designed to retain, create, or reinstate wildlife corridors, in line with the City's Wildlife Corridor Strategy. Increased setbacks from creek lines and wetlands should also receive similar incentives.

Page 65. Table 4 (cont'd) Objectives.

With a minimum of 20% canopy cover, a higher 'aspirational' target should be stated. Diversity of trees should include consideration of non-native deciduous trees where appropriate, to enable passive solar heating (direct and hot water) and solar PV electricity generation solutions.

Strategy. Action 2.1

Some details of the proposed makeup of the 'multidisciplinary team' should be given here.

Page 66. Action 2.5

Having a clear indication that this action on the Swan Coastal Plain is a priority action is welcomed by NRPG, in line with earlier comments.

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

NRPG

Page 67. Action 2.1.4

See earlier comments at Table 4 1.8.5

Page 68. Action 2.2.3

Comments as above.

Page 69. Objectives. Dot point 1.

This will require the City to ensure it establishes and maintains the staff needed to provide such support. Current staffing levels are seriously deficient for maintaining this support.

Page 70. Action 3.5

See above comment.

Page 72. 7.2 Monitoring and Reporting.

The MEP will be a vital part of the strategy and will provide essential information on progress. It is unclear whether the '*internal working group*' is the same body as the '*multidisciplinary team*' at Table 4 Strategy, above. Clarification may be appropriate, with further details of the team given.

Updating residents on the strategy via an '*Urban Forest landing page on the City's website*' is a sound idea. Those updates are assumed to include brief details of status and annual progress. Given the need to educate and encourage residents to support the canopy increase strategy, the website and annual rates notices can be an valuable tool in these efforts.



Page 73. 7.3 Resourcing. The requirement for additional funding and resourcing has already been commented on earlier.

CONCLUSION.

Recent planning initiatives adopted by the City are welcome. Full implementation of Local Planning Policy 33 (LPS 33) and the draft LPS 4 (in development), will be critical to the success of this current Strategy.

NRPG considers this draft Strategy to be a significant step in the City's actions to combat the changing climate and its effects, provide environmental benefits and improve amenity of all in the City of Kalamunda.

Sincerely,


President, Nature Reserves Preservation Group


>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

NRPG

FW: NRPG submission on the Kalamunda Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023


[Reply](#) [Reply All](#)
NRPG submission - CoK Draft Urban Forest Strategy 2023.pdf
.pdf File

Please also note the following errata and suggestions:

Page 13. Ray Owen Reserve is in the process of being **deleted from the Regional Park**. This should be reflected in the text.

Page 23. Change “against to determine changes in urban canopy cover” to – “against which”...

Page 24. Rewrite section –“Table 3 shows the priority for each suburb with 2020 canopy cover less than 30% **is to grow** the urban forest”... Currently it makes no sense.

Page 25. Line one – delete “e”.

Page 48. Replace “provide” with “provided”.

Page 55. Line 4. Replace “ands” with “and”.

Page 66. Action 2.9 Insert “canopy” or delete “in the”.



Direct Submissions ... continued

UBCWA



5th June 2023

City of Kalamunda
Draft Urban Forest Strategy
enquiries@kalamunda.wa.gov.au

Dear Officers,

SUBMISSION ON: DRAFT URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

The Urban Bushland Council WA Inc. (UBC) is pleased to present this submission in response to your invitation to address the issues of relevance to us.

Urban Bushland Council WA Inc. (UBC)

The UBC is the peak WA community organisation for urban bushland recognition and protection. UBC is an incorporated, not for profit organisation registered as a charity. <https://www.bushlandperth.org.au/>. We are a voluntary community association an active membership of **88 volunteer groups** (each with their own local membership from 10-165 individuals) and an additional 100 individual 'supporter' members – all with a common interest in conservation and protection of areas of urban bushland in WA.

UBC advocates to all levels of Government for natural areas protection. We do this with limited resources through the amazing efforts of our 'Friends Groups' and their many volunteers – from all walks of life 'working' to improve and maintain the health of patches of neighbourhood nature.

Support and commendation of NRPG submission

The UBC supports and strongly commends to you the comprehensive submission made by the Nature Reserves Preservation Group Inc. (NRPG), which proudly is also one of our member groups. As you are aware, NRPG has contributed significant knowledge, expertise, time, hands-n care and voluntary dedication as local community members to the City of Kalamunda.

General comments and submission

Congratulations City of Kalamunda for preparing an Urban Forest Strategy (UFS) that will complement other environmental and sustainability initiatives that you have initiated and progressed including:

- Kalamunda Environmental Advisory Committee

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

UBCWA

- Local Environment Strategy
- Local Biodiversity Strategy
- Environmental Guidelines for City Developments.

The UFS will make a significant contribution to many aspects including for:

- Providing critical ecological linkages via areas of natural bushland, home gardens, local parks, commercial/educational/ community/industrial prprties, verges and transport corridors
- Reducing heat island effect
- Mitigating climate change
- Providing much forgotten oxygen for fauna and us humans
- Enhancing the amazing bushland and tree aesthetics that City of Kalamunda suburbs are renowned for
- Maintaining/providing aspects of privacy and aesthetics both for neighbours (commercial/educational/residential) as well as for the property owner/leasee themselves
- Contributing to the physical and mental wellbeing of residents, ratepayers, workers and visitors who utilise your environment
- Supporting our iconic endangered Black Cockatoos, by providing foraging, resting, roosting &/or nesting habitat

The UBC also stresses the importance of:

- Needing to protect and maintain at least 30% of plant communities – not the 10% or 20% as indicated in the Draft UFS.
- Needing to have 30% of site planted Including industrial, business, educational and domestic properties - not the 10% or 20% as indicated in the Draft UFS.
- Use of local native species – obviously in the natural bushland areas, but also for street, transport corridor, private properties and parklands
- Not supporting prescribed burning
- Ensuring we continue to have a net gain in native vegetation – including by not supporting offsets
- Maintaining or increasing the physical and fiscal support provided for volunteer groups within the City for urban forest initiatives
- Increasing engagement of private landholders and developers in supporting urban forest initiatives
- Increasing available funding to facilitate protection and enhancement of the City's urban forest
- Being cautious of carbon offset proposals, ensuring they can deliver on their promise in the long term
- Continually improving urban forest practices and outcomes.

The Urban Bushland Council also congratulates you on your ongoing active engagement with not only your local community, but beyond.

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

UBCWA

Conclusion

The Urban Bushland Council supports the development of an Urban Forest Strategy that complements the City of Kalamunda's strategies and the wider communities increasing concerns and expectations about the need to actively manage our natural areas for conservation whilst ensuring transport corridors, industrial areas, private gardens and commercial ventures are all actively contributing to the extent and health of our urban forests and ecological linkages..

Yours sincerely



Committee Member
Urban Bushland Council WA Inc



cc



City West Lotteries House,
2 Delhi Street,
West Perth WA 6005



Direct Submissions ... continued

Community Member

Submission: The draft Urban Forest Strategy

From [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Wattle Grove

The City of Kalamunda's draft Urban Forest Strategy is a positive step towards addressing the inadequate tree canopy cover in the City which follows a recent report that the City has one of the largest reductions in tree canopy cover of all local government authorities in Australia over the past 4 years (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 2020, Where will all the trees be).

Although the draft does not explicitly acknowledge the responsibility of past local governments for this issue, it is hoped that future councils will learn from past mistakes. Specifically, it is important that future councillors do not overtly support private developers seeking to maximize profits at the expense of the significant environmental values of rural areas. The earlier released draft Biodiversity Strategy makes it clear that only by protecting the remaining rural areas in the city from intensified development pressures can the rapid loss of tree canopy and biodiversity be halted or slowed.

The City should not prioritize higher rates over the protection of these areas from environmental damage. It is essential to strike a balance between economic development and environmental protection. It is interesting to note that in July 2018, the City forwarded a submission to the state government's Green paper to reform the WA planning system asserting that when considering development proposals, councillors would always prioritise environmental sustainability and social benefit over the short-term economic benefit for a few. Even a cursory analysis of the proposed draft Urban Forest strategy reveals nothing could be further from the truth. If the adoption of this draft Urban Forest Strategy results in the City preserving and enhancing what little remains of its current tree canopy and natural areas for the benefit of future generations to enjoy, then it will have served its purpose.

Case Study 5, which concerns Wattle Grove South, illustrates how the current council's priorities are at odds with the objectives of the draft Urban Forest policy. Inappropriately increasing urban density in this environmentally sensitive area, as demonstrated by various maps and tables in the draft report, contradicts the policy's aims.

If the proposed rezoning Amendment is not approved by the WAPC, the council must accept that it has been granted a reprieve from the consequences of its previous short-sighted decision.

We note that the draft Urban Forest Strategy (point 1.2) excludes the provision of understorey planting, especially in Parks and Reserves.

Under-storey planting is an essential component of any Urban Forest Strategy aimed at promoting biodiversity and tree health. Urban areas are typically characterized by a lack of natural habitats and green spaces, which limits the diversity of wildlife species that can survive and thrive in these environments. Under-storey planting can help to create habitats and food sources for various animal species, including birds, insects, and

>>>Continues

Direct Submissions ... continued

Community Member

mammals, which can contribute to the overall health and resilience of the urban ecosystem.

In addition to supporting wildlife, under-storey planting can also contribute to the health of the trees themselves. Trees in urban areas are often subject to a variety of environmental stresses, such as pollution, compacted soil, and limited space to grow their roots. These stresses can weaken trees and make them more susceptible to disease and pest infestations. Under-storey planting can help to mitigate these stresses by improving soil quality, reducing soil compaction, and providing shade and moisture to the trees' roots.

Moreover, under-storey planting can also provide aesthetic and recreational benefits to urban communities. By creating a diverse range of plant species and habitats, under-storey planting can help to enhance the visual appeal of the urban landscape and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and education. Furthermore, the increased greenery and biodiversity can contribute to improved air quality and reduced urban heat island effects, resulting in a more liveable and sustainable urban environment.

Overall, under-storey planting is an important strategy for promoting biodiversity, tree health, and overall ecological resilience in urban areas. By incorporating this approach into an Urban Forest Strategy, communities can create more vibrant and sustainable green spaces that benefit both people and the environment.

Considering the significant benefits that understorey and leaf litter provide in establishing an ecologically sustainable green environment, there should be a recognized mechanism for homeowners to be exempted from clearing these naturally occurring areas on their privately owned land, provided that they have alternative fire mitigation measures in place. For instance, homeowners who have a fire-fighting unit, fire hoses, or other appropriate fire mitigation measures in place should be eligible for such an exemption.

It is gratifying to observe that there is a commitment to incorporate permanent measures to enhance the City's tree canopy in the redrafting of the legally binding Local Planning Scheme. The draft strategy data revealing the inadequate tree canopy cover in the City's industrial areas serves to highlight the need for statutory controls to strike a balance between environmental conservation and development.

Mandating a public open space requirement in all new industrial developments within the City will not only create a healthier work environment for employees but also enhance the area's aesthetic appeal.

In conclusion, the City of Kalamunda's draft Urban Forest Strategy is a promising initiative towards improving the tree canopy cover and preserving the natural environment. However, it is crucial that future councils learn from past mistakes and prioritize environmental protection over economic development. The inclusion of under-storey planting and leaf litter exemption for homeowners with fire mitigation measures in place can further contribute to promoting biodiversity and sustainable green spaces. The commitment to incorporating permanent measures to enhance the City's tree canopy in the Local Planning Scheme is a positive step forward, and mandating public open space in new industrial developments can benefit the employees' health and the area's aesthetic appeal. By achieving a balance between economic development and environmental protection, particularly in terms of protecting the remaining rural zoned areas of the City, the City can ensure that its current natural areas and tree canopy cover are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Additional Notes:

Typo first word 5.6.1