

CITY OF ARMADALE

AGENDA

OF TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, 7 ORCHARD AVENUE, ARMADALE ON MONDAY, 8 APRIL 2024 AT 7.00PM.

A meal will be served at 6:15 p.m.

PRESENT:

APOLOGIES

Cr M J Hancock (Leave of Absence)

OBSERVERS:

IN ATTENDANCE:

PUBLIC:

*“For details of Councillor Membership on this Committee, please refer to the City’s website
– www.armadale.wa.gov.au/your_council/councillors.”*

DISCLAIMER

The Disclaimer for protecting Councillors and staff from liability of information and advice given at Committee meetings to be read.

DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

QUESTION TIME

Public Question Time is allocated for the asking of and responding to questions raised by members of the public.

Minimum time to be provided – 15 minutes (unless not required)

Policy and Management Practice EM 6 – Public Question Time has been adopted by Council to ensure the orderly conduct of Public Question time and a copy of this procedure can be found at <http://www.armadale.wa.gov.au/PolicyManual>

It is also available in the public gallery.

The public's cooperation in this regard will be appreciated.

DEPUTATION

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMEND

Minutes of the Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 6 March 2024 be confirmed.

ITEMS REFERRED FROM INFORMATION BULLETIN

Outstanding Matters and Information Items

Various Items

Monthly Departmental Reports

Technical Services Works Programme

If any of the items listed above require clarification or a report for a decision of Council, this item to be raised for discussion at this juncture.

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TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

8 APRIL 2024

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1.1 - ENG21 - STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

WARD : ALL
FILE No. : M/167/24
DATE : 21 March 2024
REF : NB
RESPONSIBLE : Executive Director
MANAGER : Technical Services

In Brief:

- The Aspiration for the Environment, as stated in the City of Armadale Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 (SCP), is further articulated in the Strategic Environmental Commitment policy.
- The Policy must be receptive to changes in the direction of Council, specifically the Aspiration for the Environment in the SCP, and other desired strategic outcomes.
- The Aspiration for the Environment in the SCP, and legislation relevant to the Policy have changed since it was originally produced, and changes are required.
- Recommend that Council endorse the draft amended ENG21 Strategic Environmental Commitment policy.

Tabled Items

Nil

Decision Type

- Legislative** The decision relates to general local government legislative functions such as adopting/changing local laws, town planning schemes, rates exemptions, City policies and delegations etc.
- Executive** The decision relates to the direction setting and oversight role of Council.
- Quasi-judicial** The decision directly affects a person's rights or interests and requires Councillors at the time of making the decision to adhere to the principles of natural justice.

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

Corporate Business Plan 2023-2026

2.1. Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment:

- 2.1.1 Sustainability initiatives are supported and implemented throughout the City.
- 2.1.2 Improve water efficiency throughout the City's operations.
- 2.1.3 Seek to improve the quality of water within waterways throughout the City.

- 2.1.4 Minimise corporate and community carbon footprints within the City of Armadale.
- 2.1.5 Minimise impacts on air quality throughout the City.
- 2.1.6 Protect soil and land resources throughout the City.
- 2.1.7 Biodiversity is managed to preserve and improve ecosystem health.
- 2.1.8 Facilitate the creation of partnerships and support strategies for the maintenance and enrichment of the natural environment.

Legal Implications

Local Government Act 1995 (WA)

Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996 (WA)

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

None noted.

Budget/Financial Implications

Nil

Consultation

1. Intra-Directorate
2. Executive Leadership Team
3. Standing Order House Advisory Group

BACKGROUND

This Report recommends a proposed revision to the policy, as part of the periodic review process.

Initial Policy Adoption

The current Policy, 'ENG21 – Strategic Environmental Commitment' (SEC) was adopted by Council in August 2019 as a constituent component of a new Environmental Management Framework (EMF) (T53/8/19):

- *Endorse the proposed Environmental Management Framework as detailed in the attachment to this report.*
- *Pursuant to section 2.7(2)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, adopt the new Council Policy ENG 21 - Strategic Environmental Commitment*

Consequently, the policy is now due for review.

Rationale

The adopted EMF (see Attachment 1) replicates the key principles of International Standard ISO14001 *Environmental Management Systems* (the Standard). The intended outcomes of the Standard include:

- Enhancement of environmental performance
- Fulfilment of compliance obligations
- Achievement of organisational environmental objectives

The overall intent is to effectively address environmental risks and opportunities, through the integration of environmental management into organisational processes and decision making.

Accordingly, the EMF is a hierarchy of documents that demonstrates how the high-level objectives of Council cascade through the organisation into detailed activities. This provides transparency in relation to the activities of the City's Environment and Sustainability team and demonstrates how they are aligned to Council's strategic objectives.

As detailed within the Standard, strategic environmental policies are required towards the top of a business' hierarchy, to set the intention and direction of an organisation by 'Executive Management' (Council). They are a key component of an Environmental Management System.

The Vision of Council, as stated in the City of Armadale Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 (SCP), is articulated in the SEC policy. Consequently, the Policy must be receptive to changes in the strategic direction of Council, specifically the Vision. The EMF highlights a mutual feedback loop between the SEC and the SCP/Corporate Business Plan (CBP).

Within the SEC, Strategic directions are set for each of the Environmental Assets of the City (Biodiversity, Water, Aboriginal Heritage, Soil and Land and Air). These align with the Standard and provide the detail for initiatives be delivered in operational work plans.

Strategic documents are currently in production for Biodiversity, Water, Soil and Land and Air. The approach to the Aboriginal Heritage Strategy is defined in the City's 'Innovate – Reconciliation Action Plan'.

Requirements of an Environmental Policy

In accordance with ISO140001, the policy should:

- Be appropriate to the purpose and context of the organisation.
- Provide a framework for setting environmental objectives.
- Include a commitment to the protection of the environment, including the prevention of pollution and other specific commitments relevant to the context of the organisation (e.g., sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation, protection of biodiversity and ecosystems).
- Include a commitment to fulfil compliance obligations.
- Include a commitment to continual improvement of the environmental management system to enhance environmental performance.

The City of Armadale SEC is designed to cover the components above or requirements of the Standard.

In addition, it is specifically worded to reflect the City's extent of control or influence around the Environmental Assets of the City e.g. The City may not be held accountable for overall water quality changes across the City, as these may be significantly impacted by non-City activities and regulated by different bodies.

COMMENT

Relevant environmental commitments from the SCP in relation to environmental matters are highlighted in the following table. These are cross referenced to the relevant detail in the SEC, with changes proposed where necessary.

Outcome/Objective as per SCP	Current Detail in SEC	Comment/Proposed Change
Outcome - 2.1 Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment	Objective of SEC - To clearly define the key Environmental Objectives the City will pursue in achieving its environmental goal of having a natural environment that is valued and conserved	Propose Change - To clearly define the key Environmental Objectives the City will pursue in achieving its environmental goal of the Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment.
2.1.1 Sustainability initiatives are supported and implemented throughout the City	None.	Propose Change – add new comment - Sustainability initiatives are supported and implemented within City operations.
2.1.2 Improve water efficiency throughout the City’s operations	Utilise water efficiently as part of City operations.	No change proposed.
2.1.3 Seek to improve the quality of water within waterways throughout the City	Minimise detrimental impacts to water quality in the City’s rivers, streams, brooks and drains.	No change proposed. Policy position represents City’s accountability/extent of control or influence over water quality across the City of Armadale.
2.1.4 Minimise corporate and community carbon footprints within the City of Armadale.	Minimise the City’s carbon footprint.	No change proposed. Policy position represents City’s accountability/extent of control or influence over carbon footprints across the City of Armadale.
2.1.5 Minimise impacts on air quality throughout the City.	Minimise pollution to the atmosphere from City operations.	No change proposed.
2.1.6 Protect soil and land resources throughout the City.	Minimise the pollution of soil and land that could result from City activities.	No change proposed.
2.1.7 Biodiversity is managed to preserve and improve ecosystem health.	Preserve and enhance the City’s natural areas. Ensure development outcomes are sensitive to pre-existing environmental values.	Propose Change – amend ‘Ensure development...’ to <i>Seek to protect and enhance biodiversity assets through the land development process</i> , as this is more consistent with the recently approved City of Armadale Biodiversity Strategy.
2.1.8 Facilitate the creation of	None.	Propose Change – add new

Outcome/Objective as per SCP	Current Detail in SEC	Comment/Proposed Change
partnerships and support strategies for the maintenance and enrichment of the natural environment.		comment - Create partnerships and support strategies for the maintenance and enrichment of the natural environment.

Throughout the policy, the term ‘Cultural Heritage’ will be amended to ‘Aboriginal Heritage’ to be consistent with the approach adopted in the ‘Innovate – Reconciliation Action Plan’. Section 3.1 of the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA) has introduced the requirement for local governments to promote environmental sustainability. In addition, there is the necessity to mitigate risks associated with climate change, and consider impacts to future generations in decision making processes. The policy has been amended to reflect these requirements.

Consequently, changes are proposed to the SEC to reflect amendments to the City’s strategic documents and the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA). In accordance with the procedure for developing, amending and reviewing Policies **POLICY - ENG 21 Strategic Environment Commitment** has been appropriately amended and presented as Attachment 1 to this report.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for consideration:

1. Endorse the draft amended ENG21 Strategic Environmental Commitment policy.
2. Not endorse the draft amended ENG21 Strategic Environmental Commitment policy and seek further amendments.

It is the Officer’s recommendation that Option 1 is supported.

CONCLUSION

The Strategic Environmental Commitment forms part of the City’s Environmental Management Framework and sets the direction and intent of Council towards their approach to environmental management.

Within the SEC, the City’s Assets are classified into Biodiversity, Water, Aboriginal Heritage, Soil and Land and Air.

There is a mutual feedback loop between the strategic direction of the City (as defined in the SCP), and the SEC. This allows for amendments to the SEC in response to changes in the City’s aspiration’s as it relates to the environment.

There have been minor changes to the City’s aspiration and objectives in relation to environmental management, and additional sustainability requirements under the *Local Government Act 1995* (WA). Consequently, these need to be reflected in the Strategic Environmental Commitment.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft amended ENG21 Strategic Environmental Commitment policy.**

ATTACHMENTS

- 1.** [↓](#) Draft Strategic Environmental Commitment Policy

2.1 - URBAN FOREST PROGRESS REPORT

WARD : ALL
FILE No. : M/120/24
DATE : 7 March 2024
REF : CJ/JA
RESPONSIBLE : Executive Director
MANAGER : Technical Services

In Brief:

- This report presents a status update on the works undertaken in the 2023-24 Urban Forest Greening Programs.
- The programs combine planning, on-ground works and opportunities to engage residents with the ultimate goal to effectively promote and manage the City's tree canopy.
- The report recognises the foundational work of the City's tree data collection program in 2024, as a base to grow from.
- It is recommended that Council note the update provided.

Tabled Items

Nil

Decision Type

- Legislative** The decision relates to general local government legislative functions such as adopting/changing local laws, town planning schemes, rates exemptions, City policies and delegations etc.
- Executive** The decision relates to the direction setting and oversight role of Council.
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Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

- 2.1 Conservation and restoration of the natural environment
- 2.2 Attractive, inclusive and functional public places
- 2.2.1 Focus on achieving a high level of streetscape amenity in new developments.
- 2.2.2 Improve the amenity of streetscapes in established suburbs to provide an attractive, shaded network that connects residents to locations of interest.
- 2.2.3 Advocate for the improved maintenance of verges on major arterial roads.
- 2.2.4 Develop, improve and maintain quality parks, playgrounds and public open spaces throughout the City.

Legal Implications

General assessment of relevant legislation (eg *Local Government Act 1995*) has not revealed any restrictions.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Assessment of Policy/Local Law indicates that the following are applicable:

- Policy ENG 6 – Street Tree Management – Street Tree Removals and Replacements in Streets, Ways and Reserves

Budget/Financial Implications

The adoption of the recommendation contained in this report has no additional financial implications.

Consultation

- Intra Directorate

INTRODUCTION

The City adopted the Urban Forest Strategy (the Strategy) in 2014 (T29/4/14) and the Strategy has served since to guide the management and improvement of the Urban Forest. The Strategy is approaching 10 years old and is due to be reviewed in the coming financial year, once the current data collection process is complete. At the date of this report, data had been collected from 992 of the City's street trees.

Under the current strategy, the City has an annual program of tree planting and maintenance works.

The three sub-programs include:

1. The Greening Program
 - a. Location Planning
 - b. Implementation
 - i. Street tree planting
 - ii. Parkland tree planting
 - iii. Maintenance and Watering
2. The Resident Request Program; and
3. An Engagement Program.

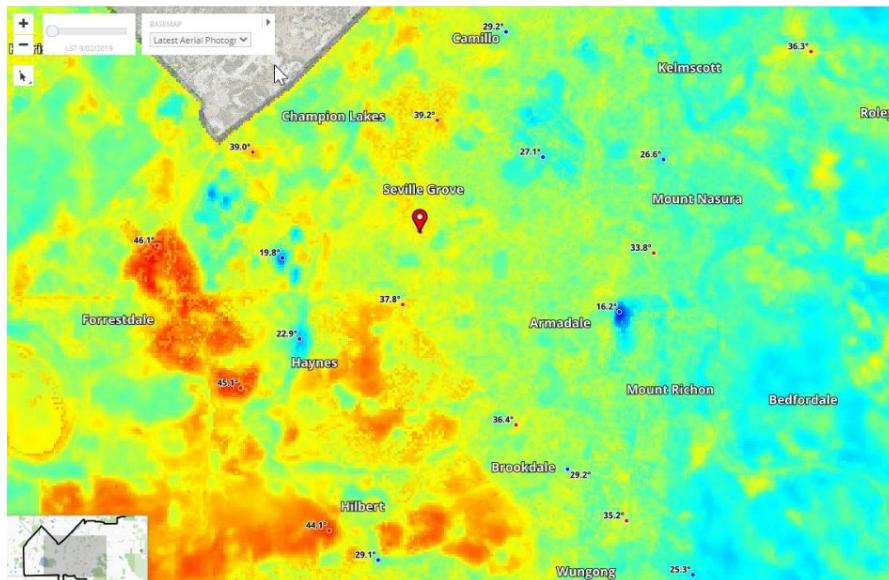
This progress report provides Council and the community with an update on the works undertaken in these programs over the 2023 planting season (July 2023 to June 2024) and works prepared ready for the 2024 planting season (July 2024 to June 2025).

GREENING PROGRAM 2023-24

Under the Greening Program, trees are planted within road reserves and parklands and maintained for three years for establishment. The delivery of the Greening Program requires monitoring and collaboration. The program consists of two phases - Planning and Implementation - with each having its own cycle of tasks.

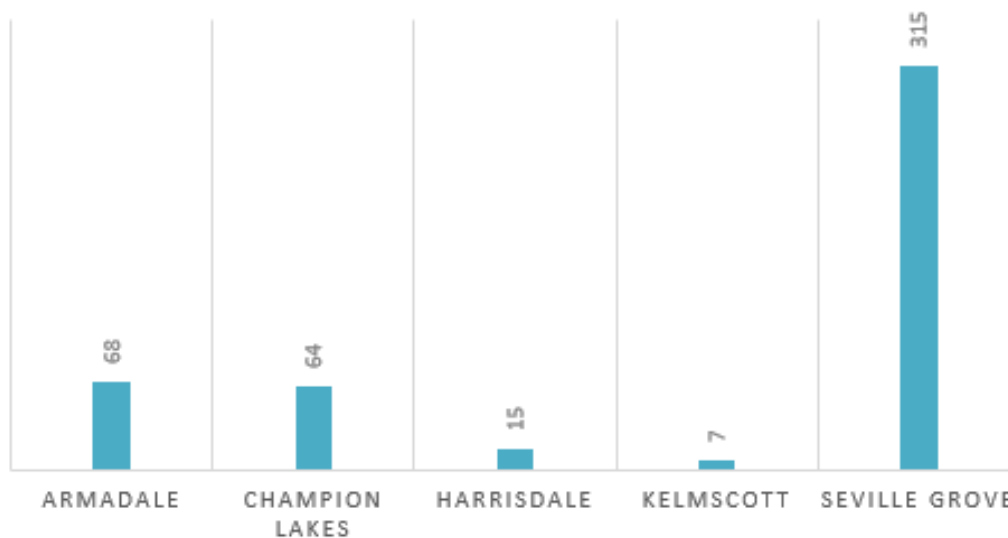
Street Tree Planting 2023-24 *Location Planning*

The prioritised target areas for this season were chosen following an assessment of the heat-island effect across the City as detailed below.



Planned locations were identified across several suburbs including Armadale, Champion Lakes, Seville Grove, Kelmscott and Harrisdale. Locations were, in the most part, adjoining residential properties without overhead powerlines with the intention of planting the largest growing suitable species.

23-24 PLANTING LOCATIONS



The 2023 planting season saw an unprecedented number of tree plantings rejected by residents. 23% of the planned locations were rejected with most not being communicated to the City prior to planting despite being given the opportunity to do so. Looking forward, to reduce the rejection at time of planting, revisions have been made to the consultation process

such as improvements to the letters and envelopes out, with the aim to encourage residents to review the letter when received and contact the City for further information.

For information, when a resident refuses a tree, Officers take time to educate residents on the benefits of the tree and actively encourage acceptance. Should the resident still reject the tree after this engagement, then it is conceded that a tree will not be planted this season but will be reconsidered in the future seasons and a follow up letter is issued noting the change and benefits of the urban forest greening program. The engage page has also been updated to provide more user-friendly information.

The most common reasons residents reject a tree are:

- Perceived mess of the property from dropped leaves.
- Potential for maintenance associated with the trees.
- Impacting on current verge use, such as parking.

Anecdotally, other Local Governments are experiencing a similar level of rejection from their residents.

For clarity, City Officers’ proactive approach saw 100% of rejected tree stock, reallocated to other residential verges, roadsides and parks, and reserves such as Harber Park and Cam Clay Reserve.

Species Diversity

Species selection was carefully considered, with species diversity, soil type, existing infrastructure, water use and local character being the most influencing factors. The following graph indicates the species diversity installed in 2023-24.

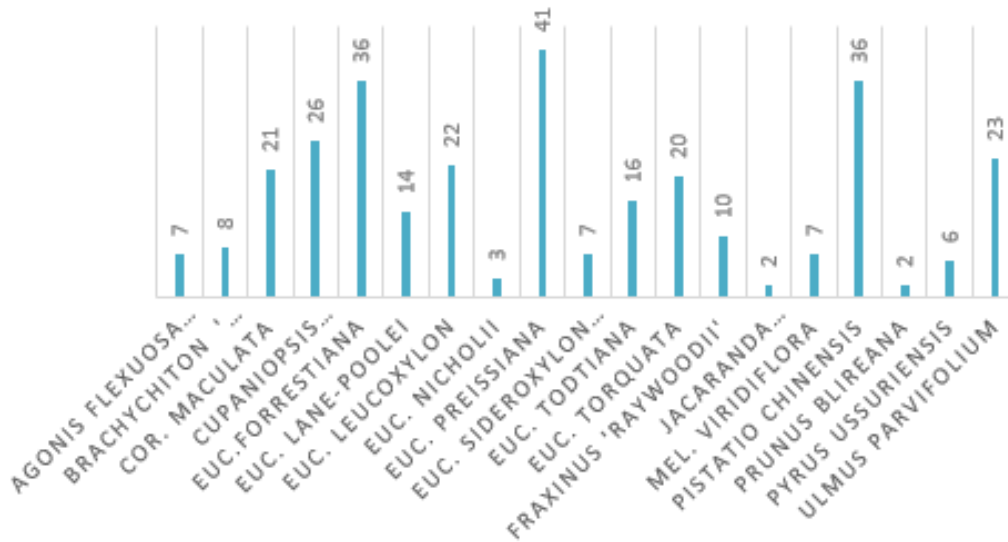


To date, 330 (30-45ltr) trees have been planted in the 2023-24 planting season. In order to trial the viability of diversifying the planting season even further, this year additional planting has been planned to be installed in May during which 135 street trees are planned for installation in the Seville Grove and Armadale areas.

Looking Ahead - Greening Program 2024-25

304 trees are currently planned to be installed within road reserves under the 2024-25 program. Locations have been selected in Armadale, Champion Lakes, Seville Grove, Piara Waters and Harrisdale. Overall, the species diversity has been increased, as noted in the table below with vacant verges being targeted to increase diversity and reduce heat through the screening and shading of the large expanse of hard surfaces as well as provide habitat and beautification for the streetscapes.

24-25 STREET TREE SPECIES DIVERSITY



Communications to adjacent residents has commenced and the Engage Page, which proved to be a highly effective tool last season, has been updated to reflect the upcoming program of work.

It should be recognised that since the introduction of the program, not all residents are happy with the installation of trees on verges. Officers take a positive approach to tree planting and actively encourage residents to support the tree planting program and work with residents to find a compromise that suits. For example, a change of position (to the right or left to enable a carparking space to remain) or a change of species is often a simple modification that can be accommodated.

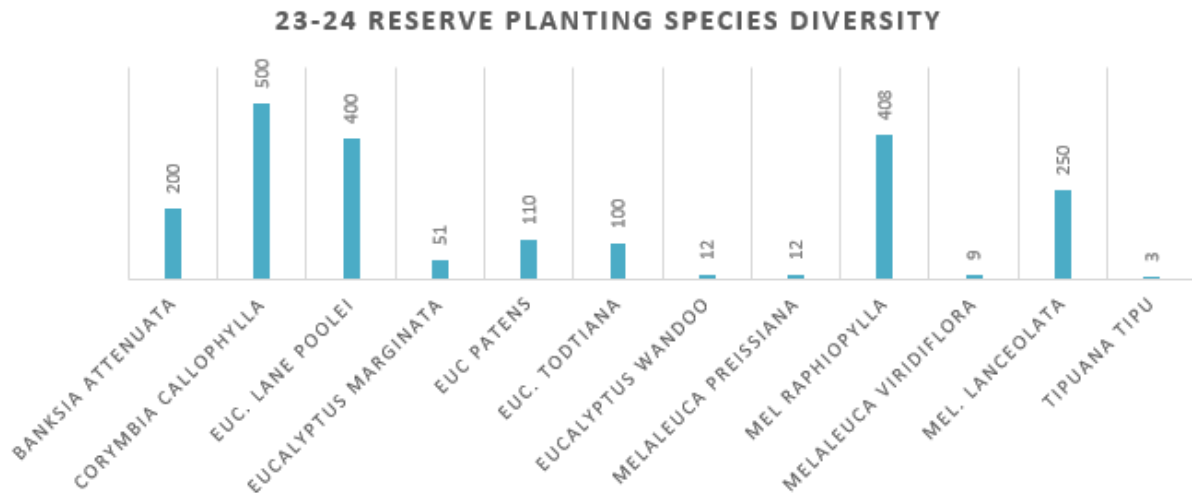
Parkland Tree Planting 2023-24

Location Planning

As stated earlier, the target areas for this season were chosen due to the mapping indicating these parklands having hot land surface temperatures. The majority of the parkland tubestock were planted within Kuhl Park, with excess tubestock allocated to Verdant Reserve.

Species Diversity

Parkland tree planting is considered an opportunity to install larger native species less suited to street tree planting. Most of the species planted are endemic species as noted below.



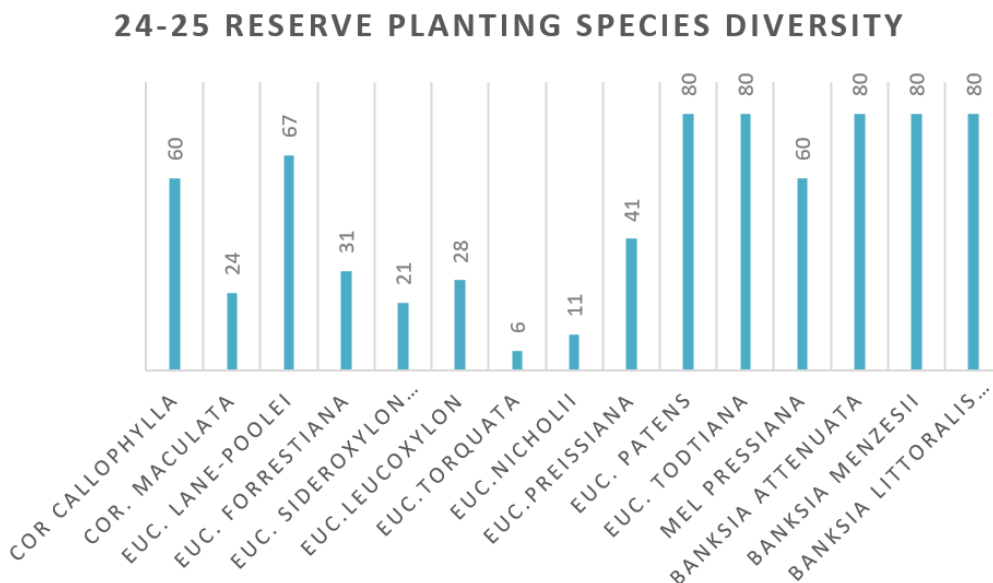
To date, 2,000 tubestock (40mm pot) have been planted in the winter 2023-24 planting season. Again, in order trial the possibility of breaking up the planting season, 55 x 45lt parkland trees are planned for installation in the month of May, with the majority allocated to Cam Clay reserve, Troon and Burtonia Park.

Looking Ahead - Parkland Tree Planting 2024-25

The upcoming tubestock planting is planned to be undertaken as a community planting day in collaboration with the Armadale Gosnells Landcare Group (AGLG) team. The drainage basins at Harrisdale playing fields have been selected for several reasons including:

- Urban heat and higher density
- Existing infrastructure to support establishment of tubestock
- High community visibility
- Education / engagement target area
- Existing facilities to support event.

169 x 45lt trees are currently planned to be installed in parks under the 2024-25 program. Species diversity has been targeted as well as selecting endemic species suitable to the existing soil and groundwater conditions.



Maintenance and Watering 2023-24

Under the greening program, the program funds for the planted trees to be maintained for three years, including watering and general maintenance. This year the City has continued to undertake tree watering as per the Implementation Plan:

- 2023/2024 Planting (Weekly) September to April
- 2022/2023 Planting (Fortnightly) September to April
- 2021/2022 Planting (Monthly) January to April

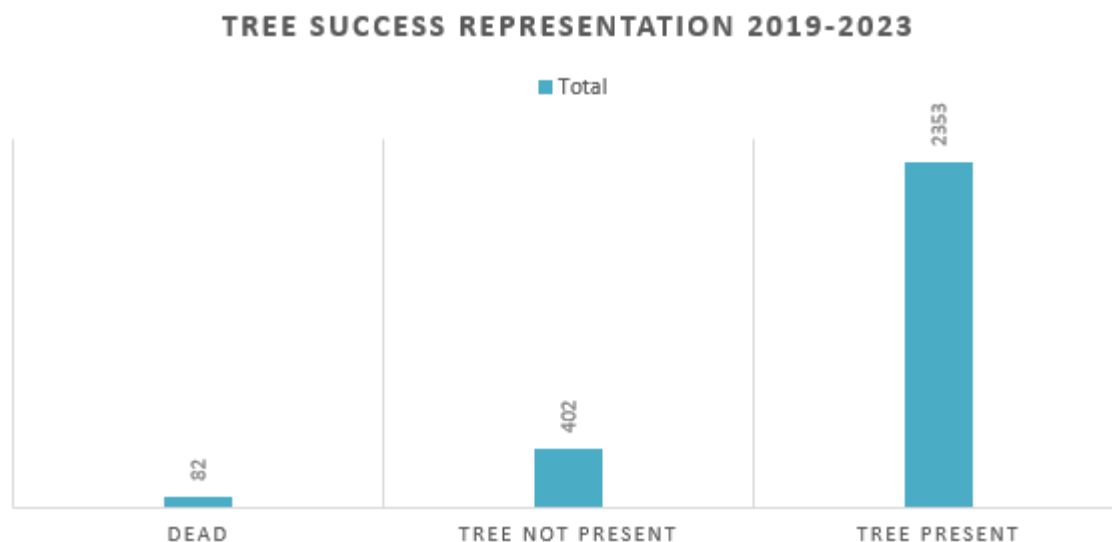
Also, a component of the program is undertaking maintenance work on trees planted during the past three years. Associated maintenance works completed in 2023/2024 incorporated:

- Formative prune
- Re-staking
- Retying
- Mulching
- Fertilizing
- Removal of dead trees and associated stakes and tree wells
- Weeding

In addition, an audit of the past four years (2019-2023) planting has been undertaken to inform corrective works required.

Tree Survival

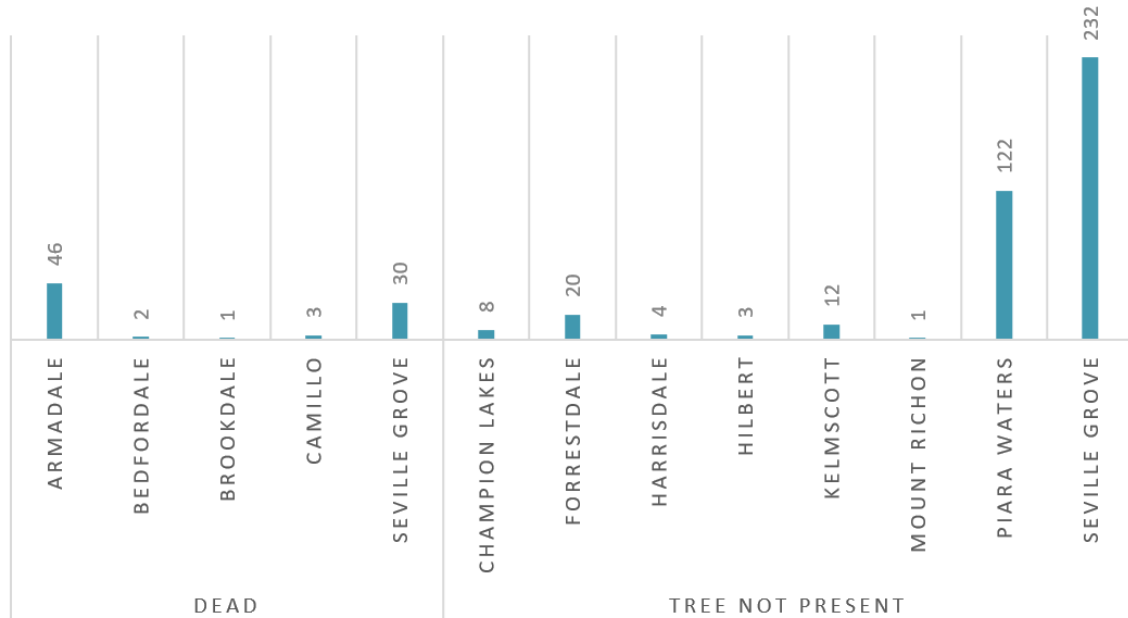
The tree audit reported that 2,353 verge trees were present from planting date, 402 trees were 'not present' whilst 82 trees were confirmed dead – equating to an 80% success rate.



The spread of trees dead or not present shows Seville Grove appears to be the suburb with least success in terms of trees both reported dead or not present, whilst Armadale represents the suburb with the highest number of dead trees. There is no objective data that the City can use to ascertain why these suburbs have the most trees in these categories, although City Officers believe it is likely a combination of; residents removing the tree without City knowledge, due to their disapproval of the tree being planted or the tree has died and subsequently also removed by the resident without informing the City.

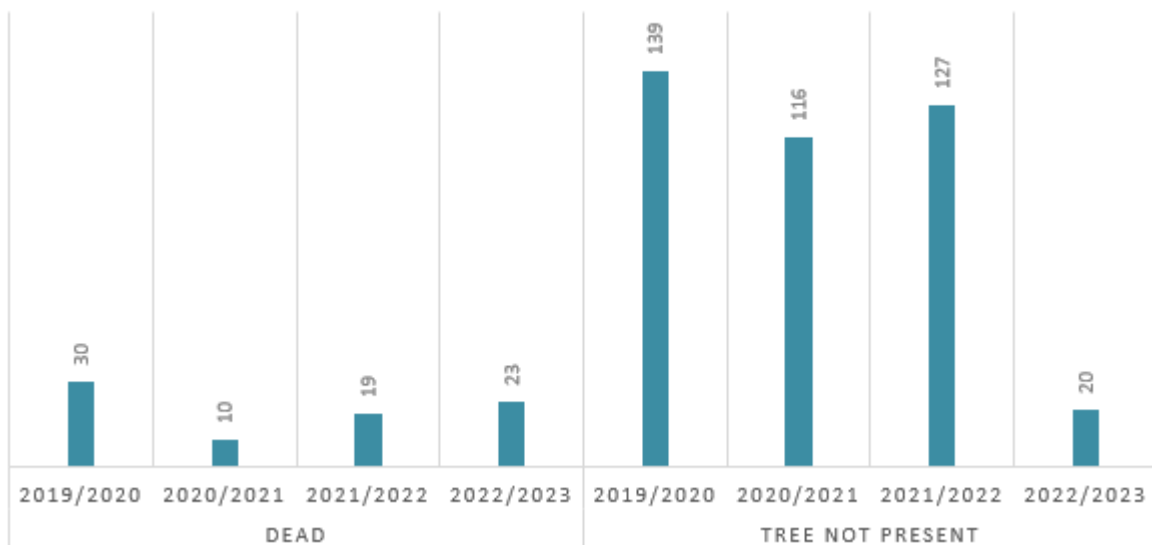
These observations and opportunities for lessons learnt are guidance for future efforts for tree planting.

DEAD/TREES NOT PRESENT - SUBURB 2019-2023



It is noted that ‘trees not present’ on verges is considerably higher than the ‘dead trees’ from 2019-2023 whilst in 2023 there is a significant decline in the number of trees that are not present. Although the City monitors its trees through its watering program and annual maintenance, noting why the tree was removed is not verifiable if not removed by the City.

TREES DEAD/NOT PRESENT - YEAR PLANTED



City officers believe that the lessons learnt from the first three-years 2019-20 to 2021-22 seem to have worked to some degree, with the best ‘trees not present’ score being achieved in 2022-23.

Key lessons:

- City does not invest excessive time and money on residents who do not want a tree i.e. not force plants onto residents.
- The use of social media to promote the planting program seems to be very effective.
- Engaging residents adds to the effectiveness of the program, particularly when planting a tree, the City endeavours where possible to locate the tree in an agreeable location on the verge which potentially reduces the residents urge to remove the tree or reject the tree.

Looking Ahead – Maintenance and watering 2024-25

The City will continue, to manage trees for three years, including watering and general maintenance. A program has been put into place to replace the dead or ‘not present’ trees in the next planting season and the backlog of trees will be addressed.

Officers will continue to undertake an annual audit in December 2024, to inform of corrective works and program regular tree replacements required for winter planting.

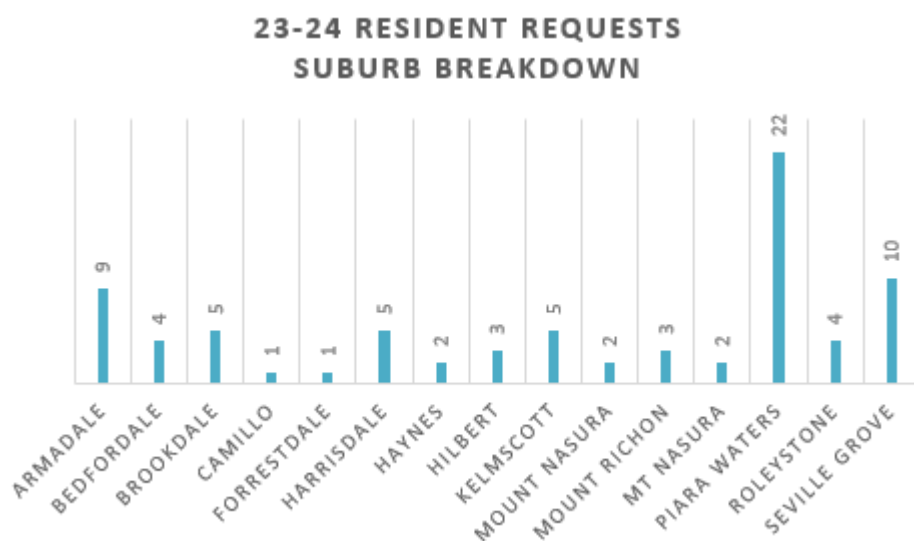
RESIDENT REQUEST PROGRAM 2023-24

The Resident Request planting program encourages residents to apply for a street tree to be planted on the verge adjoining their property. The point of difference between this program and planned urban greening planting is that the resident takes some ownership by agreeing to water the tree. This also allows planting in more of a sporadic manner without the need for contracted truck watering.

Location Planning

The program attracts applications from all over the City however, there has been a consistently high number of applications received from Piara Waters. These trends are a positive reflection on the community’s appetite for greening. In total 78 Resident Request trees were requested and planted.

The graph below illustrates the requests planted in 2023-24.



Species Diversity

To develop each resident's relationship with their street tree, the City will endeavour to honour specific species requests where possible. The requested species must be deemed suitable for the location, by taking this approach helps to increase species diversity and improve the residents' ongoing invested interest in growing the City's urban forest.



Looking Ahead - Resident Request Program 2023-24

141 Street Tree Request forms received for the 2024 Planting season. This increase from 78 to 141 is a massive increase in take up of the program. This is due to the improved engagement and promotion undertaken, which is further explained under the engagement program text.

After site inspections, 38 locations were unable to be planted due to a variety of reasons such as existing vegetation, sight lines and proximity to infrastructure or services. 142 trees were allocated to the remaining 103 locations. Requests were received from 14 suburbs with Piara Waters and Harrisdale again heavily represented.

ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM 2023-24

There is considerable evidence to suggest that the support of the community is vital to be successful in growing an urban forest. The City is home to a diverse range of residents and awareness of this fact is shaping the way to promote the greening program. Over time, the City has sought to diversify the ways in which the message is delivered to residents. In-2023-24, the City has undertaken the following approaches.

Promotions 2023-24

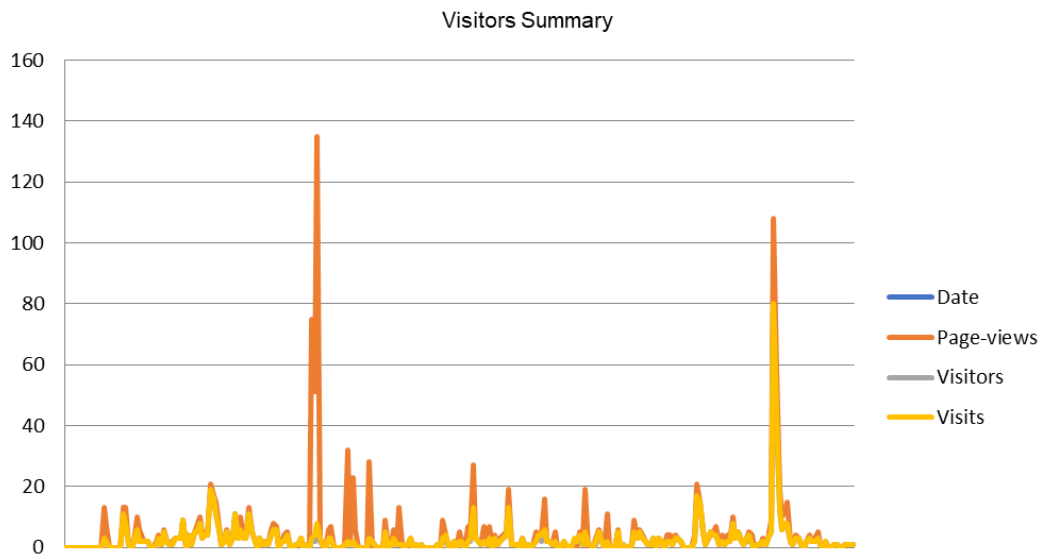
Engage Page

Season 2023 saw the introduction of the Urban Forest Engage Page, with the aim being to provide a platform easily accessible to residents providing information about the City's Urban Forest Strategy, the reasons behind it and about the upcoming planting program.

The page also contained a link to the Residents Street Tree Request form for residents wishing to be included in the planned planting program. A link to the Engage Page was also included in letters sent to residents receiving a tree as a secondary source of information.

The Engage Page has also, for the first time, become a tool in which the City can measure the success of the promotional efforts. The City was able to align spikes in visitation to the page with mail outs and social media posts by Kelmscott Agricultural Society and the City. In total

the Engage Page attracted 783 visitors between mid-February and end of November 2023. After analysis of the data produced on the Engage Page, it is undeniable that social media is by far the most effective communication tool evidenced by the spike in visitations coinciding with the social media posts.



Note: x-axis details November 2022 to December 2023.

A post card style flyer was also developed to place in the letterboxes at planting locations with a QR link to the Engage Page. This is also used as a tool to inform curious residents and passers-by during the planting season.

URBAN FOREST PLANTING PROGRAM

The City of Armadale's Urban Forest Strategy aims to protect one of our most valued resources – trees! Every year the City plants additional trees not only in our parks and reserves but our streetscapes – to increase the canopy cover and ensure our streets remain green and leafy.

Trees offer residents benefits such as:

- 🌿 Environmental
- 🌿 Health
- 🌿 Social
- 🌿 Economic

Check me out!

Online: engage.armadale.wa.gov.au/from-little-things | Email: parkdesign@armadale.wa.gov.au | Call: 9394 5000

armadale.wa.gov.au
(08) 9394 5000 | info@armadale.wa.gov.au

URBAN FOREST PROGRAM

Armadale is one of the fastest growing areas in Perth and with this rapid urban expansion comes a loss of canopy and a greater need to plant and maintain trees, creating what is known as an urban forest.

How can you help green and cool our city?

- Offer your verge tree some extra water in the hotter months to help it establish.
- Reduce hard surfaces around your home such as paving and concrete.
- Use natural surface treatments like mulch and plants.
- Reconsider the use of artificial turf. It absorbs more heat than the road surface!

Resident Request Targeted Mail Out

In 2023-24 the Resident Request program was initially under the target number of applications. In response, Officers undertook a targeted campaign to increase awareness of the program. One of the actions undertaken was a direct mail out to a targeted area. Over 600 residents were directly invited to apply for a street tree via a postcard styled mail out. The locations were selected as the adjoining verges housed minimal underground services and deemed 'low risk' planting opportunities.

REQUEST A FREE STREET TREE & WIN!*

The City of Armadale will supply and plant a street tree free of charge to any property owner without a verge tree. All you have to do is water the tree during the first three years until it is established.

Did you know?

- 🌳 One mature 30m tree absorbs 22kg of carbon and produces 2,700kg of oxygen a year and transpires up to 378 litres daily.
- 🌳 Trees lower land surface and air temperatures by providing shade.
- 🌳 Shaded surfaces can be 11-25°C cooler than peak temperatures of unshaded surfaces - making it one of the cheapest forms of air-conditioning!

Request a street tree before 30 November 2023 for the 2024 planting season for a chance to win a 30m retractable hose reel!

*Terms and conditions apply

To request a free street tree, scan the QR code or contact the Park Design team.
Email: parkdesign@armadale.wa.gov.au

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

To the Resident
<<Address_Line1>>
<<Locality>> <<State>>
<<Postcode>>

This approach did not have a successful outcome with minimum take up of the program from the mail out.

Resident Request Incentive

An added incentive for residents was also introduced this season. The incentive consisted of a chance to win a 30m retractable hose to help care for the street tree. The prize is valued at \$200, which is comparable to the cost to the city watering and maintaining a Street tree for three years. The winner was drawn using a ‘random selection app’ on the 15 December 2023 and the excited winner was thrilled to claim her prize and is looking forward to her tree being planted in the 2024 planting season.

City officers will investigate, through a cost-benefit analysis, if increasing promotions such as this would be of value.



Overall, the promotion and engagement efforts have been successful, as the Tree Requests for 2024 have increased by 82% on the previous season, noting that a number of tree requests could not be progressed due to site issues e.g. proximity to infrastructure.

Events and Displays 2023-24

Library Display

Displays were created in local libraries promoting the benefits of trees and directing residents to the Residents Street Tree Request program. Displays highlighted the benefits of trees amongst library resources about trees and gardening. The displays were aimed to coincide with school holidays to specifically target a younger audience and take advantage of the increased foot traffic.

Kelmscott Show 2023

The opportunity to engage a captive audience via the Kelmscott Show was identified during the previous planting season. The City, in collaboration with the Kelmscott Agricultural Show, presented the idea of greening with the 2023 theme being “Gardens 4 Life” promoting benefits of greening and educating residents about the benefits.

The City was well represented at the show with a combined tent housing Urban Forest, AGLG and the Habitat Links, who all contribute to the greening efforts of the City. During the show, a tree promotion competition was undertaken to promote the conversation on the benefits of trees and the Residents Street Tree Request Program. The winning entrant won one of the trees on display.

Within the stall an interactive display was set up, demonstrating how different landscape surfaces retain heat. Once the participant grasped an understanding of the heat retention using a handheld infrared thermometer, the display helped highlight how a tree's shade can reduce the heat retained. The display demonstrated how heat islands are created and how trees, vegetation and natural surfaces can help mitigate the problem.

The display also highlighted to attendees the wide-range of benefits from increasing tree canopy:

- Reducing heat-island effect
- Maximising carbon sequestration
- Reducing cooling costs
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Social and wellbeing benefits

The final element for the Urban Forest display was the attendance of the Garden Gurus to film a segment during the Kelmscott show, promoting the Residents Street Tree Requests program and the importance of tree planting in urban areas. The Garden Gurus interview was aired on 12 November 2023 and copy of the segment will be uploaded onto the City's website as an ongoing resource maximising value for spend.



Looking Ahead - Engagement & Promotion Promotions 2024-25

As noted, the engagement and promotional elements were diversified within the 2023 season. Continuing on from last year's success, a strong media campaign is being developed.

The following items are being planned for the 2024-25 engagement program:

- A robust and targeted social media campaign is being refined to promote and educate about the program;
- Mature transplants will be considered in select locations for their immediate impact and will be utilised as an engagement and education tool; and
- The introduction of a Tree Giveaway for residents to plant on private land is currently under investigation with the aim of rolling out in 2024-25. The loss or lack of vegetation on private land is identified as an area of concern and

therefore it is essential to strengthen canopy cover on private land as it covers a substantial proportion of available space for vegetation.

DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

Tree Data Collection tender was advertised and closed in December 2023. Two Contractors have been added to a panel and works are underway. At the date of this report, data had been collected from 992 of the City's street trees out of a project total of 36,000 street trees to be assessed. The below image is a snap shot of the progress to date, the green dot is the indicator that a tree has been audited and data collected, the red circle indicate a problem with the tree (i.e. canker, cavity, root damage etc) and yellow cross indicates where works are required to improve the tree health (watering, mulch, crown thinning etc).



Once the data is integrated into the City's operating system it will act as a tool to gauge progress on canopy growth, identify areas for succession planting, monitor diversity, tree health, and better predict future budget requirements for planting and maintenance programs – with the ultimate aim to benefit the City's tree canopy. It is expected that the data collection will be complete by December 2024 and this will inform the revised Urban Forest Strategy, which will kick off in 2024-25.

CONCLUSION

This progress report provides Council and the community with transparency over the works undertaken to date and works prepared for the upcoming 2024 season.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

- 1. Note the contents of this report detailing the implementation of the Urban Forest Programs**

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

2.2 - IMPROVING INCLUSIVE PLAY WITHIN ARMADALE

WARD : ALL
FILE No. : M/131/24
DATE : 11 March 2024
REF : JA/DH
RESPONSIBLE : Executive Director
MANAGER : Technical Services

In Brief:

- The City has received feedback from the community, supported by the Access and Inclusion Committee requesting a liberty swing in a public open space.
- The City agreed to explore inclusive play spaces in Perth and provide a report detailing the swing's viability and if necessary, alternative options, and improvements for accessibility and inclusivity in City of Armadale play spaces.
- This report recommends that Council note contents of this report and the recommendation contained therein.

Tabled Items

Nil

Decision Type

- Legislative** The decision relates to general local government legislative functions such as adopting/changing local laws, town planning schemes, rates exemptions, City policies and delegations etc.
- Executive** The decision relates to the direction setting and oversight role of Council.
- Quasi-judicial** The decision directly affects a person's rights or interests and requires Councillors at the time of making the decision to adhere to the principles of natural justice.

Officer Interest Declaration

Nil

Strategic Implications

The subject of this report has impact on the following objectives of the Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030:

- 1.1 Foster and strengthen community spirit.
- 1.2 Improve Community Wellbeing.
- 1.4 An inclusive and engaged community.
 - 1.4.2 Encourage the provision of inclusive and accessible facilities, services and programs within the community.
- 2.2 Attractive, inclusive and functional public places.

2.3 Functional, inclusive and sustainable infrastructure.

Legal Implications

General assessment of relevant legislation (eg *Local Government Act 1995*) has not revealed any restrictions.

Council Policy/Local Law Implications

Assessment of Policy/Local Law indicates that the following are applicable:

- Disability and Access Inclusion Plan

Budget/Financial Implications

The adoption of the recommendation contained in this report has no financial implication.

Consultation

- Intra Directorate

BACKGROUND

The City recently received feedback from members of the community requesting a liberty swing within one of the City's all abilities playgrounds. Officers met with the residents to further understand their concerns and it was noted that the existing all abilities playgrounds do not provide a liberty swing or a reasonable alternative. The inference was that a wheelchair bound child was not afforded the opportunity to enjoy the City's parks.

Liberty Swing

A Liberty Swing is a play swing that allows children in wheelchairs to experience the joy of this play-type, whilst remaining insitu in the wheelchair. The Liberty Swing is the only swing of its kind that allows a maximum swing height for children in wheelchairs rather than the notion of rocking back and forth. The nearest installed swing is in City Park, Rockingham or Tom Bateman Reserve, Canning Vale.

The swing must be enclosed in a fenced area with a gate and requires a key (Master Locksmith Access Key) (MLAK) to operate the swing. The MLAK developed by Master Locksmiths and Spinal Cord Injuries Australia enables people with disability to gain access to a range of public facilities, changing places and other Liberty Swings which are locked. The fencing is required due to the weight of the swing and safety concerns around children moving through the space during use.

Image 1: Liberty Swing



It is for this reason a liberty swing is not generally considered an inclusive piece of equipment and has not been installed within the City to date. However, it is clear that for some children this piece of equipment is one of a few available that provides play opportunity. Therefore, Officers have explored inclusive playgrounds and investigated further options for enhancing existing playgrounds with units that meet this particular need.

What is inclusive play?

An inclusive play space is defined as *a space that allows children of all ages and genders, both with and without disabilities, to access the playground and play together, and allows families to engage in play with their children* (National Institute of Health).

Inclusive playgrounds may include the following:




- Accessible pathways.
- Inclusive Play Pieces such as inclusive slides, swings and ground level activities.
- Fencing.
- Sensory play - play that engages senses – touch, smell, sight, sound, and taste.
- Zones of play and ‘chill out’ areas - to assist with sensory processing.
- Imaginative play.
- Wayfinders and instructions - aids exploration and how to use equipment.
- Communication Tools /Boards - to assist non-verbal children to communicate.
- Cooperative play - play that focuses on children working together.
- Facilities and Amenities - accessible bathroom facilities, BBQs, drink fountains, picnic areas and park furniture.

Example Inclusive Playgrounds & Equipment

Officers conducted site visits to known inclusive playgrounds:

- Mills Park, Gosnells
- Tomato Park, Kewdale
- Kwinana Adventure Park, Calista
- Shipwreck Park, Hilbert

Play space	Features	Inclusive play pieces	Photo
Mills Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Abilities - fully enclosed and double gated ▪ Covered by shade sail ▪ Swing set has accessible seat and parent/baby combo swing ▪ Inclusive carousel ▪ Accessible jeep rocker ▪ Arm wrestle table ▪ Musical elements ▪ Toilets and change facilities located in Community Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive carousel ▪ Accessible jeep rocker 	
Tomato Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiple play structure ▪ Climbing rope structure ▪ Small flying fox ▪ Multiple rockers ▪ Interactive play panels ▪ Seesaw ▪ Toilets ▪ Picnic areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inclusive Seesaw ▪ Accessible seat in combo swing set ▪ Interactive play on ground level of structure ▪ Multiple play panels including brail alphabet 	

<p>Kwinana Adventure Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treetop aerial walk ▪ Splash pad ▪ Sand play - diggers, buckets, belts and pulleys ▪ Junior area – spinner, creek, swings, musical and cubby play ▪ Action play – nest swings, double flying fox and climbing net. ▪ 3 x accessible toilet/change room facilities with change table and hoist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accessible slides with transition platforms. ▪ Double flying fox with accessible seat ▪ All abilities carousel ▪ Accessible sand play tables 	
<p>Sir James Mitchell Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Play unit ▪ All abilities swing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liberty swing 	
<p>Shipwreck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shipwreck themed play structure with multiple deck levels, climbing ropes, sea containers and slides ▪ Climbing wall ▪ Sandpit and water play ▪ Double Cable flying fox ▪ Basketball court and fitness zone ▪ Flying fox ▪ Talking Tubes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flying fox has an accessible chair with seatbelt ▪ Wheelchair access to top of ship structure ▪ Wheelchair access to under ship structure 	

Overall on review, there are a number of viable options that provide opportunity for wheelchair bound children to engage in active play. In particular, there a few pieces identified that could be considered in an all-abilities playground, including:

- An inclusive seesaw
- An inclusive carousel
- Liberty swing

- Wheelchair trampoline



Suggested improvements

Shipwreck Park is the City's most notable inclusive play space and now features newly installed changing place. It would be beneficial for the City to further develop this playground to enhance accessibility – making it a standout not only within the City boundary but also within the Perth metro area. The playground does feature key elements of a good inclusive playground and have a flying fox with an accessible chair and wheelchair access through the playground. However, improvements could be made with the suggestions as noted below:

1. Install a feature piece such as an inclusive seesaw, carousel, liberty swing or wheelchair trampoline to provide active play. It is expected that this feature piece would cost approximately \$40,000 to install including rubber soft-fall.
2. Undertake small improvements such as adding in inclusive play options around the top and underneath of the shipwreck (i.e. add in steering wheels, play panels, telescopes, sensory panels, and tread chimes) It is expected that these smaller interventions would cost around \$7,000 to install.
3. Improve accessibility to the water play/sand play table, which is situated at correct height but located within sand and rocks. It is expected that these smaller interventions would cost around \$4,000 to install.

Options

The following options are presented for consideration:

1. Develop a concept plan to enhance Shipwreck Park in line with the suggestion noted above. The concept plan will refine the proposed improvements and provide clearer cost estimates to be considered in future budget considerations. This work would be undertaken in house initially with input from access specialist consultancy, estimated at \$5,000.

2. Undertake Citywide audit of inclusive playgrounds and receive a future report outlining proposed improvements to a number of playgrounds. This would require consultancy funding to help support the assessment, estimated at \$30,000.
3. Decide not to undertake additional works at this stage and consider improvements at time of renewal of Shipwreck playground.

It is the Officer's recommendation that Option 1 is supported.

CONCLUSION

The City received feedback from the community, requesting a liberty swing. Officers explored inclusive play spaces and suitable units and recommend that improvements could be made to Shipwreck Park. This investment would improve the City's all abilities playground to enable it to be utilised by all of the community. It is therefore recommended that Council note the outcomes of the investigation and that the Officer's recommendation is that Option 1 is supported.

RECOMMEND

That Council:

1. **Note the contents of this report.**
 - a) **Endorse Option 1 for further consideration in the Long Term Financial Plan and budget deliberations.**

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

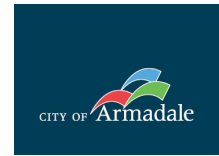
COUNCILLORS' ITEMS

This refers to any brief updates from Councillors from their attendance at Working Group or Advisory Group meetings on which they represent Council.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORT

MEETING DECLARED CLOSED AT _____

TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		
SUMMARY OF ATTACHMENTS		
8 APRIL 2024		
ATT NO.	SUBJECT	PAGE
1.1 ENG21 - STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT		
1.1.1	Draft Strategic Environmental Commitment Policy	34



POLICY ENG21 – STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

ASPIRATION	Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTORATE	Technical Services
RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS UNIT	Environment and Sustainability
RELEVANT LEGISLATION	Not Applicable

1. Objective

To clearly define the key Environmental Objectives the City will pursue in achieving its City of Armadale Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030 environmental goal of the conservation and restoration of the natural environment, which includes:

- The protection of the environment, including the prevention of pollution.
- Compliance with environmental and heritage legislation.
- The implementation of processes enabling continuous improvement in environmental performance, including consultation with relevant industry stakeholders where appropriate.

2. Policy

The City of Armadale will promote environmental sustainability in accordance with section 3.1(1A) of the *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)* this includes the need to plan for, and to plan for mitigating, risks associated with climate change. Long term consequences and impacts to future generations will be considered as part of any decision making processes in relation to this policy.

The local environment has been considered in each of its constituent parts; Biodiversity, Water, Aboriginal Heritage, Soil and Land and Air. The following objectives will be adhered to by the City in pursuit of achieving its environmental goal:

Biodiversity

- Preserve and enhance the City’s natural areas
- Ensure development outcomes are sensitive to pre-existing environmental values
- Create partnerships and support strategies for the maintenance and enrichment of the natural environment

Water

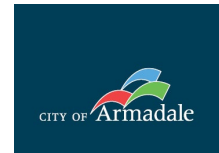
- Utilise water efficiently as part of City operations
- Minimise detrimental impacts to water quality in the City’s rivers, streams, brooks and drains

Aboriginal Heritage

- Recognise the connection that members of the local Aboriginal community share with City managed land through the implementation of on-ground initiatives

Soil and Land

- Minimise the pollution of soil and land that could result from City activities



Air

- Minimise pollution to the atmosphere from City operations
- Minimise the City's carbon footprint

3. Influencing Strategies or Plans

This Policy is influenced by the overarching strategic outcomes and objectives of the Strategic Community Plan and Corporate Business Plan including Outcome 2.1 Conservation and Restoration of the Natural Environment:

- Objective 2.1.1 Sustainability initiatives are supported and implemented throughout the City
- Objective 2.1.2 Improve water efficiency throughout the City's operations
- Objective 2.1.3 Seek to improve the quality of water within waterways throughout the City
- Objective 2.1.4 Minimise corporate and community carbon footprints within the City of Armadale
- Objective 2.1.5 Minimise impacts on air quality throughout the City
- Objective 2.1.6 Protect soil and land resources throughout the City
- Objective 2.1.7 Biodiversity is managed to preserve and improve ecosystem health
- Objective 2.1.8 Facilitate the creation of partnerships and support strategies for the maintenance and enrichment of the natural environment

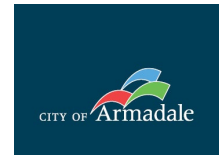
4. Applicable Legislation

This policy is aligned to the requirements of ISO14001 *Environmental Management Systems*. The City's commitment to comply with environmental and heritage legislation includes the following:

- *Local Government Act 1995 (WA)*
- *Planning and Development Act 2005 (WA)*
- *Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth) (EPBC Act)*
- *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 (WA) (BC Act 2016)*
- *Environmental Protection Act 1986 (WA) (EP Act)*
- *Environment (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004 (WA)*
- *Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004 (WA)*
- *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914 (WA)*
- *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 (WA) (AH Act)*

5. Definitions

None.



VERSION CONTROL			
RELEVANT DELEGATIONS	Not Applicable		
INITIAL COUNCIL ADOPTION	12/08/2019	REFERENCE	T53/8/19
LAST REVIEWED	12/08/2019	REFERENCE	T53/8/19
NEXT REVIEW DUE	Click or tap to enter a date.		

