



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL
The Heart of Gippsland

WELLINGTON SHIRE COUNCIL

Greening Wellington

2022-2027

HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, THRIVING COMMUNITY



Acknowledgement of Country

Wellington Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land, the Gunaikurnai people, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land and water on which we rely.

The Gunaikurnai are the Traditional Owners of the land encompassed by Wellington Shire and hold Native Title to the region.

The Bratualung Clan occupied the southern area including the waters and islands of Nooramunga. The Tatungalung Clan lived around the Gippsland Lakes, the Brayakaulung Clan around the current site of Sale, Providence Ponds, Avon and Latrobe Rivers and the Brabralung Clan were further to the west

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Our Vision



“Wellington Shire Council will implement urban green infrastructure that is resilient and sustainable, creates liveable and thriving communities, supports the natural environment and contributes to the resident’s health and wellbeing”



About this Plan

Greening Wellington is an exciting new strategy for a greener, more liveable Wellington Shire. It aims to support the delivery of actions identified in a range of existing Council strategies and plans by identifying opportunities for urban green infrastructure projects that will improve the health, wellbeing and liveability for residents and visitors to our urban centres and to enhance environmental outcomes. To be truly successful it will be critical to engage with the broader community and other key internal and external stakeholders.

Green infrastructure refers to a multitude of green assets within the built-up communities across the municipality. This includes our parklands and open spaces, street and habitat trees, private established gardens and significant trees, nature strips and grass road verges, waterways and wetlands and all assets which support it.

Street trees along footpaths provide neighbourhood amenity and shade; vegetation plantings along waterways capture and treat stormwater run-off improving water quality in our rivers and ultimately the Ramsar listed Gippsland Lakes; significant and large trees in our townships define the character of the town; bio-links connect tracts of native vegetation, provide habitat for flora and fauna and improve biodiversity, while supporting the health,

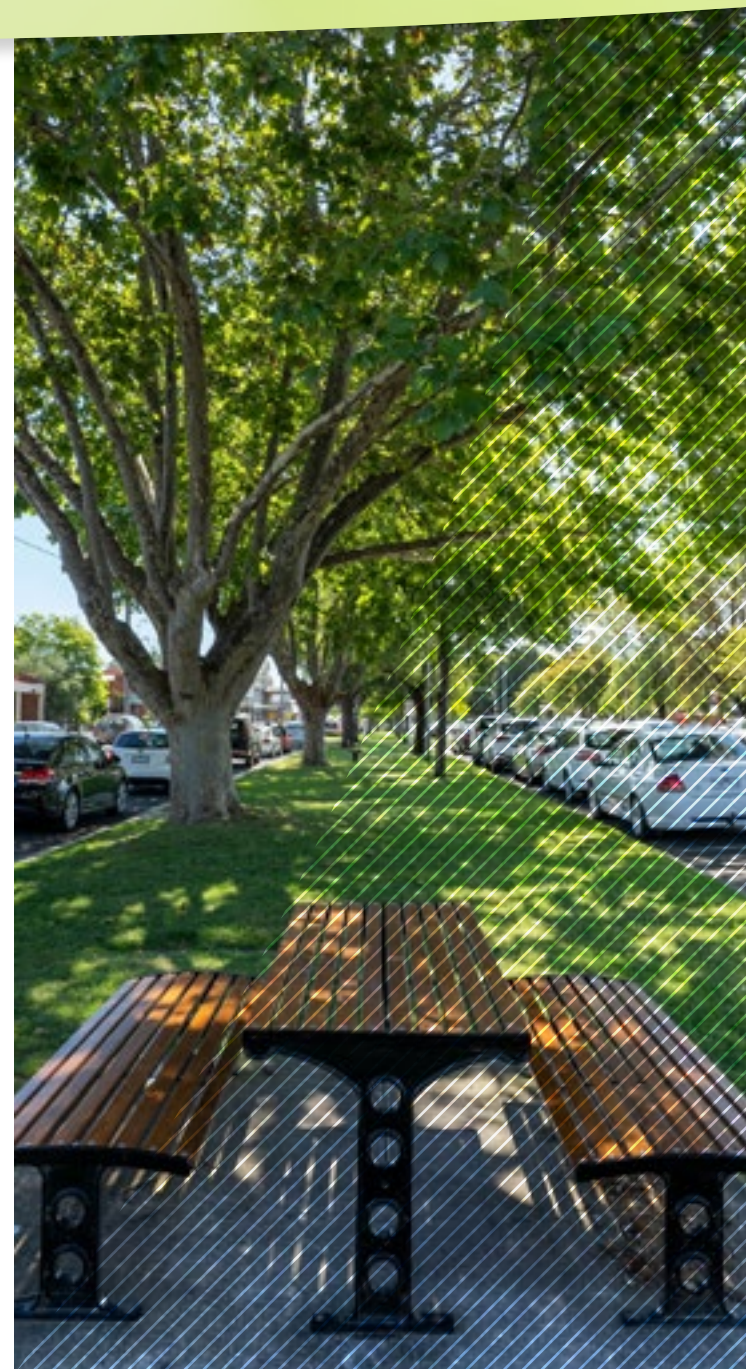
well-being and movement of people.

“Healthy people, healthy environment and thriving community” is the message that resonated through the consultation in the development of Wellington 2030. The development of Greening Wellington will set a roadmap for Council to engage with the community to work towards this vision for our future.

The aim of the Greening Wellington is to understand the existing green assets and provide direction to assist Council to implement policies, programs and operational activities that protect, maintain and enhance urban green infrastructure across Wellington Shire Council.

This document will be used by Council to:

- Identify and protect significant trees that define the character and provide amenity to our townships
- Implement priority projects to enhance and improve canopy cover and increase the diversity of the urban forest
- Enable sound decision making to ensure life cycle asset management of the green assets
- Plan for green infrastructure objectives and targets at the beginning of any Council project



Themes

There are a number of key strategic directions that this plan will focus on to improve the way Council manages the urban forest and deliver urban green infrastructure projects.

Implementing the actions identified in this strategy will assist Wellington Shire to adapt to the challenges of climate change, retain the amenity of our urban centres and create a diverse urban forest that is resilient and protected.



01

Planning for a Greener Wellington

Theme 1 focuses on the strategic planning for the increase of urban green infrastructure.

02

Increase the diversity of the urban forest

Theme 2 will focus on ensuring the urban forest is sustainable for generations to come.

03

Connecting community with Nature

Theme 3 will look to raise the profile and awareness of the importance of urban green infrastructure for the health and wellbeing of our communities.

04

Accounting for our urban green infrastructure

Theme 4 will provide an understanding of the management and condition of the urban green assets and plan for the entire life of the asset.

Greening Wellington Principles

1

Connected green corridors

Encourage and plan for a network of connected green infrastructure across each township, from private gardens to public parks and streetscapes.

2

Enhanced urban character

Enhance the uniqueness of each township's identity and character of its parks, open spaces, and streetscapes.

3

Create welcoming spaces

Add value through greening by using infrastructure that performs multiple functions including shade and shelter, traffic calming, and stormwater management.

4

Planning for a greener community

Provide appropriate direction to enable implementation of green infrastructure, including the cost benefits long term.

5

Integrated Water Management (IWM)

Embracing opportunities to harness stormwater run-off to passively irrigate green infrastructure, reducing contaminants entering the Gippsland Lakes and minimising the reliance upon potable water.

6

Creation of a resilient urban landscape

Improving the biodiversity of the urban forest to ensure the health and longevity of our green infrastructure in a changing climate.



Guiding Documents

Greening Wellington is a strategy that guides our approach to achieve objectives and visions that filter down from Wellington 2030, Council Plan 2021 - 2025, Public Open Space Plan 2014-24 and the Sustainability Strategy 2020-2024.

Originally developed in 2008, **Wellington 2030** is our community's vision for the future. With significant local, regional, national and global changes affect our communities, the vision was reviewed and updated in 2016 to better reflect the impacts of these changes and our community's response.

A consistent theme from the consultation was the value the community places on the diversity and beauty of our natural environment, and their desire to retain and enhance this into the future.

Greening Wellington delivers on the **Council Plan 2021-2025** in which the environment and climate change is prominent throughout.

Following extensive consultation with the community in the preparation of the Council Plan 2021-2024, it is recognised that the biggest

challenge for the area is the future impacts of climate change – increasing temperatures; lower rainfall; more frequent weather events; intense flooding; and sea level rises.

The recently endorsed **Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026** has established a strategic framework to prioritise and implement projects that will support our future communities manage the impacts of climate change on the health, wellbeing and liveability.

The Sustainability Strategy also highlights the pressing urgency to act now to minimise the long-term impacts of climate change.

Council's **Public Open Space Plan 2014-2024**, endorsed by Council in 2014, placed a significant level of importance to the role the urban forest plays on the health and wellbeing of the community. The vision for the urban forest to be sustainable, resilient, healthy and diverse and will contribute to the biodiversity values of our urban centres, the health and wellbeing of our communities and the liveability of our towns, is still extremely relevant today.



Framework Policy

Annually Council reviews the two existing policies that provide the framework in relation to the management of the urban forest and significant trees managed by Council.

Council's Urban Forest Policy (4.1.9) guides the planting, establishment and removal of trees managed by Council. The Urban Forest Policy has provided guiding principles that have protected and expanded the urban forest.

The Significant Tree Protection Policy (4.1.8) aims to protect significant trees and remnant vegetation located within urban areas from the negative impact of land development. Aligned with the National Trust of Australia's significant tree criteria, the Significant Tree Protection Policy aims to protect trees of significance on lots less than 0.4ha (4,000sqm) that are vulnerable to infill developments.



Benefits of Green Infrastructure

Great cities around the world recognise the vital role green infrastructure plays on not only the natural world and biodiversity, but the economic and social aspects of a community. Central Park (New York), Hyde Park (London), Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, and our own Botanic Gardens in Sale were developed at a time when chronic illness, social connectedness and economic prosperity of a community was influenced by the quality of green infrastructure.

When planned and designed well, green infrastructure can deliver a range of social, landscape and water management benefits (Brown H, 2013).

In a report from The Nature Conservancy's Funding Trees for Health – An Analysis of Finance and Policy Actions to Enable Tree Planting for Public Health, it had been determined that for every \$1 invested in tree planting and maintenance, there is a return of \$8.03 in benefits (The Nature Conservancy, 2017).

These benefits include (but are not limited to):

Reducing Energy Costs – major savings to the resident/property owner can be achieved from shading buildings, thus reducing the costs and reliance upon air-conditioning by up to 10% per annum (The Nature Conservancy, 2017)

Carbon Sequestration - it is estimated that the average street tree can contain just under 1 tonne of carbon. Multiplying that figure by the proposed 900 trees once mature will have removed 900 tonne carbon (The Nature Conservancy, 2017)

Increasing property values – a 2010 report evaluated the property values relative to leafy streets in urban areas. It found that tree-lined streets have proven to increase property values by up to 30% (Sander, Polasky, & Haight, 2010)

Health Benefits – it is challenging to place a dollar figure on the reduction in health-related costs avoided from the investment into urban green infrastructure. Studies into people who are surrounded by green infrastructure and experience the natural world have shown to



reduce obesity and increased cardiovascular health, while also decreasing levels of stress and a reduction in mental health issues (depression, anxiety etc) (Astell-Burt & Feng, 2019)

Amenity value – individually Wellington Shire uses the Burnley Method to determine the monetary value of existing trees that have been identified to be removed by Developers or projects. While no full figure has been placed on the street trees managed by Wellington Shire, a full audit to determine the amenity value has been identified as a priority in the Greening Wellington Action Plan

Existing Town Character

Typically, older townships across Wellington Shire were created to include boulevards of exotic species representative of traditional townships in Northern Europe. There is still some evidence of these streets in Sale (Macalister Street) and Maffra (Thomson Street), which help define the character of the neighbourhoods.

In 2014, and in developing Council's Public Open Space Plan, analysis of our urban forest determined that 54% of the estimated 50,000 street and park trees were from just five genera, highlighting the lack of diversity across the urban forest.

On the back of this analysis into the urban forest, and to enhance the diversity and increase the urban forest, Council implemented Town Tree Plans. Beginning in Briagalong in 2014, the program has seen ratepayers select species from a range of trees selected on the basis of:

- Biological – soils, rainfall, wind, exposure, drainage (will the tree grow here?)
- Physical constraints- Powerlines, nature-strip width, road design, footpaths, etc
- Tree Style/Character (what visual effect will this species have on the overall streetscape?)

- Biodiversity value (how much does this species add to the street tree biodiversity)
- A changing climate into the future will have a significant impact of the health, wellbeing, and economy.

While there were a significant number of necessary removals, over the past decade the annual tree planting program has seen close to 10,000 trees planted into streets and park settings, far exceeding the removals over the same period. Over the same period, community

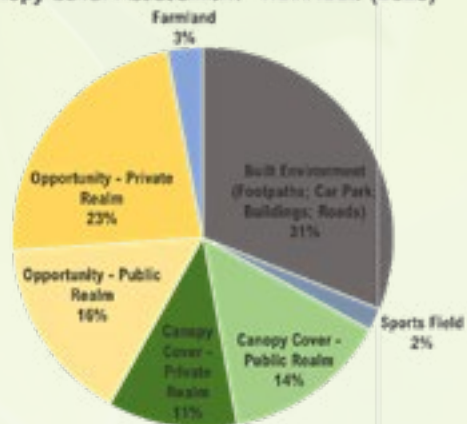


engagement and awareness in the annual tree planting program has increased. The delivery of the annual tree planting program covers a number of approaches to improving the urban forest. The whole of town approach (Town Tree Plans) through to tree planting in new subdivisions, sees the community engaged in a number of different methods. Through better informing the property owners and the broader community has resulted in a greater number of trees surviving.

In recent years, infill developments and expansion of townships, has put at risk the urban forest in both the public and private realm. As such, it is recognised that the trees planted as part of Council's annual Street Tree Planting Programs will need to become the canopy cover for decades to come.

Baseline data of the tree planting program has begun to be collected on the long-term benefit to the community. A desktop analysis using the industry recognised i-Tree software, determined canopy cover assessments of our major urban centres. While this supported the anecdotal evidence that Maffra and Sale had well established large canopied trees, it highlighted priority areas that fall well below the average.

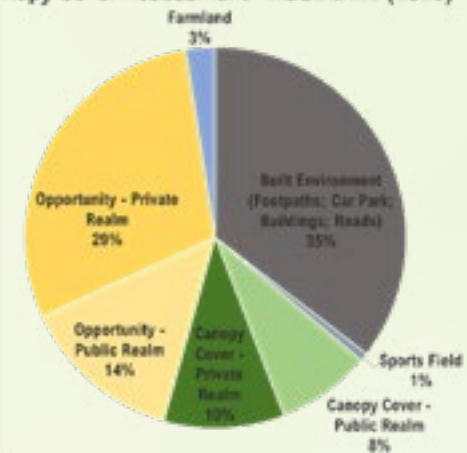
Canopy Cover Assessment - HEYFIELD (2020)



Canopy Cover Assessment - MAFFRA (2020)



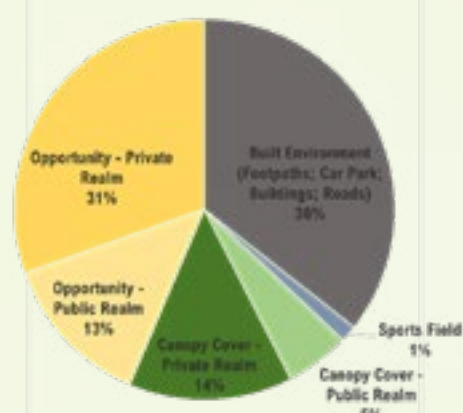
Canopy Cover Assessment - ROSEDALE (2020)



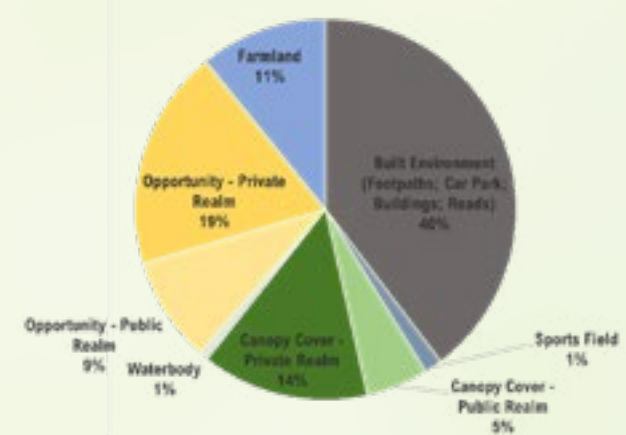
Canopy Cover Assessment - SALE & WURRUK (2020)



Canopy Cover Assessment - STRATFORD (2020)



Canopy Cover Assessment - YARRAM (2020)



The Future

It is widely recognised that there are many challenges in planning for urban green infrastructure into the future. Some key challenges include:

Urban Development

- Residential infill developments trends – smaller lots & larger houses (less space for large canopy trees)
- Competing spaces for infrastructure (roads; footpaths; underground services; powerlines)

Changing Climate

- More frequent hot days
- Changing rainfall patterns, less annual rainfall
- More frequent extreme weather events (flood, fire, drought, winds)
- Changing habitat ranges for vegetation species
- Vulnerability to pests and pathogens suited to a changing climate

Community

- Community attitude to urban green infrastructure (vandalism; complaints)

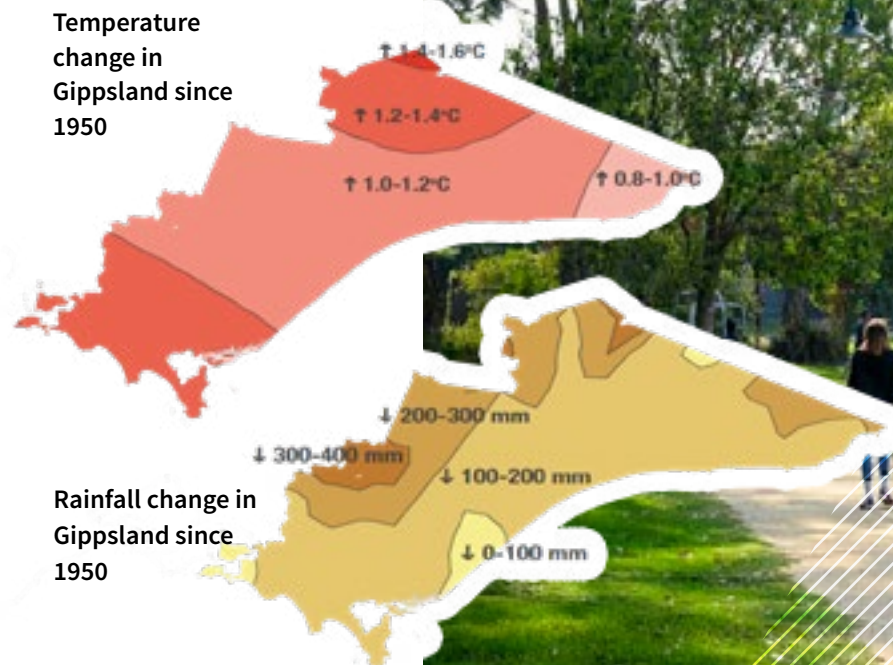


Figure 2. (State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2015)



An aerial photograph of a suburban neighborhood. The image shows a mix of residential houses with various roof colors, green lawns, and scattered trees. Roads and parking areas are visible, weaving through the landscape. In the background, the terrain appears to level out towards a distant horizon under a clear blue sky. The overall scene depicts a typical urban built environment.

Our urban built environment is a complex system that creates challenging conditions for the planning and delivery of urban green infrastructure projects (The Nature Conservancy and Resilient Melbourne, 2019).

Conflict between infrastructure, pressure from developments (either infill or expansion), lack of space, limited resources and lack of understanding from the public and key stakeholders of the benefits provided by urban green infrastructure are major challenges faced when expanding our urban forest and associated infrastructure.

Critical Considerations

1

Climate Change

There is clear evidence that our climate is changing, and with that change the area will be exposed to altered rainfall patterns and increased intensity of rainfall, higher average temperatures, extended heatwaves, as well as more extreme weather events (State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning , 2015).

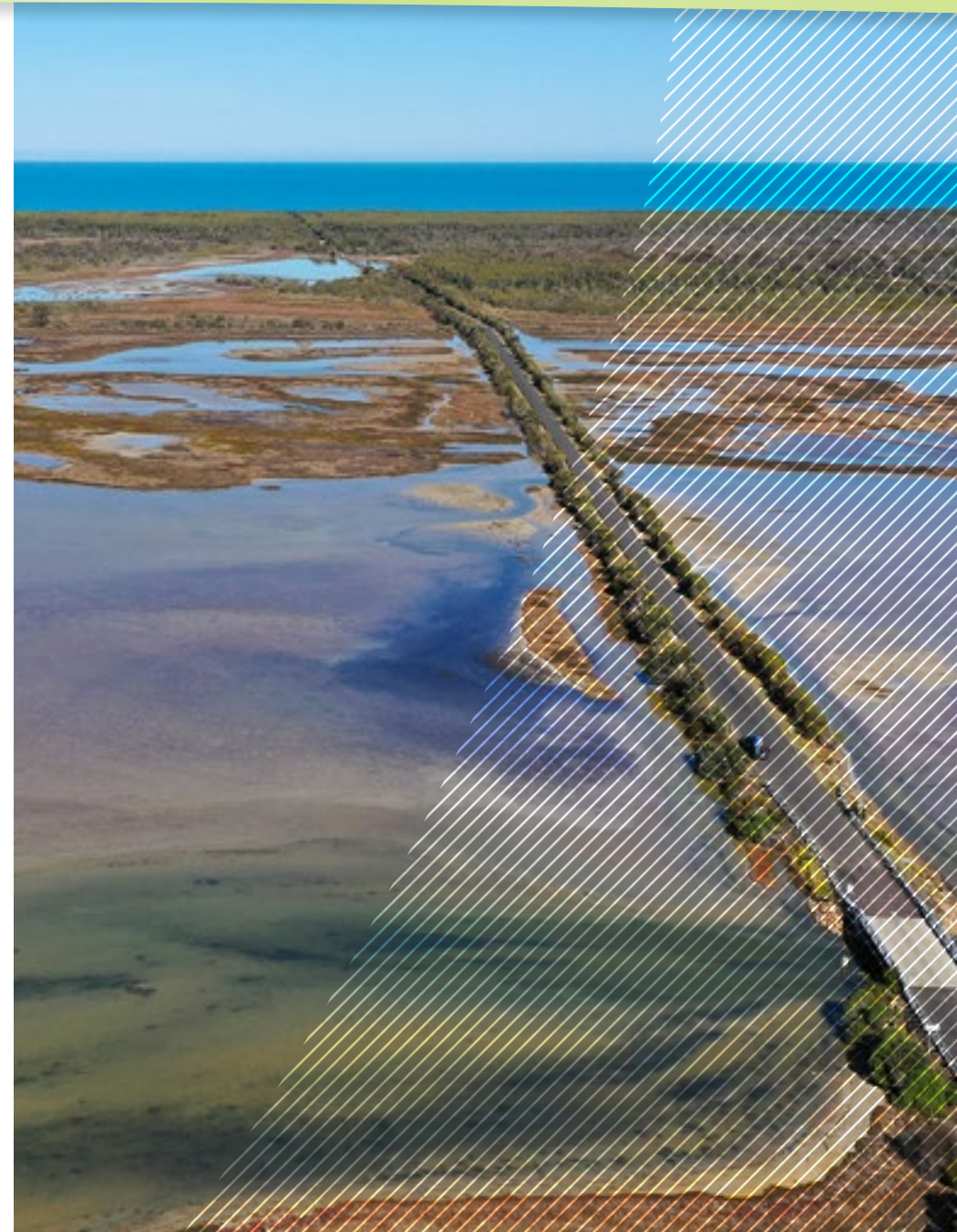
Managing our urban green infrastructure, particularly the urban forest, into the future will pose challenges to protect existing street trees of significance and provide future generations with a healthy urban forest.

High and unpredictable winds and extreme weather events can increase the risk of limb drop or complete failures, which can lead to immediate impacts on the community (power outages, road closures) or longer term

to the health, wellbeing and liveability of a neighbourhood or town. The proactive tree management in place has shown to minimise the loss of trees and the adverse impact to the community.

Highlighted by research undertaken by the University of Melbourne, certain tree species will be more susceptible to increased temperatures into the future (Kendal & Baumann, 2016). The Living Labs Program, along with knowledge shared from others in the industry, will see species trialled that may be better suited to warmer, drier climates and could one day be incorporated into the planting palate across the shire.

Significant avenues, stands of trees, or individual specimens may require further resources to support them to ensure their longevity (Adelaide City Council, 2014).



2

Canopy cover

Canopy cover refers to the combined tree coverage of the ground when viewed from above. Understanding our canopy cover, Council is able to measure the success of our urban forest and set targets over the next decade to be on our way to achieving the 30% canopy cover by 2040 as set in Council's Sustainability Strategy.

The benefits of increased canopy coverage of our urban areas and the shading provided impacts public and private realm.

Every 10 per cent increase in canopy cover reduces land surface temperatures by around 1.5 degrees Celsius. (NSW

Government, 2015). Further to this, recent research from AECOM has highlighted that this 10% increase in canopy cover from street trees can equate to an average of \$50,000 increase in property value (AECOM, 2017).

The data provided from undertaking canopy cover assessments of our urban areas are to be considered a snap shot in time. Information gathered through the assessment of canopy cover can provide an indication of areas to focus tree planting programs. This needs to be weighed up with visual assessments as a desktop analysis of the canopy cover may not capture young trees.



3

Species Diversity

As a contrived ecosystem, the urban forest can be exposed to serious risk from pests, diseases and a changing climate (City of Yarra, 2018).

Legacies of our predecessors, and trends in plantings have led to most of our urban areas to exhibit low species diversity. Streets from the 1960's, 70's & 80's are lined with *Melaleuca* (Paperbarks), *Lephostemon* (Queensland Box) and *Eucalypts* (mainly spotted gums).

In the development of the Public Open Space Plan 2014-24, an assessment of the diversity of our urban forest identified that only five genera account for 54% of the street tree population.

An accepted standard of diversity to aim for within our urban forest is:

- **Family** - no more than 20 to 40 per cent (*Myrtaceae*)
- **Genus** – no more than 10 to 30 per cent (*Eucalyptus*)
- **Species** – no more than 5 to 10 per cent (*Lagerstroemia indica*) (Kendal D. &, 2014)

Through the continued work over the past decade to engage the property owners in determining the trees planted in front of their property, has resulted in greater diversity at a township level.



4

Competition for space

To achieve objectives and targets set out in a range of Council's strategic and operational plans, space for the urban forest is required. But like all other cities around the world, in the built environment there is conflict between trees and:

- Underground services (Telstra, Gas, Power, Water, NBN)
- Parking
- Sight Lines to intersections and driveways
- Overhead Power
- Signs/Traffic Lights
- Pedestrian/Cyclists
- Shop/Property Entrances

It is imperative that in the early stages of planning, considerations must be made to ensure that, in accordance with the Council

Plan (and other supporting Strategies) the urban forest is given due priority (Adelaide City Council, 2014).

Innovative engineering solutions that support a healthy and sustainable urban forest should be incorporated into projects in areas where space is restricted (State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2019).

In planning for the project, the species selected should consider the potential of future conflict with assets – particularly overhead powerlines. While it is too expensive to roll out across the entire municipality, Council has established an Aerial Bundled Cabling (ABC) program for significant and established avenues to mitigate the conflict between both assets, as well as improve the health of the existing street trees to extend their longevity.



5

Urban Heat Island Effect (UHI)

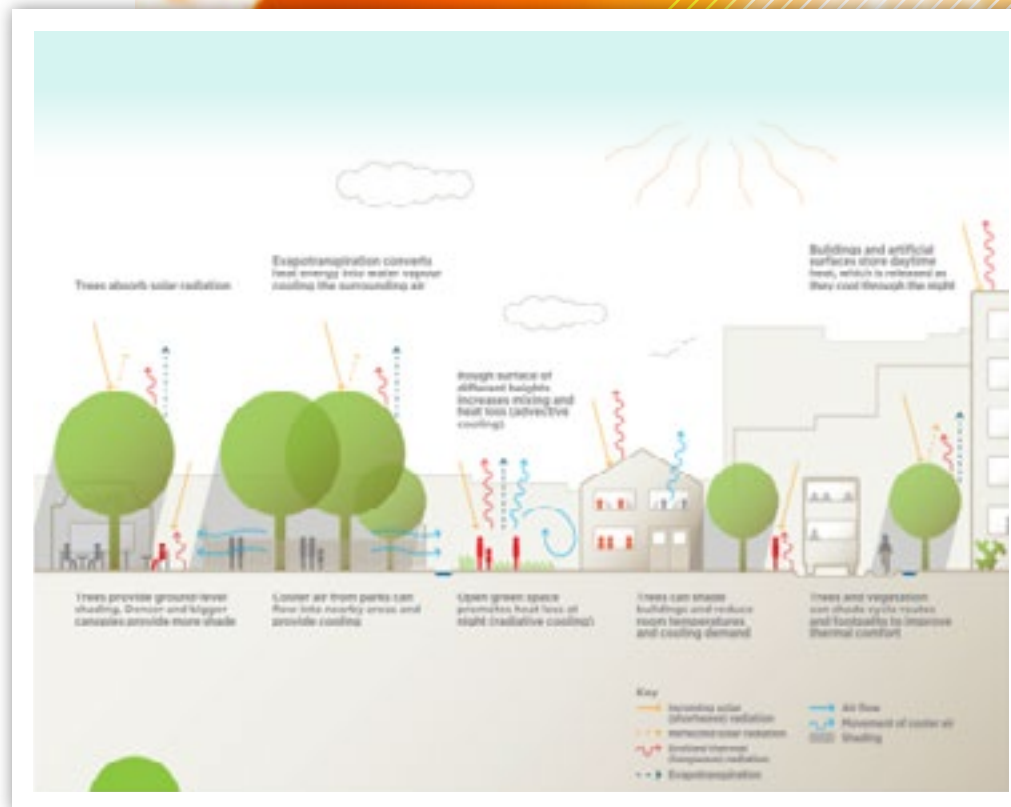
Our urban built environment creates its own microclimate, influenced by the surrounding atmosphere interacting with the built form (State of Victoria Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2019). Urban areas (car parks, roads, footpaths and buildings) exposed to direct sunlight become significantly warmer than areas that have canopy cover or green space to cool the atmospheric temperature (Ferranti, 2021).

The urban heat island (UHI) effect has the potential to adversely impact the health and wellbeing of our communities (Pataki DE, 2021). The UHI intensifies hot days, putting the community at risk of heat exhaustion, with the risk of heat stroke and death

– particularly in vulnerable cohorts of the community.

Add to this the increase demand of power use to run air conditioners of private residents and businesses. This contributes to the demand on an already stretched power supply, leading to power shortages and even blackouts.

Documented research has shown that urban green infrastructure is one of the most cost-effective methods for mitigating the impact of heat retained within the built form. Moisture evaporation through the leaves of trees has shown to cool the air, while the shade from the tree canopy can reduce the air temperatures by around 1.5 degrees Celsius (NSW Government, 2015).





Strategic Directions

Theme 1

Planning for a greener Wellington

We need a strategic approach to achieve a greener Wellington in the same way we strategically plan for the built environment of roads, housing and footpaths and other community infrastructure.

The need to increase canopy cover is clearly evident. Over the past five years we have seen our communities of Stratford, Maffra and Sale expand, while infill developments within many of our communities have seen private green spaces (backyards and private gardens) make way for townhouses.

How best to do this then?

Planning for a Greener Wellington will look to the planning scheme for changes in the protection of significant trees – not just within Council owned and managed areas, but also the private realm.

In line with Wellington's

Sustainability Strategy, Greening Wellington will aim for a net gain of 1,500 street and park trees each year, with a 10% increase each year. This target, which will be delivered through Urban Forest Renewal projects and programs, will ensure that by the year 2040, Wellington Shire Council will be well on the way to reaching a 30% canopy cover of our urban areas. This target will help mitigate the impacts of a changing climate, which is anticipated to see a temperature increase of at least 2.6 degrees by 2070.

Community engagement and increased understanding of the benefits of green infrastructure needs to be enhanced to establish positive conversations with communities. An Engagement Plan to achieve this will need to be developed as part of any urban greening project.



Table 1.1 – Planning for a Greener Wellington

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING	LEAD BUSINESS UNIT	KEY PARTNERS	ACTIONS
1.1	Implement planning scheme amendments and Council Policy to protect significant trees	High	High	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; DELWP; Property Owners; Community	Develop and deliver: - Significant Tree Register - Planning Scheme Amendments - Update Council Policy
1.2	Increasing Canopy Cover to 30% by 2040	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Property Owners; Community	Deliver a 10% increase in tree planting as part of the Annual Tree Planting Program Delivery of the annual Aerial Bundle Cable (ABC) Program
1.3	Embed Greening Wellington principles and objectives into all relevant Council projects	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Community	Develop and deliver <i>Green Infrastructure Design Manual</i>
1.4	Urban Forest Renewal to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate	High	High	Natural Environment & Parks	Property Owners; Community	Develop and deliver: - Town Tree Plans - Green Infrastructure Renewal Program

Theme 2

Increase the diversity of the urban forest

What street trees we plant today will be the shade for future generations.

Work in recent years by the University of Melbourne to assess and guide the future of the urban forest in Melbourne has highlighted that the urban forest of the future may not consist of species that line our streets now.

As such, it is imperative that Wellington Shire begin to plant a diverse range of species that are able to not just adapt to a changing climate but are thriving in our urban centres in the year 2070 and beyond.

Retrofitting a street with trees poses challenges that will require collaboration between Essential Service Providers (Gippsland Water, SP AusNet,

APA Gas), Road Authorities, the community and Council. Through the Urban Green Infrastructure Design Manual, Council will advocate for urban green infrastructure be prioritised in the early stages of planning for any works in the public realm.

The community are increasingly becoming more aware of the role of the environment in their health and wellbeing, as well as the aesthetics of beautifying the neighbourhoods in which they live. Through Greening Wellington, Council envisages a guideline to assist residents to appropriately vegetate the nature strips abutting their property. These gardens, while small in stature, provide a significant level of biodiversity for both flora and fauna.



Table 2.1 – Increase the diversity of the urban forest

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING	LEAD BUSINESS UNIT	KEY PARTNERS	ACTIONS
2.1	Develop Living Labs to test and trial potential tree species suited to a changing climate	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	Horticulture Industry; Growers; Community	Trial 15 different tree species each year and assess the suitability for inclusion in the tree planting palate.
2.2	Review and update Street Tree Planting Guidelines	Medium	Low	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Community	Implement updated Street Tree Planting Guidelines Implement Green Infrastructure Design Manual
2.3	Identify planting opportunities for large-canopied trees including strategic avenues	High	Low	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Community; Gippsland Water; SP Ausnet	Implement updated Street Tree Planting Guidelines Deliver Town Tree Plans and Urban Forest Renewal Program Deliver priority projects identified in the 10-year Aerial Bundle Cabling Program
2.4	Investigate and implement other forms of green infrastructure where practicable (green walls/roof, nature strip planting etc)	Medium	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; RRV; Property Owners; Community	Develop and implement publicly accessible green infrastructure information (Grow what where; Nature Strip Landscape Guidelines etc)

Theme 3

Connecting community with nature

Green infrastructure is a critical component in supporting the physical health and mental wellbeing of our residents, the amenity of our neighbourhoods and the beautification of the built environment.

Engaging the community on green infrastructure within the private realm, at a street, neighbourhood or township level will create and deliver a vision based on the community's needs, desires, and aspirations.

Through creating leafy green streets, the health, physical and mental wellbeing, and liveability of residents and property owners will improve. Global studies have proven that green spaces play a pivotal role in supporting social cohesiveness, creating active environments that improve the community's perception of safety and

Greening Wellington will look to raise the general awareness around the role of green infrastructure and greening projects have on creating liveable communities.



Table 3.1 – Connecting community with nature

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING	LEAD BUSINESS UNIT	KEY PARTNERS	ACTIONS
3.1	Conduct annual community planting days in each of our main townships	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	Community Groups; Landcare;	Increase participation at community planting days
3.2	Increase involvement by Traditional Owners in decision making and management of natural areas, exploring the opportunities to re-introduce cultural practices into the urban landscape	Medium	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation; Community	Build on relationships with Gunaikurnai Land and Water Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC)
3.3	Beautify local streets and neighbourhoods	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Property Owners; Community	Implement Nature Strip Planting Guidelines Implement Green Infrastructure Design Manual Embed Greening Wellington principles and objectives in all Council delivered projects
3.4	Increase the use of technology/ social media in engaging the community	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Communication Team; WSC Information Technology Team; WSC Asset Management Team; Community	Deliver interactive mapping of the urban forest Develop a range of marketing/ information collateral for community
3.5	Develop an Engagement Plan to increase the community and key stakeholders awareness of urban green infrastructure	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's	Engagement Plan

Theme 4

Accounting for our urban green infrastructure

Historically, the management practices around green infrastructure, particularly urban street trees, has been reactive in nature.

It is estimated that within our urban centres green infrastructure is made up of an estimated 75,000 street and park trees, 600 hectares of open spaces, numerous revegetated areas, garden beds and landscape streetscapes.

Incorporating green infrastructure into an asset management framework has the potential to:

- Understand and determine appropriate budgets for the life of the asset
- Risk management
- Decision making and ensuring equitable levels of provision and service
- Prioritise green infrastructure at the beginning of the process for all infrastructure projects

Understanding what Council manage, the condition, value and useful life will assist in the planning for the life of the asset to ensure a healthy urban forest that will support the needs of the community in the future.

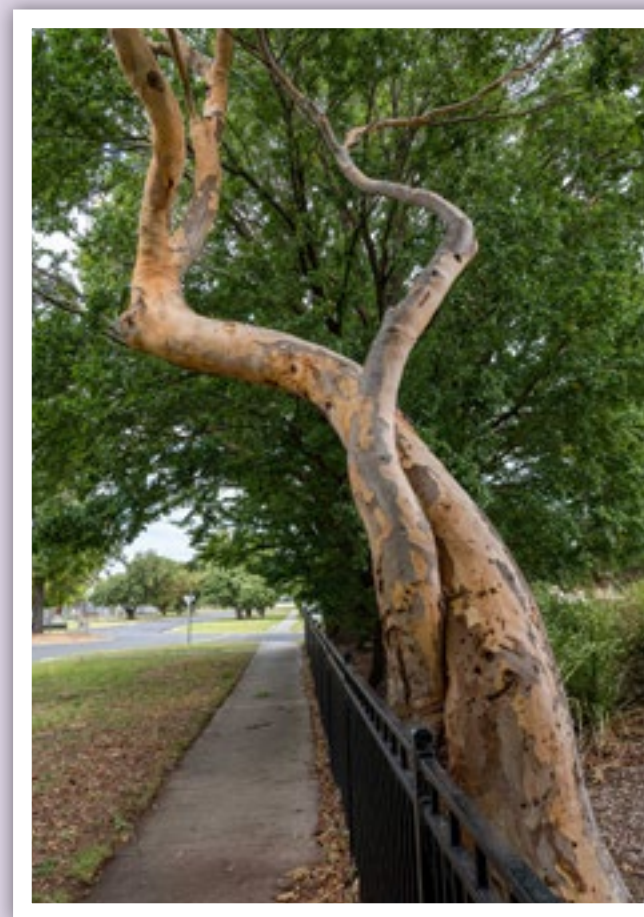


Table 4.1 – Accounting for our urban green infrastructure

ACTION	DESCRIPTION	PRIORITY	RESOURCING	LEAD BUSINESS UNIT	KEY PARTNERS	ACTIONS
4.1	Demonstrate best practice in the management of urban green infrastructure	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Contractors;	Reduction in Customer Requests and reactionary maintenance Reduction in removal of hazardous trees
4.2	Develop and maintain an urban forest inventory	High	High	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's; Contractors	Undertake a full audit and data capture of the urban forest
4.3	Implement long-term asset management approach to maintaining the urban forest	High	Medium	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's;	Review current urban forest management practices to ensure appropriately resourced Valuation of the urban forest
4.4	Employ an Urban Green Infrastructure Officer to deliver key projects and meet the objectives of Greening Wellington	Medium	High	Natural Environment & Parks	WSC Internal B/U's	Deliver actions from Greening Wellington

Resource hub

For further reading:

University of Melbourne

Future Urban Forest – Identifying vulnerability to future temperatures (2016)



Victorian Government & City of Melbourne

How to Grow an Urban Forest



Hort Innovation

*Greener Spaces Better Places
Where will all the trees be? (2020)*



Resilient Melbourne & The Nature Conservancy

Living Melbourne; Our Metropolitan Urban Forest (2019)



Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

*Trees for a Cooler and Greener Streetscape:
Guidelines for Streetscape Planning and Design (2019)*



Hort Innovation

Urban Greeners' Resource Hub



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