



SUPPORTING PLAN

Urban Forest Strategic Plan

Draft 2025

7

destinations



Safe & Strong

A proud inclusive community that unites, celebrates and cares

Safe & Strong documents cover such themes as being a child friendly City, social justice, children's services, community safety and crime prevention, inclusiveness, community services, universal access, reconciliation, ageing, community harmony and youth.



Clean & Green

A cool, clean and sustainable city with healthy waterways and natural areas

Clean & Green documents cover such themes as managing our catchments and waterways, natural resources, environmental hazards and risks, weather/climate emergencies, biodiversity, climate change, resilience, and corporate sustainability.



Prosperous & Innovative

A smart and evolving city with exciting opportunities for investment and creativity

Prosperous & Innovative documents cover such themes as economic growth and employment, investment, art, culture, heritage preservation, pursuing digital solutions and being creative.



Moving & Integrated

An accessible city with great local destinations and many options to get there

Moving & Integrated documents cover such themes as accessibility, pedestrian and cycling networks, pedestrian and road safety, transport hubs, and asset management.



Healthy & Active

A motivated city that nurtures healthy minds and bodies

Healthy & Active documents cover such themes as lifelong learning, active and healthy lifestyles, open spaces, passive parks, play spaces, and providing quality sport and recreation infrastructure and programs.



Liveable & Distinctive

A well designed, attractive city which preserves the identity and character of local villages

Liveable & Distinctive documents cover such themes as preserving the character and personality of centres and revitalising them, affordable housing, well-managed development, and complying with local laws.



Leading & Engaged

A well-governed city with brave and future focused leaders who listen

Leading & Engaged documents cover such themes as open government, managing assets, improving services, long term funding, operational excellence, monitoring performance, being a good employer, civic leadership, and engaging, educating and communicating with our community.

Strategic Planning Framework Summary

The Strategic Planning Framework (SPF) maps out the role of all current and future Council strategies and plans that work to deliver the vision for the City. The framework works from the highest level of strategic direction from the Community Strategic Plan through to more detailed plans that will eventually drive works, projects and programs on the ground. The framework is comprised of the following levels:

The **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN (CSP)** is our highest level plan and translates the community's desired outcomes for the city into key destinations. The CSP includes community suggested actions which can be tested in the development of all other plans.

1

SUPPORTING PLANS

identify broad works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. Supporting plans may include indicative costing and resourcing requirements.

2

DETAILED ACTION PLANS

take actions from SUPPORTING PLANS and identify specific works projects and programs required to deliver on these actions. These plans include detailed costing and resourcing requirements and delivery timeframes.

3

GUIDELINES, POLICIES AND CODES

provide detailed information, rules for activities or guidance for specific works on Council or other lands.

Contents

01 Message from the City	6
02 Introduction	9
03 Strategic context.....	10
04 What you have told us.....	12
05 Understanding our City's urban forest.....	14
06 Value of our urban forest.....	22
07 Expanding our urban forest.....	33
08 What we will do.....	48
Focus area 1: Grow	49
Focus area 2: Plan	50
Focus area 3: Protect	51
Focus area 4: Communicate.....	53
Focus area 5: Resource	54
9 Get involved.....	55



Acknowledgement

The City of Canterbury Bankstown acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land, water and skies of Canterbury-Bankstown, the Darug (Drag, Dharug, Daruk, Dharuk) People.

We recognise and respect Darug cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We acknowledge the first peoples' continuing importance to our CBCity community.

01

Message from the City

Urban development has reduced the natural bushland and tree canopy within our City, as buildings and infrastructure replace green spaces that were once shaded by mature trees. Today, much of the remaining tree cover is found along creeks and rivers, with scattered trees throughout the rest of the City. While trees in our parks and streets play an important role in keeping our neighbourhoods healthy and beautiful, they are sometimes overlooked in asset planning.

As the City grows, a resilient urban forest is crucial for mitigating heat waves, combating climate change, supporting biodiversity and enhancing community well-being. Beyond public spaces, private backyards also contribute to the urban forest, offering residents an important role in greening efforts.

The Urban Forest Strategic Plan (the Plan) reinforces Council's commitment to conserving and expanding the urban forest to improve liveability and environmental health, ensuring a greener future for the generations to come.

The Plan aligns with the Community Strategic Plan, CBCity 2036, 'Clean and Green' destination and is structured around five focus areas:



Grow – Expand and diversify the urban forest.



Plan – Integrate trees into city development.



Protect – Strengthen tree protection policies.



Communicate – Engage and educate the community.



Resource – Secure funding and staff to support the urban forest.

Implementation of this Plan will enable Canterbury-Bankstown to become a cooler, greener and more resilient city.



Vision: shade for every street



Grow Plan Protect Communicate Resource

02

Introduction

What is the urban forest?

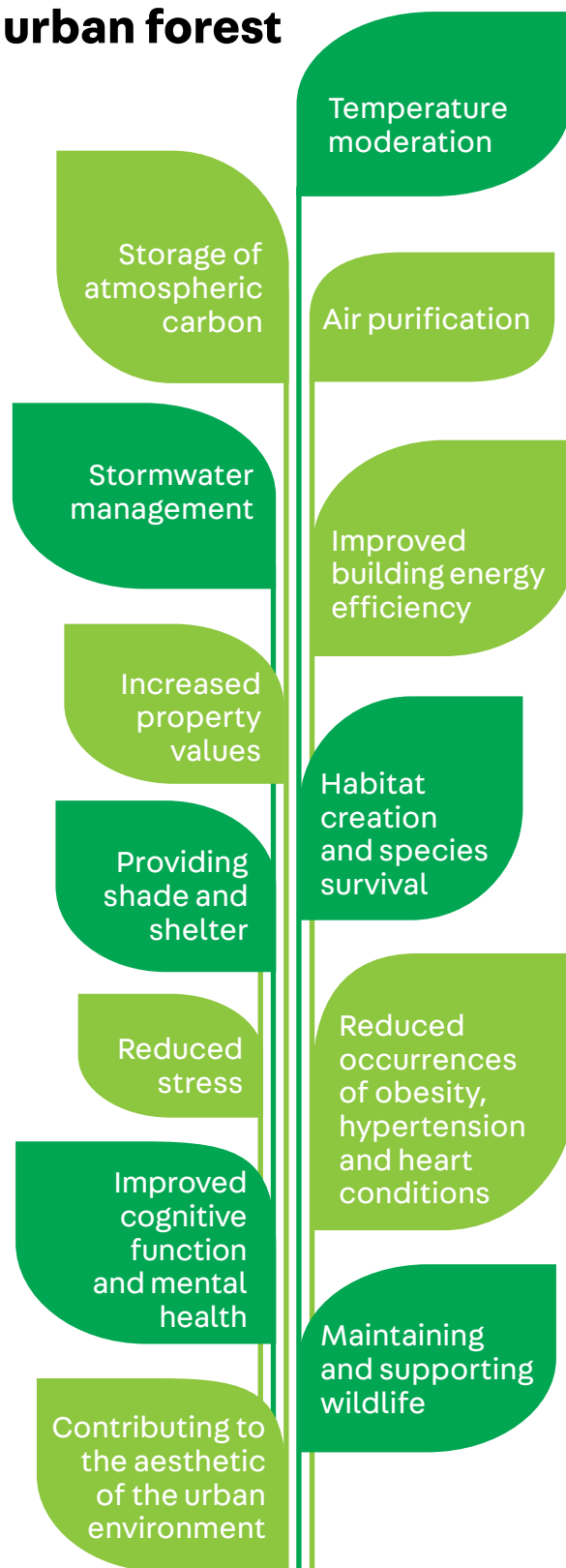
The urban forest is defined within the Canterbury-Bankstown Development Control Plan 2023 as the totality of trees and shrubs on all public and private land in and around urban areas (including bushland, parkland, gardens and street trees). The urban forest is measured as a canopy cover percentage of the total Local Government Area (LGA) and is recognised as a primary component of the urban ecosystem.

While an urban forest includes various vegetation types, it is trees that provide the greatest range of benefits to people and the environment. This Plan focuses primarily on the protection, management, and growth of urban tree canopy. It is important to manage and increase urban tree canopy cover to help improve the City's liveability and to help people better adapt to a changing climate.

Why does our urban forest matter?

Increased tree cover and quality green spaces improve the liveability and resilience of the community to heatwave events. Referred to as essential 'green infrastructure', trees have the capacity to enhance and improve lives by growing where people live, work and play. Urban forests offer a multitude of benefits to people, the environment and local economies.

Ecosystem services provided by the urban forest



03

Strategic context

The Plan aligns with the Community Strategic Plan, CBCity 2036, 'Clean and Green' destination. It also aligns with the priorities and vision of a number of local and State level documents. This ensures that local plans connect with NSW's regional and district priorities. Understanding this alignment provides context for how the Plan will fit within the broader strategic framework.

CBCity 2036 contains a variety of priorities that Council, the State Government and the community will achieve together. They include to:



Encourage and support initiatives that save our natural resources;



Protect and enhance bushland biodiversity;



Increase tree canopy;



Create local habitats and corridors;



Manage weeds and feral animals; and



Improve the ecological condition of our waterways.

Evolution 5 (Green Web) establishes a goal of increasing the proportion of the City that will have natural habitat and trees from 6.3% to 20%.

Evolution 9 (Sustainable and Resilient Places) contains goals for urban greening and reducing urban heat. This includes canopy cover targets for different land use areas based on the Greener Places Guide. The canopy targets included in the LSPS were:

- 40% in suburban areas;
- 25% in medium-high density areas; and
- 15% in commercial centres

While these targets were identified, they were not modeled to assess their feasibility in our City. Furthermore, there was no specific timeframe for delivery.

Evolution 9 further identifies opportunities for natural systems that can be woven throughout the urban parts of the City to:



Improve the comfort and useability of all places and spaces within the City, particularly cultural and civic spaces;



Build the City's overall resilience to climate change;



Improve shading on buildings and in open spaces and streets;



Encourage people to walk more by providing street trees for shade;



Restore ecology by providing habitat for native animals in parks and street plantings; and



Improve water percolation into the soil, thereby reducing run-off and flooding levels.





04

What you have told us

Our community values Canterbury-Bankstown's natural environment, parks and open spaces. They also recognise the need for increased tree canopy and better urban forest management to enhance liveability and environmental benefits.

During engagement for the Community Strategic Plan (CBCity 2036), residents expressed a desire for a clean, green and sustainable city with healthy waterways and ample shade. In surveys for the Local Strategic Planning Statement (Connective City 2036), 61% of participants cited access to parks and green spaces as a key factor in choosing where to live.

Recent consultations for the Urban Bushland and Biodiversity Strategic Plan reinforced the community's desire to see expanded tree canopy, increased Council investment in tree planting and stronger engagement with local environmental groups to support a clean and green City.

Why is growing and protecting our urban forest important to you?

"Provides habitat for birds and other wildlife. More importantly they are the lungs of the earth."

"Trees are great to look at, provide valuable shade and biodiversity."

"Wildlife habitat, shade, reducing extreme heat in streets, street beauty, higher property prices, shared green space, reducing pollution."

We need trees to live, they are the reason we are able to have air to breathe and they remove much of the pollutants from that air.

"We are slowly destroying the habitat around us. It is important not only for the local fauna but for ourselves and our physical and mental wellbeing."

Provides a natural connected feeling to the earth and prevents the feeling over-urbanisation in the local area.

Urban forests are integral to liveability in our City. Trees provide us with shade, privacy, visual amenity and energy savings. They also provide wildlife with habitat in areas where this is severely diminished.

"Our urban forests help mediate against increasing temperatures in hard surfaced streetscapes."

"Because having trees, birds and native animals in our local area improves the environment and makes this area a nicer place to live."

"It increases ecosystems for our native wildlife, increases carbon capture, is psychologically better for people and protects our waterways."

It is important for grow and make space for trees and bush as its positively contributes to the aesthetics of an environment, creates shade and provides a diverse ecosystem for the natural environment.

05

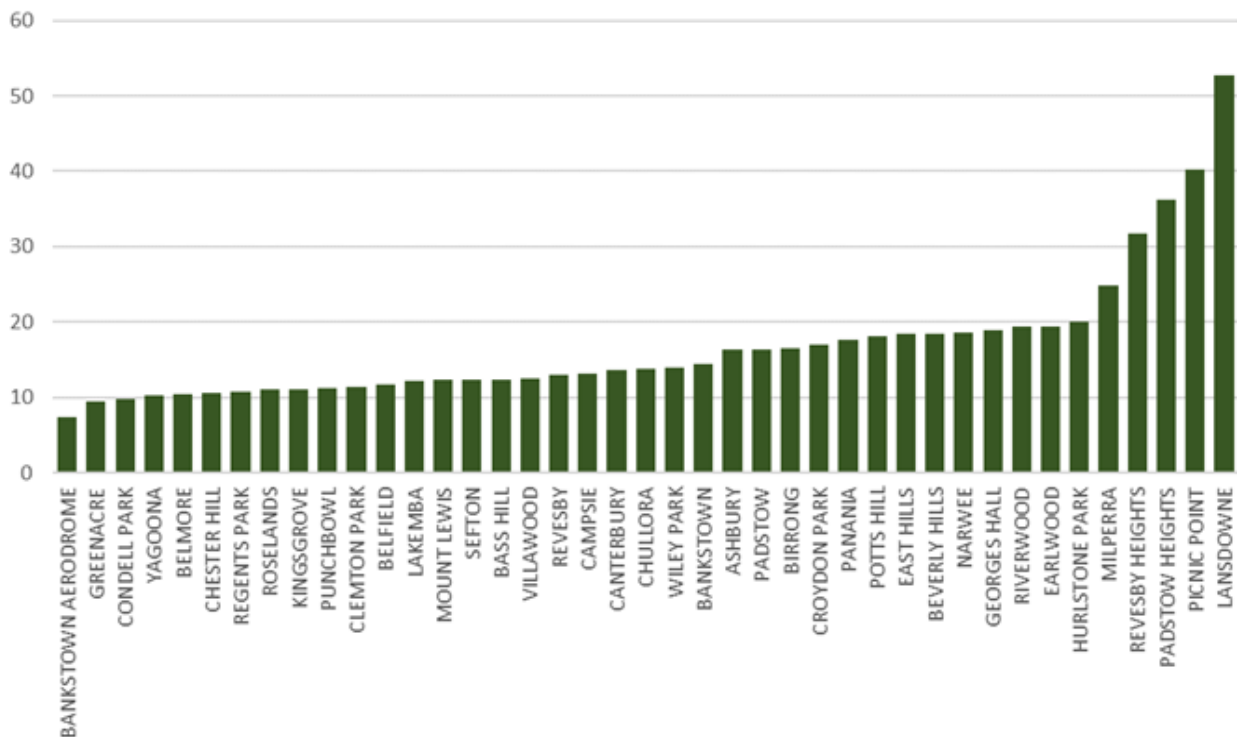
Understanding our City's urban forest

5.1 Where is our urban forest?

The urban forest includes all of the trees within our City, regardless of land ownership. The urban forest covers 16.2% (nearly 18 square kilometres) of our City. About 60% of this canopy is located on private land due to the large proportion of land within the city that is privately owned.

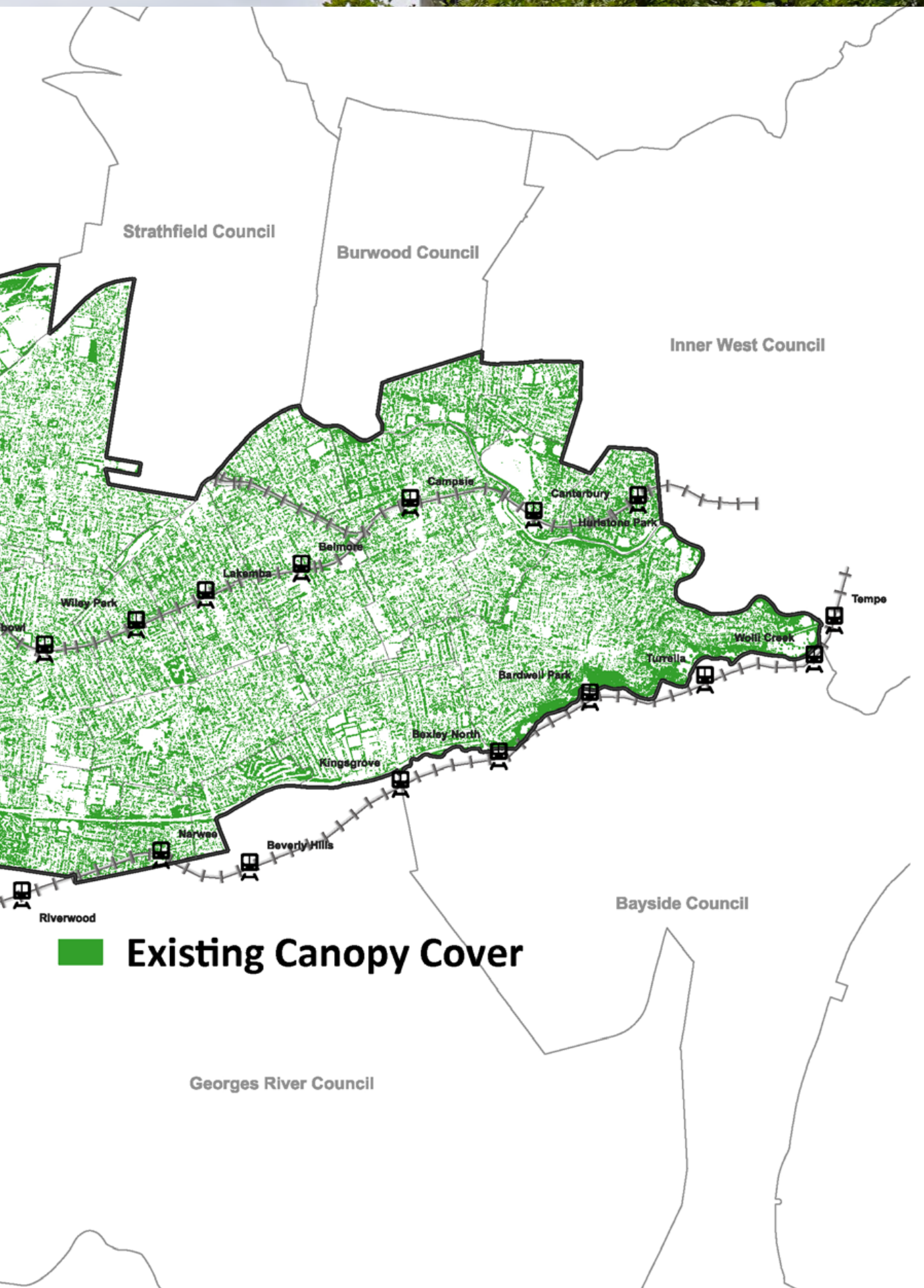
The most notable areas of our urban forest are Wolli Creek Regional Park and Georges River National Park. In addition, the banks of the Cooks and Georges River host substantial parklands and tree canopy.

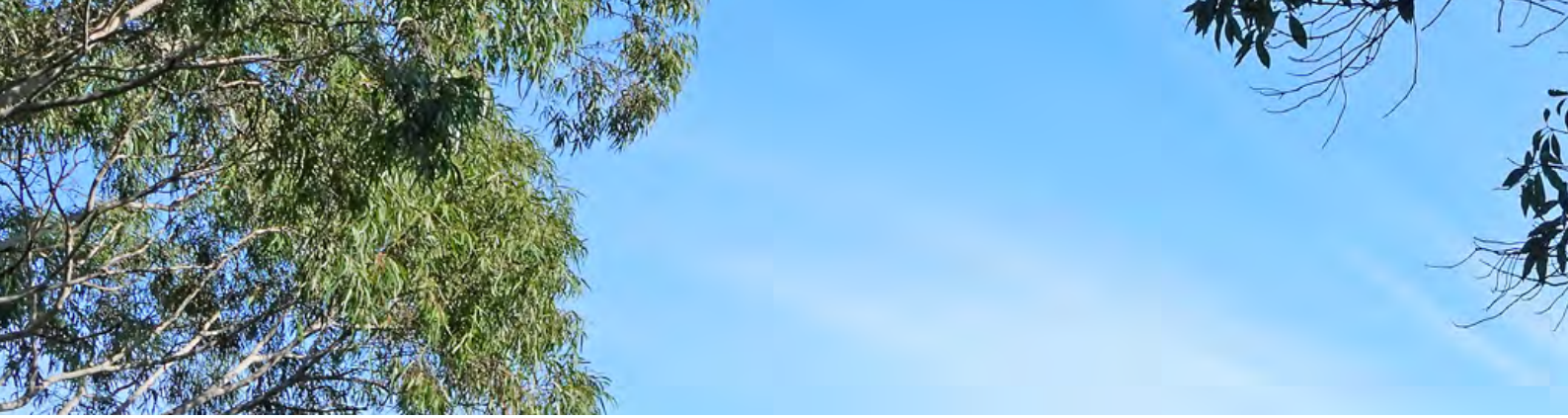
Canopy coverage varies greatly across suburbs, with 35% of Padstow Heights covered in canopy, to less than 10% canopy in Greenacre. These differences in cover stem from various factors, including the size of suburbs, the density of development and the diversity of land uses.











5.2 Trees on Council land

Species diversity is an essential element in maintaining a healthy tree population. A lack of diversity can cause threats from pests, disease and environmental stresses. In severe cases, an outbreak of a particular pest or disease on a certain species or family can have significant impacts on a tree population. A wider range of species provides greater resilience and long-term stability for the tree population as a whole. Broad species diversity also helps to support greater fauna diversity by providing a variety of food sources and habitat.

Grouping the tree population by family, genus and species, which can be expressed as a percentage is an effective way of providing a measure of diversity. A general guide for a well-structured tree population is for no greater than 40% for any particular family, 30% for any particular genus, and 10% for any one species. The City's current urban forest currently contains:

- 37 families;
- 124 genera; and
- 310 species.

Analysis of the diversity across Council land shows the distribution of family falls outside the recommended guidelines with the largest family Myrtaceae representing 76.5% of the total tree population.

The Myrtaceae family contains a very broad range of genera and natural bushland in the City and the Sydney Basin as a whole contains higher proportions of canopy species from this family, and as a result this dominance is reflected in the urban forest.

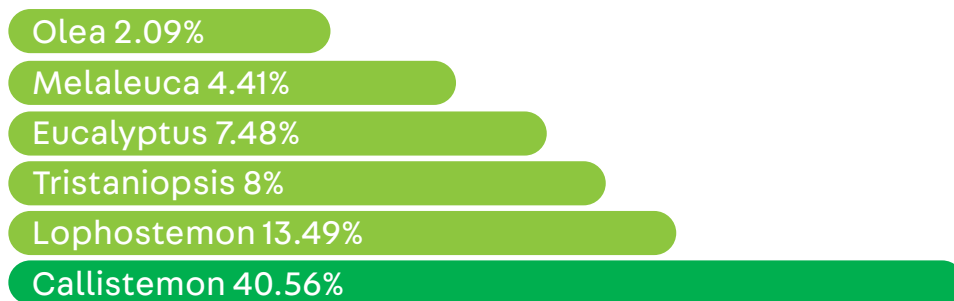
Callistemon is the most highly represented genera at 40.5% which also falls outside the recommended guidelines for genus. This is mainly attributed to *Callistemon viminalis* being the most abundant species, which currently is well in excess of the recommended guidelines. This has resulted from historic plantings of the species because of their hardy nature.



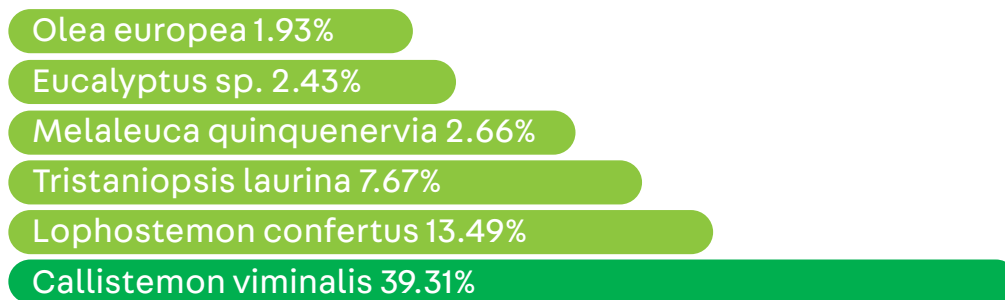
Family Diversity



Genus Diversity



Species Diversity

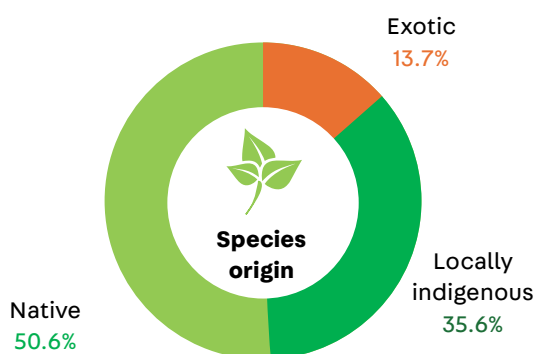




Species origin

Urban forests benefit from the inclusion of a high proportion of locally indigenous and native species. These species provide additional environmental outcomes through supporting habitat for native fauna. Additionally, re-establishing native vegetation in areas where it has been lost, using soil seed banks or local provenance stock, enhances these outcomes. It is important to select the appropriate vegetation based on environmental factors such as soil type, geology, elevation, surrounding vegetation and hydrology.

Urban forests also benefit from the inclusion of exotic species to improve aesthetics in town centres and prominent streets. The current proportion of locally indigenous, native and exotic species on Council land has been detailed below.



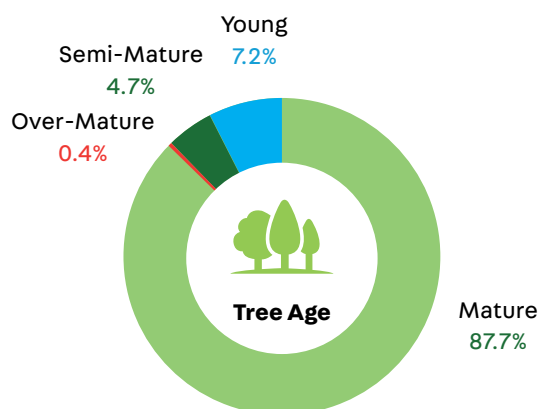
Age

Analysis of the age classes of trees on Council land shows that by far the greatest percentage of trees are in the mature age class at 87.7%.

Semi-mature tree numbers are low at only 4.7% and young tree numbers are also relatively low at 7.2% of the tree population.

It should be noted that in terms of a tree's life stages, the time period between the juvenile and semi-mature age class is very short in comparison to the later life stages.

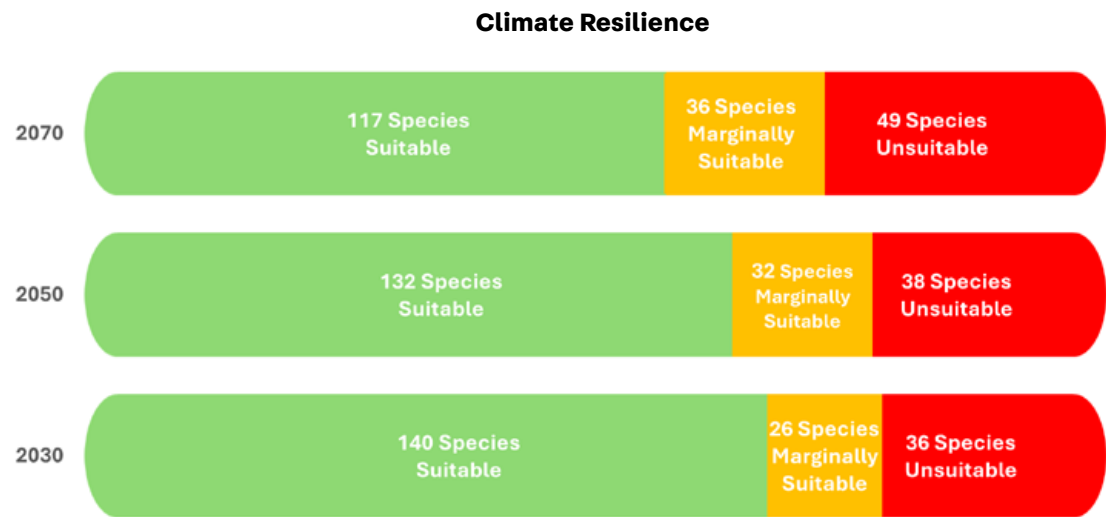
There are less than 1% over-mature trees on Council land.



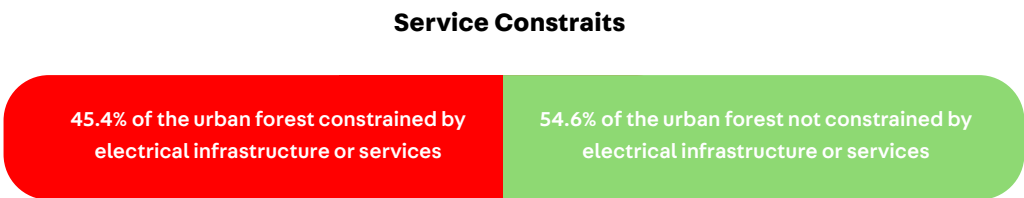


Climate resilience and service constraints

Council’s species list has been analysed to identify any species that are currently unsuitable or will become unsuitable to the local climate between now and 2070. This analysis was completed to ensure the long-term resilience of our urban forest to the projected future climatic conditions of the City. Unsuitable and marginally unsuitable species will be substituted with suitable species.



Public trees can be constrained by a wide variety of public infrastructure and above and below ground services. Vehicle and pedestrian sight lines and necessary clearances from surrounding constraints are required to be assessed when considering tree planting. Nearly half of our existing urban forest is constrained by electric and telecommunication services.



06

Value of our urban forest

Why does our existing urban forest need to be protected?

Changes in canopy have been determined to be an average of -0.56% annually. The primary reason for decline in canopy cover is urban development, specifically residential infill development.

This often leads to the conversion of canopy cover and plantable areas into sealed, hard surfaces. As a result, not only is canopy cover reduced, but the available space for planting new trees diminishes, posing significant challenges in efforts to maintain, let alone expand, the urban forest.

The value of the existing urban forest has been assessed and analysed through the development of this Plan. This analysis was completed by i-Tree Eco which is a tool that helps measure the value of trees and the benefits they provide in urban environments.

The assessment included the total value of trees over their lifespan, including tree replacement costs and the total value of carbon stored in the urban forest. The annual benefits provided by our urban forest have also been assessed, which includes carbon capture, air pollution reduction and rainfall interception, as calculated by i-Tree Eco.

Existing canopy 16.2%



Total replacement cost nearly \$1 billion



Storage of 137,218 average family cars weight in carbon



27.8 Olympic swimming pools of avoided runoff every year



Removal of 36 average family cars weight in air pollution every year



Removal of 2.9 average family cars weight in carbon every year



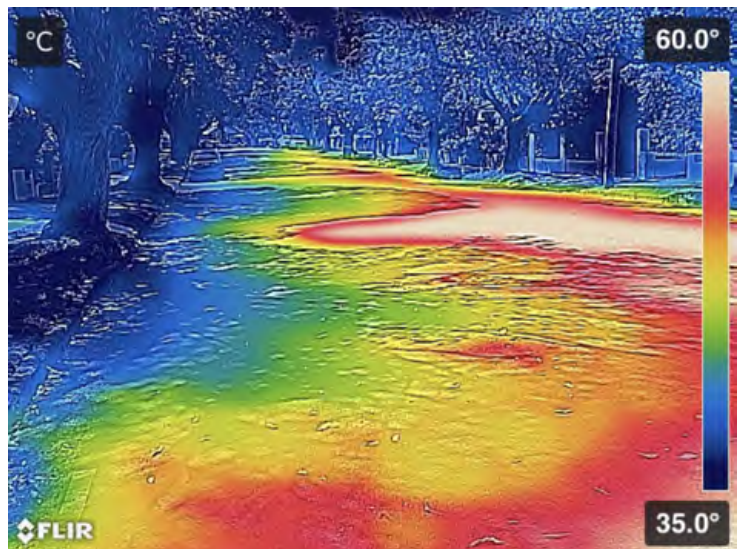
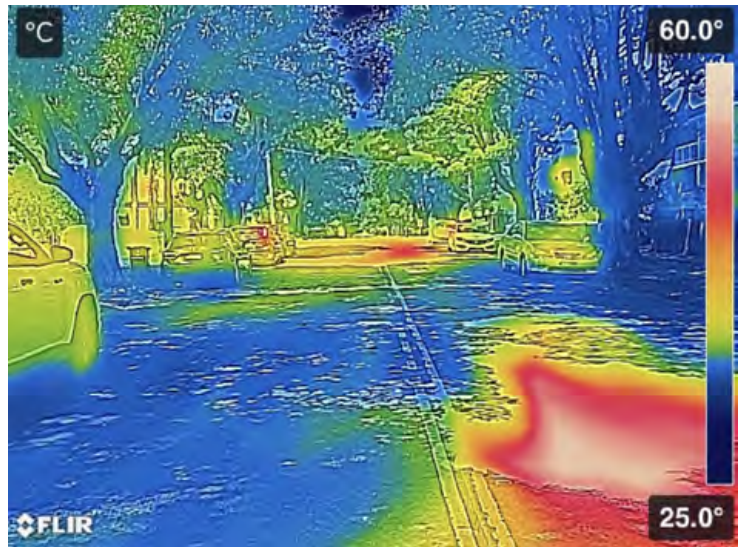


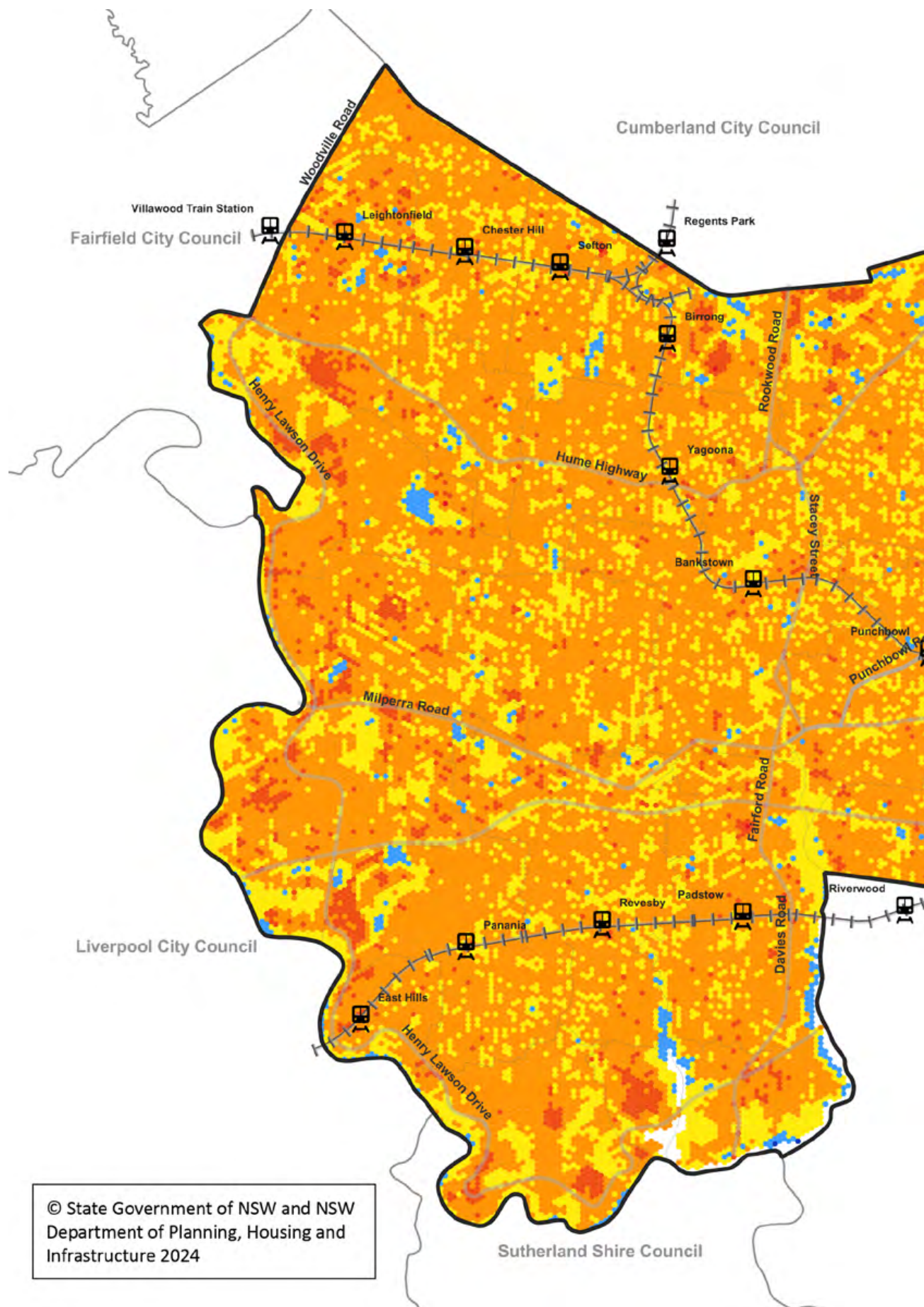
How does tree canopy reduce urban heat?

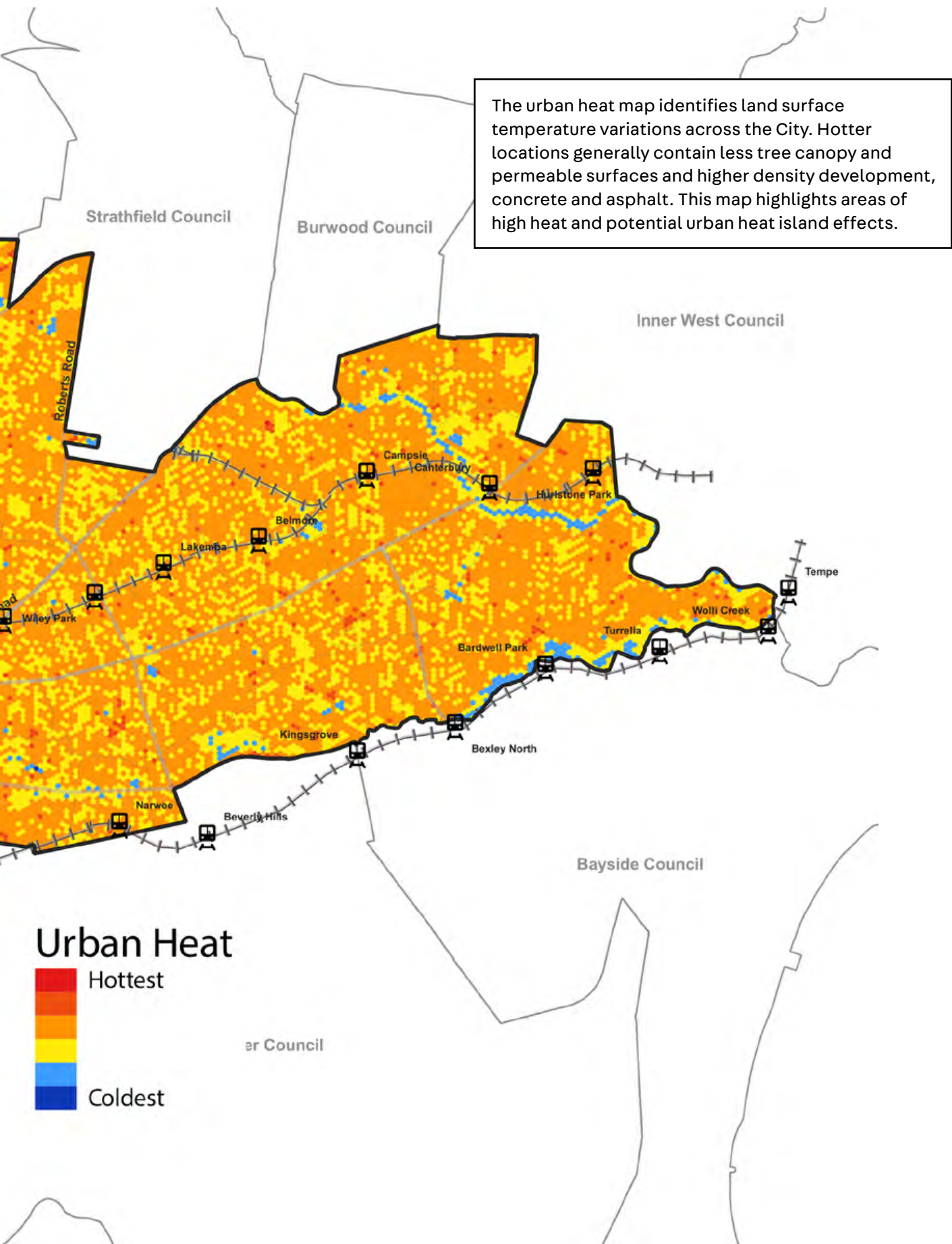
Urban heat is a growing challenge in the City, with rising temperatures exacerbating the urban heat island effect. Climate change is increasing the intensity and duration of heatwaves, leading to increasing heat-related illness in Western Sydney and even death.

Elderly people, children and those living on lower incomes are particularly at risk from rising temperatures in urban areas, because they are more vulnerable to heat-related stress and illness or less likely to have access to air-conditioning due to financial constraints.

One of the most effective solutions to mitigate this issue is expanding tree canopy coverage. Trees provide shade, cool the environment through transpiration and reduce surface temperatures in densely built areas, where heat can become trapped by concrete and asphalt. Temperature differences between locations with canopy and locations with canopy gaps can be significant.







How equitable is our urban forest?

The benefits for human health and well-being from being close to urban trees and green space is a fundamental factor driving the global movement towards green equity. Green equity aims to ensure all residents have access to trees and high-quality green spaces and the benefits they provide.

The 3-30-300 Rule offers a practical guideline for designing and enhancing urban environments to ensure that nature is an accessible and integral part of daily life for all residents. Green spaces are public locations greater than 1 hectare that support canopy. The evidence-based rule specifies that everyone should be able to:

- See at least 3 trees from their home;
- Live within a local area with at least 30% tree canopy cover; and
- Have a high-quality, public green space within 300 metres walking distance from their home.

The City was assessed for compliance with the 3-30-300 Rule to identify where barriers exist to achieving canopy cover. Every land parcel was categorised as being either:

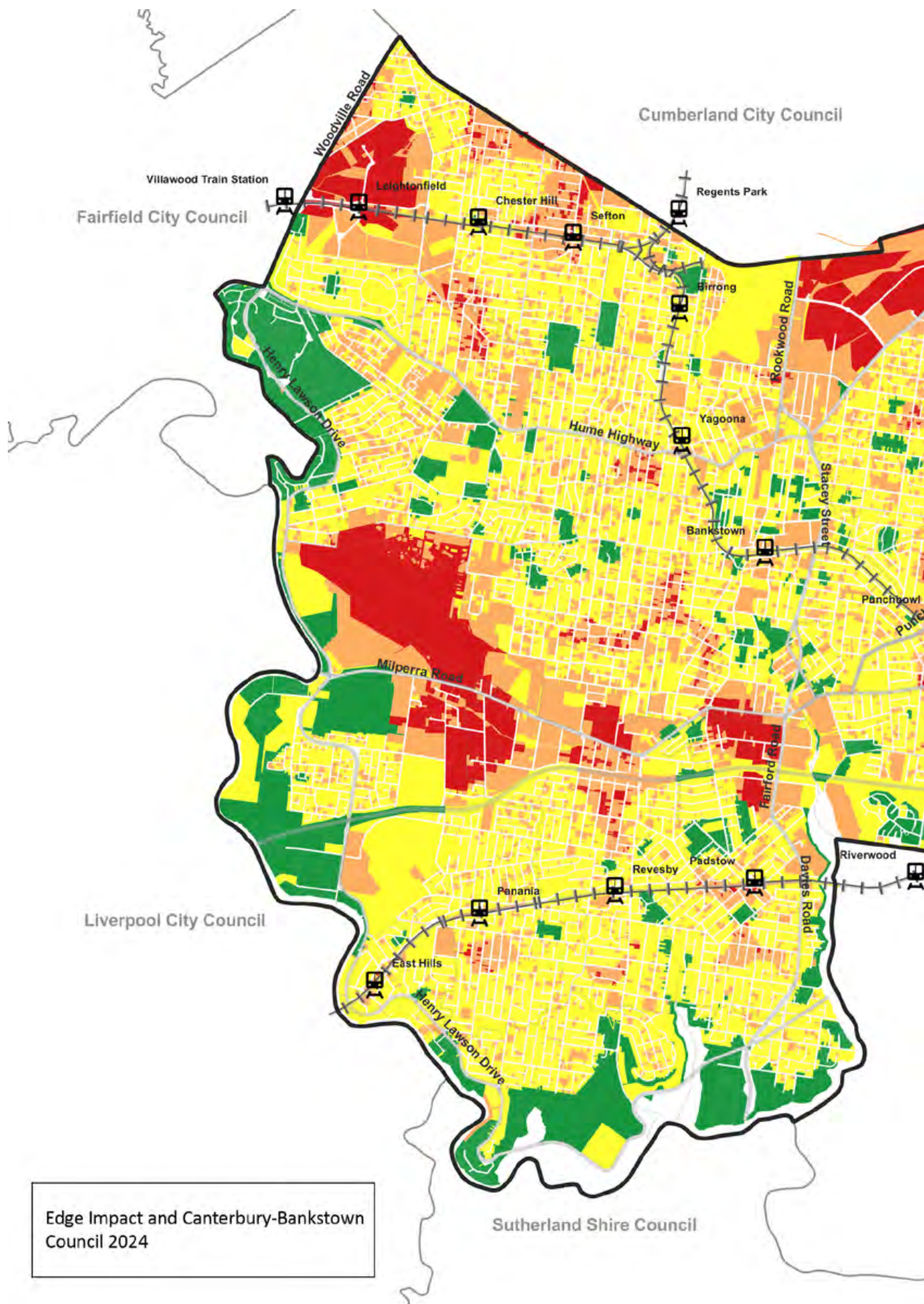
- Fully compliant (meeting all three criteria);
- Moderately compliant (meeting two out of three criteria);
- Partially compliant (meeting only one of the three criteria); or
- Not compliant (meeting none of the three criteria).

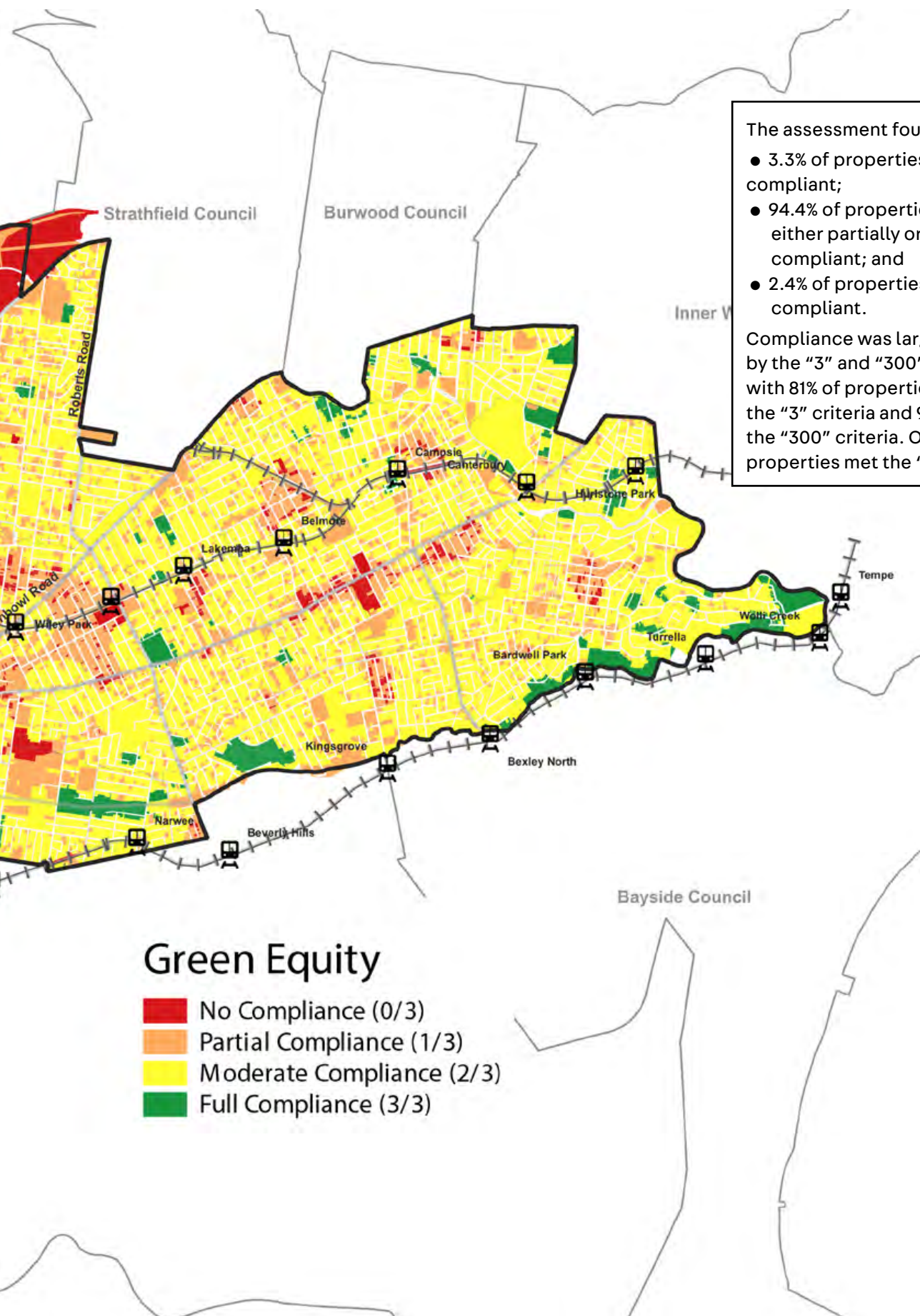
This assessment found:

- 3.3% of properties were fully compliant;
- 94.4% of properties were either partially or moderately compliant; and
- 2.4% of properties were not compliant.

Some of the larger areas identified to be not compliant were located in industrial areas in Chullora, Villawood and Milperra.







The assessment found:

- 3.3% of properties were fully compliant;
- 94.4% of properties were either partially or moderately compliant; and
- 2.4% of properties were not compliant.

Compliance was largely driven by the "3" and "300" criteria, with 81% of properties meeting the "3" criteria and 90% meeting the "300" criteria. Only 4% of properties met the "30" criteria.



Challenges

Urban infill and population growth

Urban infill development reduces canopy cover and green spaces, which further limits replanting opportunities. Balancing density with enhancing the urban forest can be difficult, as infrastructure construction can limit planting in public areas. Shifting tree replacement from private to public land reduces the opportunity to increase the City's urban forest.

Climate change

Increases in extreme weather events and urban heat threatens species within the urban forest. Rising temperatures and drought further impacts trees, increasing maintenance needs. Over-reliance on a narrow range of species weakens the resilience of the urban forest to climate change. In areas like Western Sydney, heat-related health issues are exacerbated, worsening public health concerns.

Pests and diseases

Low species diversity increases vulnerability to pests and diseases, leading to costly losses. Climate change can accelerate the spread of pests and diseases, stressing urban trees. Diseases like Fusarium Wilt in local palms highlight the severe impact that diseases can have on tree populations.

Ageing tree population

Mature trees require increased maintenance to ensure safety. Without proactive succession planning, tree removal leads to canopy loss. Delays in replanting disrupt long-term ecosystem benefits, requiring strategic replacement efforts.

Infrastructure conflicts

Public land is often highly constrained with services and infrastructure which limits the space available to plant trees. Upgrades to existing infrastructure and the development of new infrastructure often results in tree loss.

Community perceptions

Diverse cultural perspectives influence attitudes toward trees. While some value environmental benefits, others see trees as hazards due to falling branches or root damage. Misconceptions and vandalism hinder greening efforts.

Resources

Budget and personnel constraints hinder tree maintenance and enforcement on private land. Tracking tree health and maintaining accurate records remain hurdles, affecting long-term sustainability efforts.



07

Expanding our urban forest

7.1 Where could new trees go on public land?

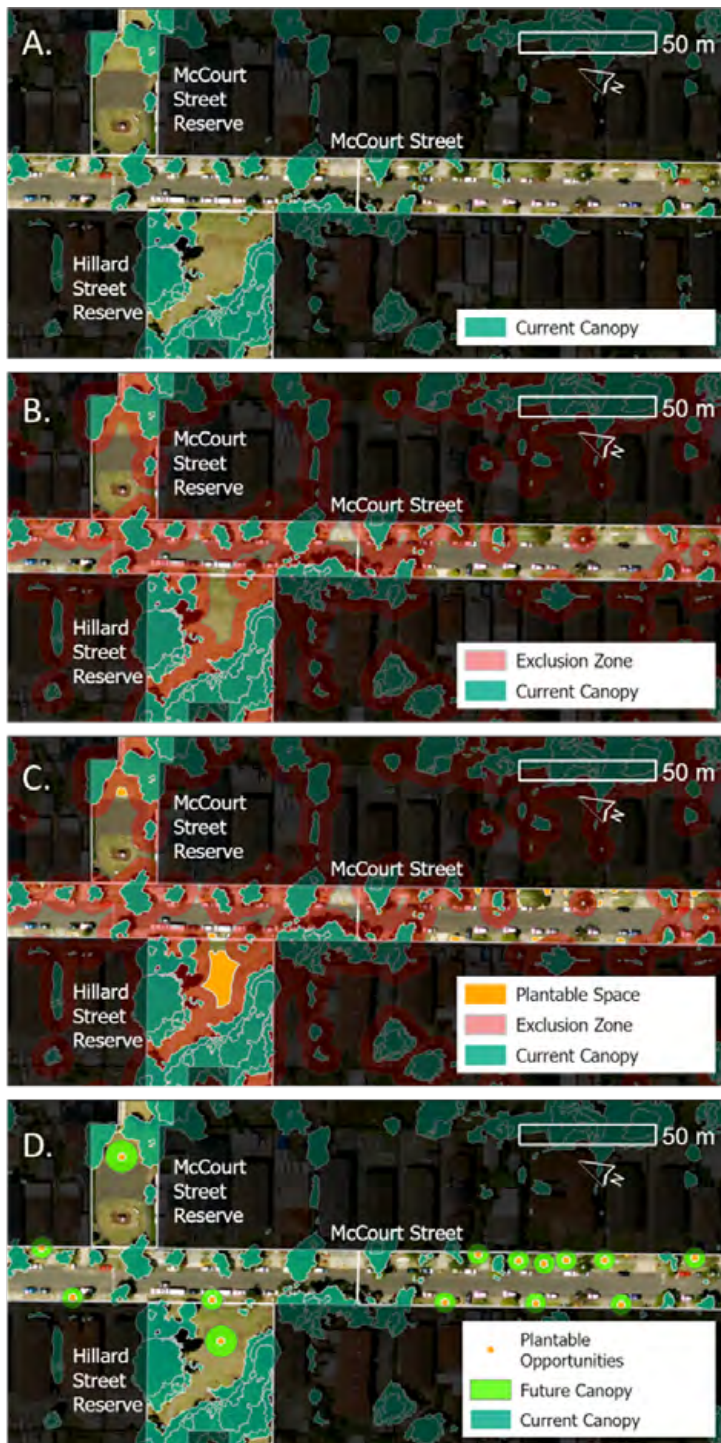
Council's ability to increase canopy cover through public tree plantings alone is limited to the space available to plant trees in the public domain. A large portion of the land managed by Council contains existing community infrastructure or is managed grasslands such as sportsfields. As a result, public tree planting efforts are primarily concentrated on streets and passive parks. The presence of utilities and infrastructure on streets can restrict available tree planting (plantable) opportunities in the public domain.

For the development of this Plan, Edge Environment's Street Tree Prioritiser tool was used to identify potential areas for tree planting in public spaces, like streets and parks. The Street Tree Prioritiser is software that identifies plantable opportunities through identification of permeable land and constraints to tree planting. Plantable opportunities were considered as spaces at least 1 square metre in size and 7.5 metres away from existing trees or other plantable areas.

These opportunities were grouped into larger units, such as street sections or entire parks, to guide planting and maintenance.

A total of 50,279 plantable opportunities were found on public land. Bankstown, Punchbowl and Chester Hill had the most plantable opportunities.

Council used all available data to identify constraints to tree planting. However, a 'Before You Dig Australia' assessment would be required to be completed prior to planting the plantable opportunities. This is required to ensure future tree planting is not constrained by infrastructure where the infrastructures location has not been made available to Council.



How plantable opportunities were mapped

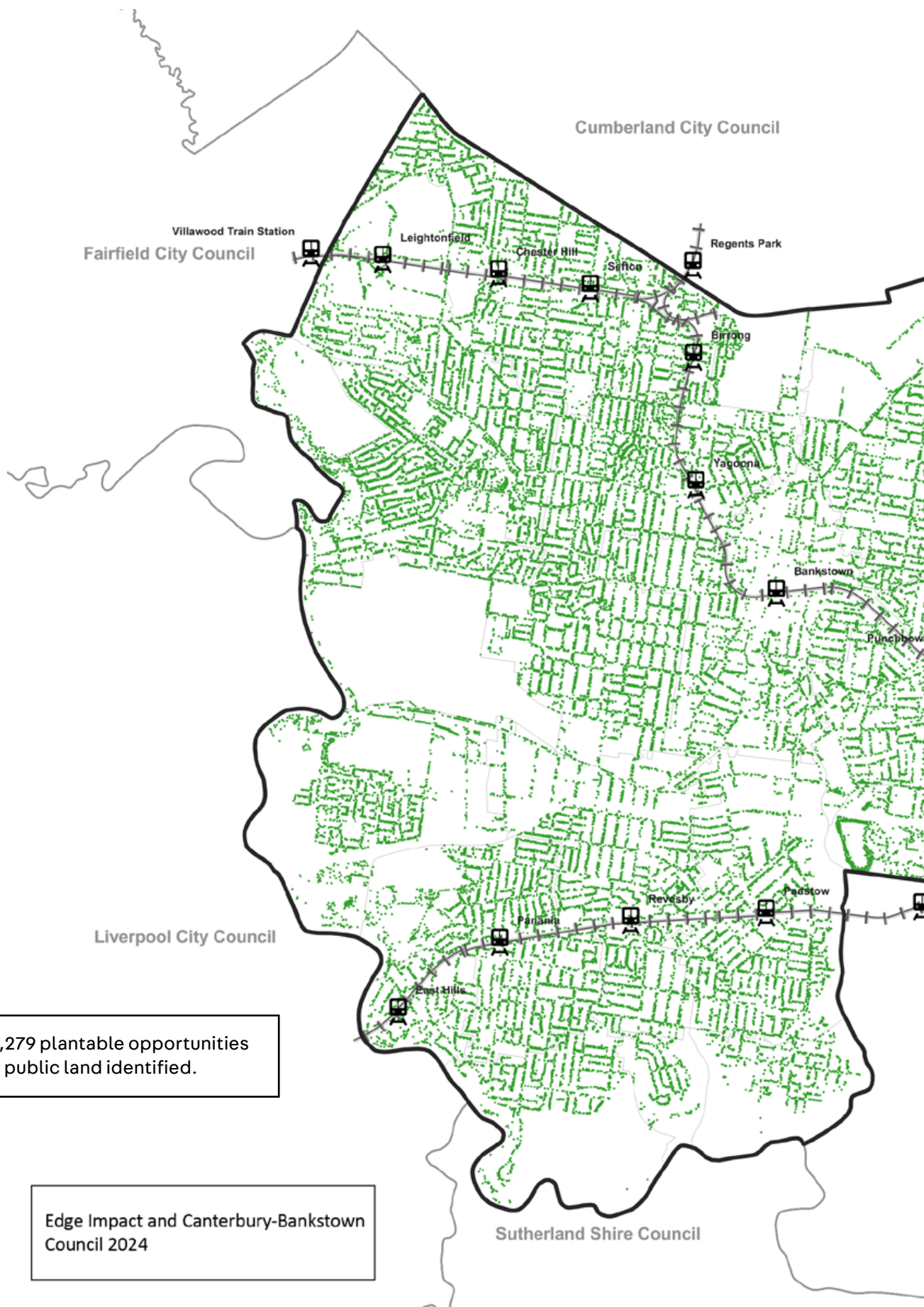
A. Nature strips and reserves with their current canopy (dark green).

B. Reserve areas with the non-plantable exclusion zones (dark red). This includes infrastructure constraints.

C. The remaining plantable space outside of the exclusion zone forms the basis for determining the plantable opportunities (orange).

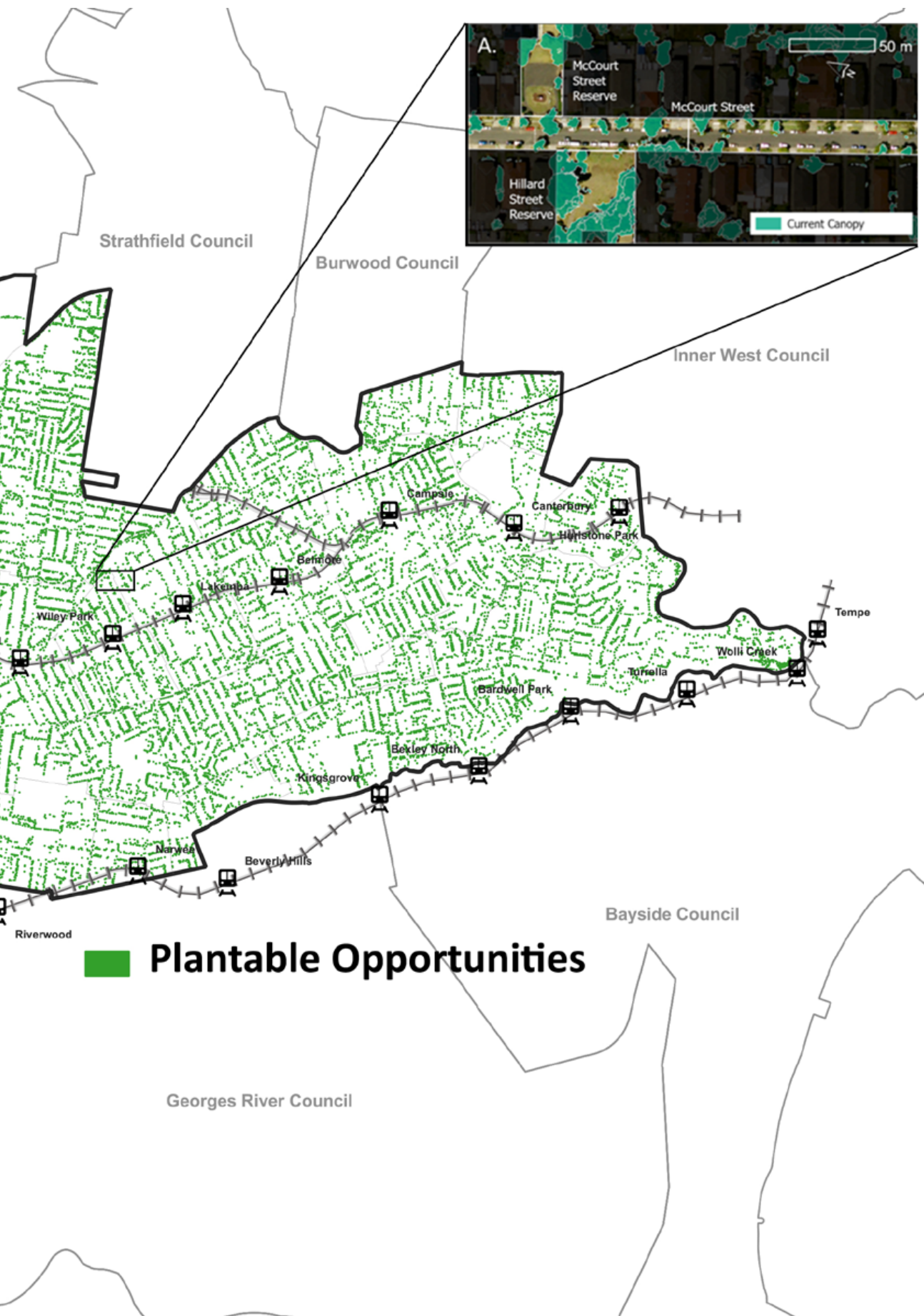
D. The plantable opportunities (orange points) with their estimated canopy size at maturity (green) signifying future potential canopy.





50,279 plantable opportunities
on public land identified.

Edge Impact and Canterbury-Bankstown
Council 2024



How are Council's plantable opportunities prioritised?

Using an Integrated Priority Assessment (IPA), a planting plan has been developed to maximise cooling benefits, especially for vulnerable communities. The IPA ranked streets and parks for tree planting based on factors like canopy cover, urban heat, social vulnerability and compliance with the 3-30-300 Rule.

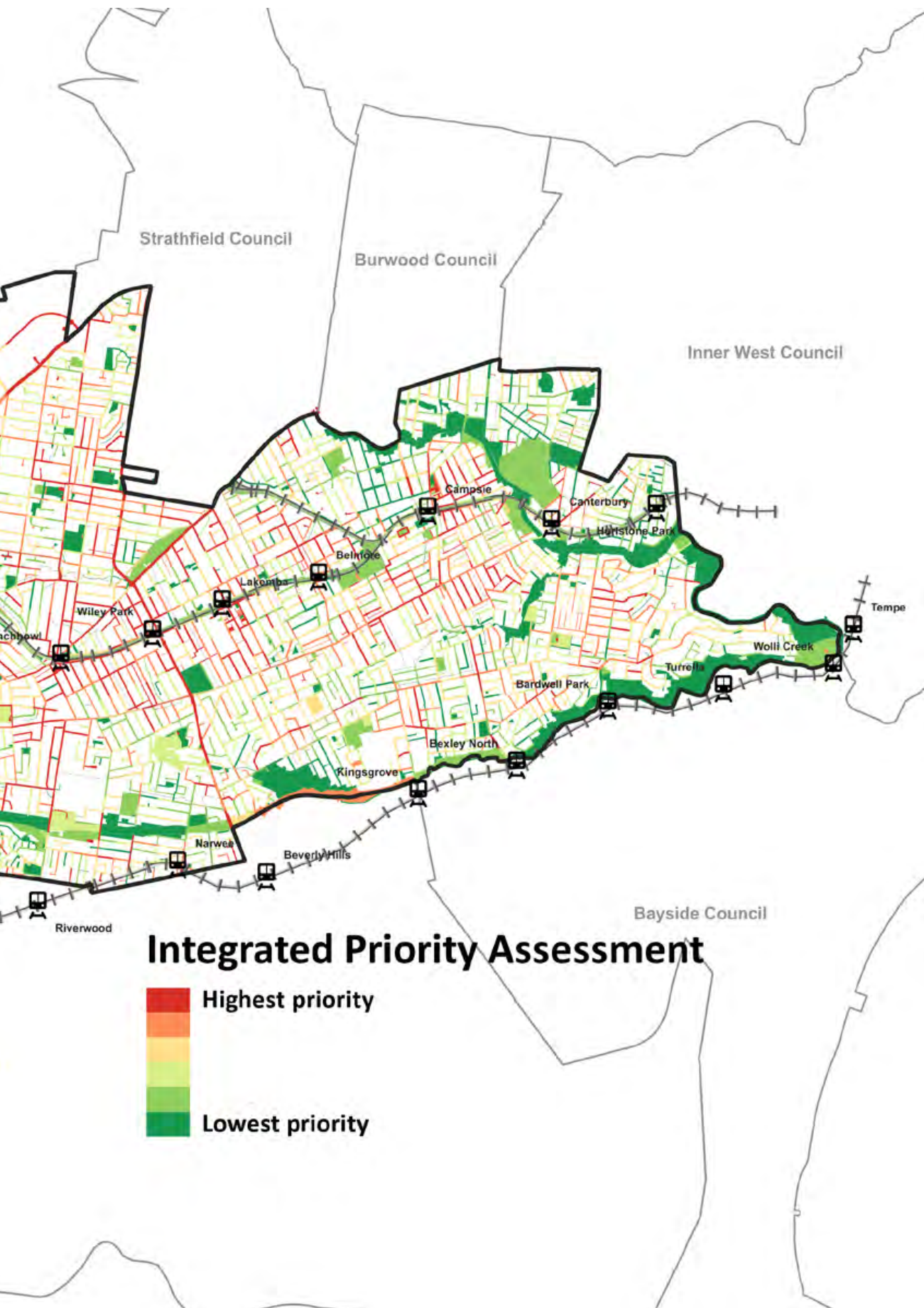
The assessment grouped trees into small areas such as street sections and small parks to ensure efficiencies in future planting. Each high priority street section and park can then be planted as separate projects or grouped to reduce management and maintenance costs.

Most of the higher priority areas are located on streets in the central and northern suburbs of the local government area. Most parks and reserves vary between moderate to low priority for planting. Moderate and lower priority locations are important to achieve Council's canopy cover target for the City. However, higher priority locations need canopy to be delivered quicker to protect our community from urban heat.









How much would this tree planting cost?

This Plan has identified that the public domain within Canterbury-Bankstown contains 50,279 plantable opportunities. The total cost for Council to plant, water, manage and monitor the potential 50,279 trees is estimated to cost \$39.59 million between now and 2065 (Consumer Price Index (CPI) adjusted).

This is a significant number of trees to be planted on public land and would require substantial investment.

Scenario	Total no. trees planted	Opportunity on Council Land	Contribution of private land	Total cost on Council land (4.1% CPI per annum)
Maintain 16.2% canopy cover by 2065	162,200	50,279	111,921	~\$39.59M
20% canopy cover by 2065	301,200	50,279	250,921	~\$39.59M
25% canopy cover by 2065	515,100	50,279	464,821	~\$39.59M





7.2 Where could new trees go on private land?

The high proportion of private land across the City and canopy on private land poses challenges for Council to not only manage canopy losses and protect existing canopy cover but also to increase tree plantings. Fostering collaborative efforts between Council and other landowners, such as the State Government and private landowners is essential for improving our urban forest.

For the development of this Plan, analysis was conducted to identify the total area and percentage of canopy for each land zone within the City. A canopy cover target for each zone was developed largely in accordance with the Urban Tree Canopy Targets and Development Controls Report (2021). This report was developed for the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment by Gallagher Studio and Studio Zanardo to assess appropriate canopy covers based on zoning and development type across NSW.

The existing canopy, future canopy from plantable opportunity overhang and scale of permitted development for each zone was assessed to understand the suitability of the proposed canopy targets. These canopy targets can be used along with the proposed future canopy on public land to identify the future percentage of our City's total urban forest.

Zone	Existing canopy (%)	Achievable canopy increase from plantable opportunities (%)	Canopy cover target (%)	Total canopy (m2)
Neighbourhood Centre (B1)	4.3	4.7	10	17,497
Local Centre (B2)	10.3	10.9	10	113,319
Mixed Use (B4)	13.9	14.5	15	60,631
Business Development (B5)	5.6	5.9	10	43,940
Enterprise Corridor (B6)	5.8	6.2	10	18,184
Business Park (B7)	9.9	9.9	35	50,714
General Industrial (IN1)	9.1	9.4	25	1,602,362
Light Industrial (IN2)	7.2	7.7	20	618,060
Primary Production Small Lots (RU4)	18.6	18.6	35	27,708
Low Density Residential (R2)	11.7	12.8	25	8,290,383
Medium Density Residential (R3)	11.1	12.0	20	2,390,737
High Density Residential (R4)	16.4	17.2	20	1,214,270
Private Recreation (RE2)	33.8	33.9	35	394,948

7.3 How much canopy cover could we achieve together in our City?

If Council was to plant all of the 50,279 plantable opportunities, this would increase the total canopy cover in our City from 16.2% to 17.9% (an increase of 1.88 square kilometres of canopy).

If each property in the City is compliant with the land zone canopy targets and Council has planted all 50,279 plantable opportunities, this would increase the canopy cover in our City to approximately 25%. This increase of 8.74% canopy equates to 9.68 square kilometres, which is enough to cover nearly 1,300 soccer fields. This increase would also result in the following canopy increases:



Increase canopy cover on Council owned land and land under Council's control (excluding streets) from **38%** to **40%**;



Increase canopy on private land from **10%** to **23%**; and



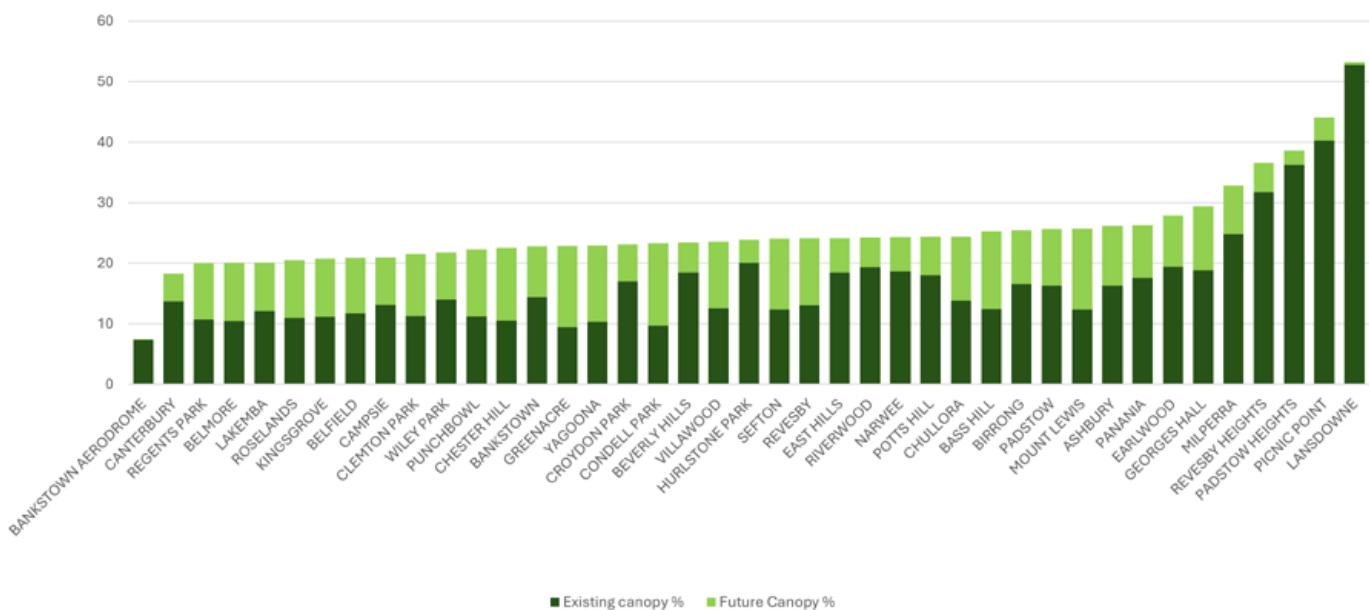
Increase in canopy along road corridors from **15%** to **22%**.

Council will collaborate with other public authorities with landholdings in the City, including Crown Lands not controlled by Council, Transport for New South Wales, Sydney Water and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to increase canopy cover throughout the City.

While 25% canopy cover is less than the aspirational canopy targets outlined in Connective City 2036, it is the maximum achievable canopy cover for our City without converting existing sportsfields and community infrastructure into plantable space.

The graph shows the canopy cover that can be achieved in each suburb if all 50,279 plantable opportunities are planted and all properties in the City achieve land zone canopy targets. This graph currently excludes canopy increases on public land outside of Council's control.

As our canopy grows to 25% the economic benefits of the ecosystem services our trees provide also grows. The info graphic below shows the substantial benefits provided by a 25% canopy cover in our City.



Existing canopy 16.2%

Future benefits 25%



Total replacement cost
nearly \$1 billion

Total replacement
cost \$1.5 billion



Storage of 137,218 average
family cars weight in
carbon

Storage of 211,756
average family cars
weight in carbon



27.8 Olympic swimming
pools of avoided runoff
every year

43 Olympic swimming
pools of avoided runoff
every year



Removal of 36 average
family cars weight in air
pollution every year

Removal of 55.5 average
family cars weight in air
pollution every year



Removal of 2.9 average
family cars weight in
carbon every year

Removal of 4.5 average
family cars weight in
carbon every year



08

What we will do

Five focus areas have been identified, each containing actions to address the key areas to assist in the protection and enhancement of our urban forest. The focus areas are:

1. **Grow** – Expand and diversify the urban forest.
2. **Plan** – Integrate trees into city development.
3. **Protect** – Strengthen tree protection policies.
4. **Communicate** – Engage and educate the community.
5. **Resource** – Secure funding and staff to support the urban forest.

The actions have been categorised into completion timeframes as follows:

- **Short** – actions that are fundamental to the City's urban greening goals and/or contain high benefit with lower resourcing;
- **Medium** – actions that are particularly important, have high impact or immediate benefit;
- **Long** – actions that are dependent on other initiatives or require greater planning or resources; and
- **Ongoing** – actions that form part of Council's ongoing program.

Focus area 1: Grow

Action no. and description		Responsible unit	Completion timeframe
1.1	Use State Government canopy data to compare changes in canopy cover to evaluate if greening and urban heat reduction goals are being achieved. Measure and review timeframe to achieve canopy cover target accordingly.	Urban Policy and Planning	Medium
1.2	Begin the implementation of the prioritised planting schedule and review priority to increase number of trees planted each year.	Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Short
1.3	Continue to secure tree stock from a variety of nurseries with appropriate lead times for planting in optimal seasons. Ensure stock is available during the project planning stage.	Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Ongoing
1.4	Create a Stakeholder Engagement Review Schedule for key internal asset and operation managers, as well as external stakeholders such as utilities and relevant public authorities.	Environmental Sustainability, Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Medium
1.5	Encourage canopy planting on private property by providing both native tree stock and established trees to residents (e.g. general tree giveaway promotions and giveaways to private property).	Environmental Sustainability	Ongoing
1.6	Develop a proactive tree management program targeting young and intermediate public trees to ensure Council's tree plantings mature into public trees with a suitable form and longevity. The program shall include all aspects of tree health including soil conditioning and formative pruning and use milestone-based monitoring and auditing.	Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Long
1.7	Prioritise tree replacement when public trees die or are removed	Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Ongoing
1.8	Establish and implement an At-grade Car Park Minimum Rule requiring one tree per five car spaces with deep soil provision to support the creation of 50 square metres of canopy cover at maturity for all car park designs and upgrades. Consideration for At-grade Car Park Minimum Rule to be included in all DCP chapters.	Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design	Medium
1.9	Investigate a growing contract for locally indigenous species appropriate to the local environment and future climate conditions to encourage use in local projects and improve the City's ecology.	Urban Policy and Planning and Open Space Services	Medium

Focus area 2: Plan

Action no. and description		Responsible unit	Completion timeframe
2.1	Develop standardised tree specifications details for installing new trees and management around existing trees for use in public domain works and private landscaping plans. Investigate optimal tree container sizes for various planting locations to improve long term success.	Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Medium
2.2	Develop guidelines for passive/active irrigation.	Environmental Sustainability, Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Medium
2.3	Integrate canopy protection and renewal practices into generic and all site-specific Plan of Management objectives.	Urban Policy and Planning	Ongoing
2.4	Develop a valuation system for trees using national/global best practice tools/approaches and available data (e.g. i-Tree Eco, Melbourne valuation, State Government Green Infrastructure Valuation process and Arboriculture Australia's Minimum Industry Standards (MIS)).	Environmental Sustainability, Open Space and Urban Policy and Planning	Medium
2.5	Define public trees as an asset class within Council's asset management framework and asset management maintenance system.	Urban Policy and Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Asset Planning	Medium
2.6	Establish a repeatable public street tree inventory through undertaking a full audit of street trees.	Open Space Services	Medium
2.7	Establish a repeatable park/reserves public tree inventory, through undertaking a full audit of trees in parks and reserves.	Open Space Services and Buildings	Medium
2.8	Commence ground truthing prioritised planting locations and schedule planting projects to align with resourcing capacity.	Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services	Short
2.9	Review and update Council species lists for tree planting on public land to increase the family, genus and species diversity of the urban forest.	Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services	Short
2.10	Investigate improving tree management coordination structure that incorporates all tree related issues including public planting, contractor management, development application assessments, private land compliance assessments, policy, urban forest management and education.	Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services	Medium
2.11	Tree vaults, structural soils, root barriers, and appropriate species selection will be implemented where appropriate to enable successful planting in constrained sites.	Open Space Services	Ongoing

Focus area 3: Protect

Action no. and description		Responsible unit	Completion timeframe
3.1	Continue to undertake review of development control plan (DCP) controls and provisions for tree protection and replacement measures so that tree related conditions are enforceable. Specify enforcement protocol if newly planted trees are removed, die or are vandalised.	Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design, Regulatory Services	Ongoing
3.2	Update Council's standard conditions of consent when DCP controls are amended, including all tree related plans and policies.	Development Services, Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design, Open Space Services	Medium
3.3	Continue to use signs, banners and other methods to identify trees that have been illegally poisoned, pruned or removed	Open Space Services, Regulatory Services	Ongoing
3.4	Continue to dedicate resources to complete proactive compliance inspections for tree protection, installation and maintenance conditions of development consent and continue to be involved in the Get the Site Right campaign.	Regulatory Services	Ongoing
3.5	Undertake critical review of the three metre distance rule exemption for tree removal with consideration of best practice. Undertake review of canopy cover loss due to removal of trees under this condition.	Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design, Regulatory Services, Open Space Services	Short
3.6	Develop and adopt a Public Tree Amenity Value Policy to identify and pass on the costs for tree removal associated with developments on Council-owned land by persons or entities other than Council.	Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design, Regulatory Services	Medium
3.7	Investigate the development of a planting tender and refine procurement procedures for outsourcing tree installation and maintenance including protocol for stock quality control, watering frequency in extreme weather conditions, pest and disease treatment and tree replacement.	Urban Policy and Planning, Regulatory Services	Short
3.8	Investigate new processes for replacement trees where tree permits have expired. Compliance and enforcement measures should consider replacement tree planting, establishment requirements and protocols for non-compliance.	Regulatory Services, Open Space Services, General Counsel	Medium
3.9	Integrate canopy initiatives and targets into the integrated planning and reporting framework, with community-specific and culturally appropriate benefits and evidence-based measurable targets.	Integrated Planning, Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services and Open Space and Buildings	Medium

3.10	Investigate updating the requirements for reports for development applications to include: - Existing and future proposed canopy percentages; - Confirmation of adequate deep soil for trees at maturity; - Height/depth, existing and future tree species; and - Water drainage and storage to provide passive irrigation.	Urban Policy and Planning, City Strategy and Design, Open Space Services	Medium
3.11	Update development application requirements to capture the number of trees removed and replaced as mandatory statistics.	Development Services, Open Space Services, Urban Planning and Policy, City Strategy and Design	Medium
3.12	Continue to advocate for canopy retention, below ground protection and sensitive construction methods around existing trees for all local and State Government capital works projects.	Urban Policy and Planning	Ongoing
3.13	Establish a Significant Tree Register Policy that will outline the criteria, nominations, reviews and promotion of significant trees. Listed significant trees will require a specific management protocol though development consent to be pruned or removed.	Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services, City Strategy and Design, Regulatory Services	Medium
3.14	Review the assessment process of determining trees as a heritage item, including nomination, classification and communication of trees listed as Heritage Items in the Local Environment Plan.	Strategic Planning, Open Space Services and Urban Policy and Planning	Medium
3.15	Continue to collaborate with local and State Government authorities to share challenges and opportunities for improving vegetation outcomes (e.g. workshops, working groups, grant funded urban greening initiatives and community incentive programs).	Environmental Sustainability, Urban Policy and Planning, Open Space Services	Ongoing
3.16	Continue to implement the Tree Works Prioritisation Framework for prioritising tree maintenance works (urgent and non-urgent work).	Open Space Services and Open Space and Buildings	Ongoing
3.17	Utilise science and research to monitor and evaluate species resilience to climate change risks and modify/diversity palette accordingly (e.g. Council tree health monitoring, Which Plant Where, scientific studies and TreeNET street tree trials).	Urban Policy and Planning, Environmental Sustainability	Short
3.18	Collaborate with utility and service providers to mitigate tree impacts and removal and to optimise opportunities for planting medium to large trees (e.g. bundling low-voltage overhead powerlines and undergrounding high-voltage powerlines).	Environmental Sustainability	Ongoing

Focus area 4: Communicate

Action no. and description		Responsible unit	Completion timeframe
4.1	Develop a Communications Plan to promote the benefits of trees and their relationship to heat mitigation, resilience and liveability.	Environmental Sustainability	Short
4.2	Develop a targeted internal awareness and education program relating to increasing canopy cover and planting diversity on public land (e.g. educate, engage and excite staff about the value and benefits of trees. Support staff to make informed decisions about retention, protection and replacement of trees through their interaction with the community).	Environmental Sustainability	Short
4.3	Support schools and the community to actively engage with bushcare to enhance and protect biodiversity.	Urban Policy and Planning and Environmental Sustainability	Ongoing
4.4	Update websites and post social media content to help raise awareness of the value of trees and the benefits they provide.	Environmental Sustainability and Communications	Ongoing
4.5	Undertake engagement to understand the community's barriers, tolerance and appetite for increasing canopy cover on private land	Environmental Sustainability and Communications	Short
4.6	Report biannually on progress of the actions in this Plan, with key performance indicator numbers reported annually.	Urban Policy and Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Ongoing
4.7	Investigate opportunities for citizen science projects and initiatives that tree ambassadors can get involved in to help our urban forest.	Open Space Services	Medium

Focus area 5: Resource

Action no. and description		Responsible unit	Completion timeframe
5.1	Define strategic and operational resources (people and budget) required to deliver best practice tree management and renewal programs including a cost benefit analysis of green infrastructure investment and ongoing maintenance.	Open Space and Buildings and Open Space Services	Medium
5.2	Seek additional funding to support community engagement, events and education programs.	Environmental Sustainability	Ongoing
5.3	Seek additional funding for street sweeping and storm debris collection.	Infrastructure Services	Medium
5.4	Investigate the need to seek additional funding for dedicated resources to investigate tree condition compliance and enforcement during development.	Regulatory Services	Medium
5.5	Ensure tree replacement (at a 3:1 ratio) and planting is included as a mandatory cost in all capital works projects at planning stage.	Asset Design	Ongoing
5.6	Investigate new technologies and tools to deliver best practice tree management and compare canopy change analytics.	Urban Policy and Planning	Ongoing
5.7	Investigate opportunities for citizen science projects and initiatives that tree ambassadors can get involved in to help our urban forest.	Open Space Services	Medium

09

Get involved

Your input shapes our City's future. Let us know what you think by sharing your ideas and feedback through our community engagement platform. We are committed to consulting with our community, and you can have your say on a variety of open projects at cb.city/HaveYourSay

If you would like to see our existing bushcare sites or volunteer to help restore bushland reserves, sign up at cb.city/Bushcare

If you would like to provide feedback about the condition or maintenance of existing parks or street trees, please contact our Customer Service Team.

Phone: 9707 9000

Email: council@cbc.city.nsw.gov.au

Postal address: P.O Box 8 Bankstown NSW 1885

Online: <https://www.cbc.city.nsw.gov.au/online-services/customer-service-request>

In person:

Bankstown Customer Service Centre

Upper Ground Floor

Bankstown Civic Tower

66 - 72 Rickard Road

(Corner of Jacobs Street)

Bankstown NSW 2200

Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm

Campsie Customer Service Centre

137 Beamish Street

Campsie NSW 2194

Monday to Friday, 10am-3pm



