

URBAN FOREST STRATEGY – CANOPY DELIVERY PLAN

WHAT WE HEARD

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the development of this important document.

Council's recently adopted Urban Forest Strategy outlines an ambitious target to achieve 30% tree canopy cover by 2040. The Canopy Delivery Plan is the delivery mechanism that will enable us to meet this target.

Through the consultation period on the draft Canopy Delivery Plan we received nearly 2000 contributions from the community through social media channels, written submissions and on the Council's community engagement platform, Participate Hobsons Bay. This document details how the engagement process was undertaken, provides a high-level overview of what we heard from the community and a brief description of the next steps in the project.

About the consultation process

The Canopy Delivery Plan seeks to identify locations of street tree vacancies; identify priority areas for planting where more tree cover is required; plant trees in 'harder to plant' locations such as hardscaped areas; maximise tree canopy through water sensitive urban design and to diversify existing street tree species through replacement.

To achieve a target of 30% tree canopy cover by 2040, Council sought input on the draft canopy delivery plan by asking the community to identify locations for new tree plantings across the municipality; garnering community interest in how people would like to get involved and interact with the roll out of the Urban Forest Strategy in the future; by nominating streets for the green street program; and by assisting with improved tree diversity as we start to remove the contentious *Lagunaria patersonia*'s from key areas of the municipality.

Community consultation occurred between 14 October to the 24 November 2021 on Council's online engagement platform, Participate, throughout this period. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions there was little opportunity to meet with community members face to face, however two webinars with presentations from industry leaders and Q&A sessions were held. The community consultation process was advertised extensively through Council's print and social media channels. This generated 1,379 online contributions, 493 social media and 39 email submissions

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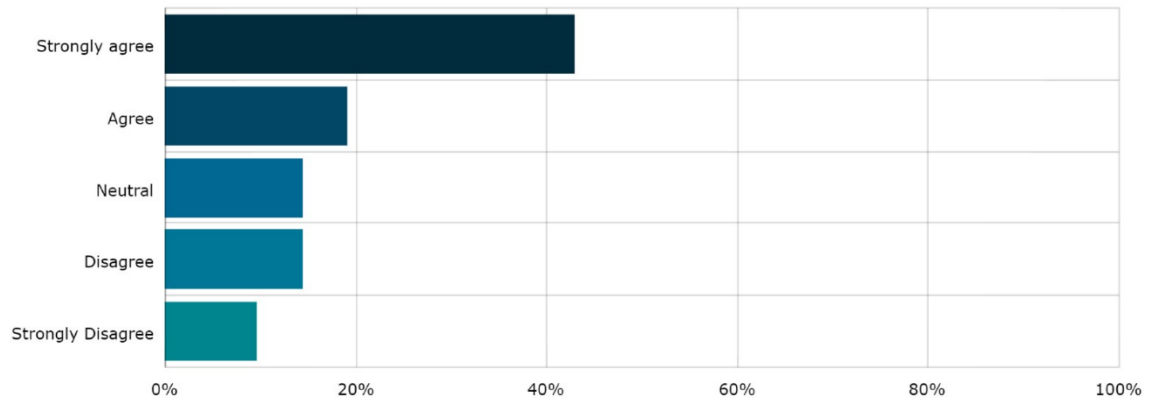
WHAT WE HEARD

Engagement outcomes

The community have shown overwhelming support for the municipal areas identified or priority planting in the Canopy Delivery Plan.

1. To what extent do you agree with the priority areas for planting?

Select Box | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 42 (95.5%)



Additional key areas identified for Council to focus on include industrial areas, open space along our foreshore (namely the coastal trail between Williamstown and Altona and the Esplanade and the Strand in Williamstown), carparks and the grass areas in Laverton. Kororoit Creek Road, all shopping strips and arterial roads within the municipality were also recognised as areas that could benefit from increased canopy cover.

Participants identified 654 locations that require a tree with a significant request cluster, around Seabrook, Altona Meadows (North), Westona, Spotswood, the Rifle Range and the Strand.

To a lesser extent, trees were also requested along the Esplanade (Williamstown), Brooklyn, Laverton and Seaholme.



Seeking representation in the Green Streets Program, 142 registers of interest were received with a fair representation across all suburbs in Hobsons Bay.

As part of the consultation, Council received 391 suggestions for the removal of *Lagunaria patersonia*'s – the majority of which were from Altona (153 trees), Williamstown (113 trees) and Seaholme (48 trees). There is concern within some of the respondents that Council is conveying a mixed message in calling for locations of tree removal as well as planting additional trees. Additionally, some advocacy groups have made submissions calling for the preservation of Hobsons Bay's *Lagunaria patersonia*'s and seek further clarification on the replacement species to be used.

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Where to from here

The Project Team are currently evaluating all the feedback received. In the new year they will provide detailed responses to written submissions; outline how community feedback has informed the final version of the Canopy Delivery Plan and begin implementation in 2022.

In addition, the Project Team will:

- Use the Canopy Delivery Plan to inform priority locations for tree planting over the next 10 years. The locations identified by community members will be incorporated into future tree planting programs where possible.
- Contact community members who expressed a wish to partner with Council in delivering the Canopy Delivery Plan
- Undertake feasibility assessments on streets nominated to be a part of the Green Streets program, create a priority list for implementation and continue engagement with streets selected.
- Review the priority list and timeline for the removal of *Lagunaria patersonia*'s, finalise the Management Plan in response to submissions received, and provide information on the proposed replacements.