

Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy

Community Engagement Summary Report

Background

Our Community Plan 2020-2027 identifies that: Our City will become greener with increasing tree canopy cover spaces and green infrastructure. Through improved biodiversity, we will achieve a better living environment for people.

Our corporate and community planning structure uses indicators to measure and track our success.

The outcome being pursued is that: **Our city is greener to reduce heat island effects and enhance our biodiversity**, with the relevant success measure being that: **Our biodiversity and tree canopy cover are consistently increasing.**

This Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy is our overarching approach to achieving these community plan aspirations, outcomes and measures.

A draft strategy to mitigate future tree loss and move towards overall canopy cover gain across the City has been drafted. The strategy, titled "Growing Green: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045" (TCIS) builds upon the significant achievements and efforts undertaken by our organisation over many decades and provides a framework to deliver long-term, sustainable, and significant gains to our urban forest.

Reporting on Community Engagement

We engaged our community on the draft strategy to raise awareness and invite community input. Our commitment is that community feedback will be analysed and collated into key themes and inform the refinement of the TCIS. A report will be prepared for the consideration of Council including the feedback received from the community.

Following Council endorsement of the TCIS, stakeholders and members of the community who participated in the engagement process will be informed of Council's decision and where they can view the new TCIS via Your Say Charles Sturt and other communications channels. We will continue conversations with stakeholders and our community as we work to action the TCIS over coming years.

Engagement Approach

Engagement objectives

The purpose of engagement with our stakeholders and community on our TCIS was to:

- Raise awareness of the documented strategy.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders and our community to have a say on the TCIS.
- Understand what our community values.
- Test out the TCIS vision, target, guiding principles and actions.
- Invite community to suggest further actions for consideration.
- Integrate community feedback into the refinement of the TCIS.

As well as gathering feedback to inform the refinement of the TCIS, ideas and issues raised by stakeholders and our community will assist us as we work to prioritise and implement various actions.

Outreach

Our consultation process provided a wide range of opportunities, including face to face, online and written feedback, to provide input into the TCIS. Consultation ran for a period of six weeks, commencing on 21 July and concluding on 5 September 2021. A small number of submissions (6 hardcopy surveys and one written submission from Green Adelaide) were received and accepted after the closing date.

To raise awareness and capture the opinions of a wide range of residents and stakeholders, a variety of communication and community engagement activities were provided:

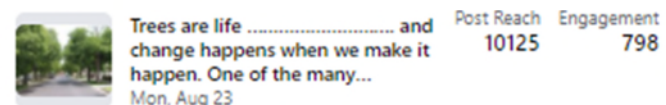
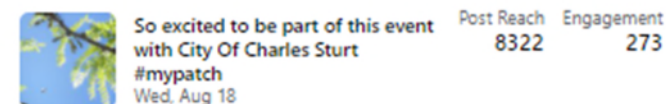
- Your Say Charles Sturt website providing information and engagement opportunities.
- City of Charles Sturt website.
- City of Charles Sturt social media platforms.
- Sophie Thomson's social media platform.
- City of Charles Sturt's e-newsletter.
- Newsletter to Your Say Charles Sturt registered participants.
- Newsletter to local business network.
- Letters, emails and discussions with key stakeholders and community groups.
- Public notice in The Advertiser.
- Media screens and displays in our libraries, community centres and Civic Centre Internal Street.
- Hardcopy draft TCIS, fact sheets and survey forms in our libraries, community centres and Civic Centre Internal Street.
- Online survey open to our community.
- Online survey open to Council's E-Panel.
- Invitations for written submissions.
- Deputations.
- Presentation to Council.
- Contact number for further information and questions.
- Community forums, including forums with young people.

The engagement activities and level of participation are summarised in Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1: Engagement activities undertaken during consultation on Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 – 2045

Type of activity	Engagement activity	Date and place	Participants
Your Say Charles Sturt online consultation hub	Online survey	21 July – 5 September 2021, via Your Say Charles Sturt	Open to everyone 132 unique visitors 64 survey responses
	Online discussion	21 July – 5 September 2021, via Your Say Charles Sturt	Open to everyone 25 unique visitors 6 contributions
	Online quick poll	21 July – 5 September 2021, via Your Say Charles Sturt	Open to everyone 28 responses
	TCIS project page visitation	21 July – 5 September 2021, via Your Say Charles Sturt	Open to everyone 587 unique visitors 68 followers
Community consultation	Hardcopy survey	21 July – 5 September 2021, via libraries, community centres, Civic Centre Internal Street or phone request	Open to everyone 32 survey responses
	Written submissions	21 July – 5 September 2021	Open to everyone 12 received including Green Adelaide and WACRA
E-Panel consultation	Online survey	1 September - 15 September 2021, via email and Your Say Charles Sturt	Targeted community 187 unique visitors 122 survey responses
Community forums	Growing Green Forum at the Civic Centre including special guest Sophie Thomson	25 August 2021, 6.00pm to 7.30pm, City of Charles Sturt Civic Centre, 72 Woodville Road, Woodville	Open to everyone 33 attendees
	Growing Green Forum at 19 on Green	1 September 2021, 6.30pm to 8.00pm, 19 on Green Community Centre, 19 Green Street, Brompton	Open to everyone 14 attendees including community groups (Hindmarsh Greening, Rosetta Greening, WACRA)
Conversations with young people	The Brocas Multicultural Youth Network	19 August 2021, 5.30pm to 7.00pm, The Brocas Community	Targeted stakeholders 15 attendees

Type of activity	Engagement activity	Date and place	Participants
		Centre, 111 Woodville Road, St Clair	
	Findon High School Youth Group	30 August 2021, Findon High School, 44 Drummond Avenue, Findon	Targeted stakeholders 5 attendees
Deputations	Deputation by WACRA	21 June 2021, CCS Council Meeting, Council Chambers, 72 Woodville Road, Woodville	Open to everyone 1 received
City of Charles Sturt Social media	Facebook Instagram LinkedIn Twitter	21 July – 5 September 2021	8 posts 7,570 impressions 6,543 reach (Facebook only) 390 engagements
City of Charles Sturt E-newsletter		August E-newsletter	190 Clicks on the article
City of Charles Sturt website		21 July – 5 September 2021	82 page views 70 unique page views
City of Charles Sturt business community	LinkedIn Western Business Leaders newsletter	21 July – 5 September 2021	LinkedIn – 746 impressions, 11 likes Western Business Leaders newsletter – 11 opens, 2 click throughs
Sophie Thomson's social media	Facebook	#SophiesPatch	2 posts 8322 and 10,125 reach 273 and 798 engagements



Engagement Metric Summary

The community engagement approach adopted has been very successful with excellent reach to our stakeholders and community, and extending to others with interests in greening and tree canopy cover. Similarly, we achieved a high level of community engagement relative to other council-wide strategies we have consulted on in recent times. The engagement results confirm that our community has a high level of interest in greening and trees, and wish to see our tree canopy cover increase.

Total people reached

The reach of the project to our community and general public was significant. The reach using council websites and social media equalled 7,577 people, and project ambassador Sophie Thomson, via *#Sophie's Patch*, extended our reach by a further 10,125 people to a total of 17,702 people.

Total engaged

During the consultation process there were a total of 332 engagements; including 218 survey responses (64 online, 32 hard copy, 122 E-Panel), 67 face to face at community forums and focus group activities, 34 online activities, 12 written submissions and one deputation.

The number engaged in the TCIS consultation was slightly higher compared to our Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (237 engaged) and Community Plan (243 engaged) demonstrating the raised level of interest in trees and the natural environment and need to increase tree canopy cover.

Tree Champions and Followers of the TCIS

We invited our community to let us know if they were passionate about working with Council to achieve the tree canopy target by becoming a *'Charles Sturt Tree Champion'*. The role of 'champion' will be considered further as we start to implement the TCIS but might include helping to raise awareness in the community, taking part in planting days, joining or starting a Greening Group, attending information sessions and workshops. Pleasingly, 80 members of our local community indicated they would be interested in being a *'Charles Sturt Tree Champion'*.

The high level of interest in the TCIS is also evident by the 68 people who are *'Following'* the project page on Your Say Charles Sturt. We can continue to link project updates to the Your Say project page and use this as a forum to further engage our community on the TCIS.

Demographic data

A review of the age of survey respondents shows a good spread across most age cohorts for both the Community-wide Survey and E Panel Survey. Refer Figures 1 and 2.

Figure 1: Community-wide Survey – Age of Respondents

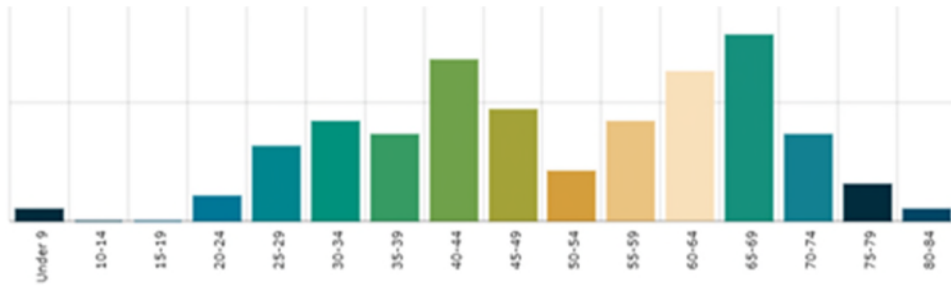
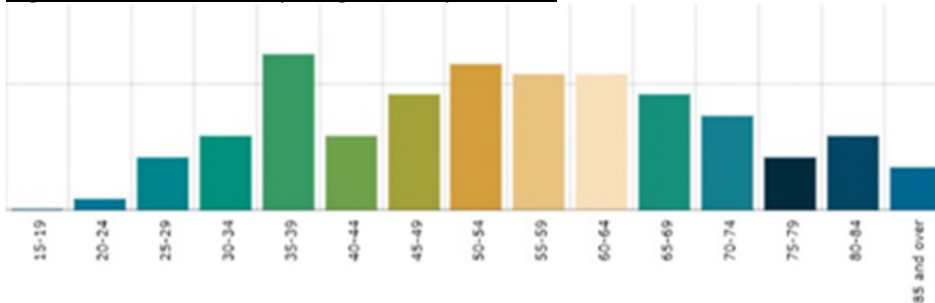


Figure 2: E Panel Survey – Age of Respondents



A review of the respondents connection to the Charles Sturt Council area shows that most are residents (90%) and ratepayers (70%). Refer Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3: Community-wide Survey – Respondent's Connection to the City

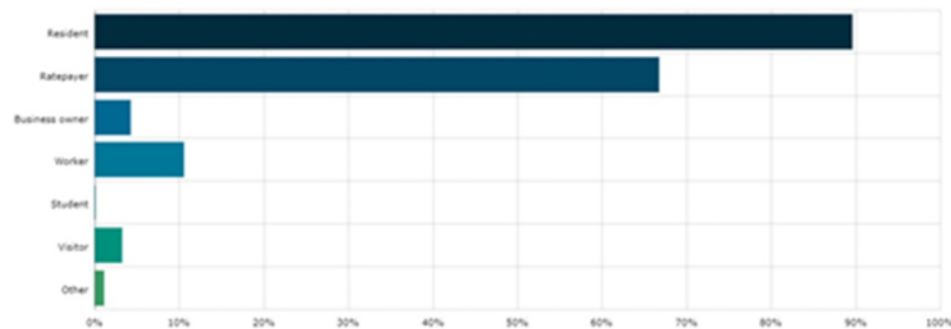
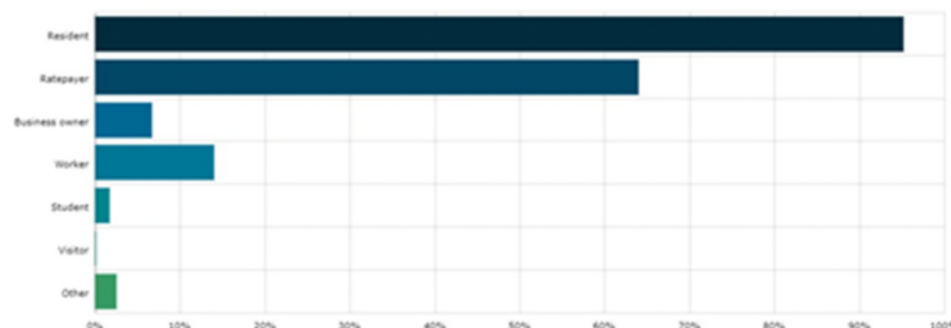
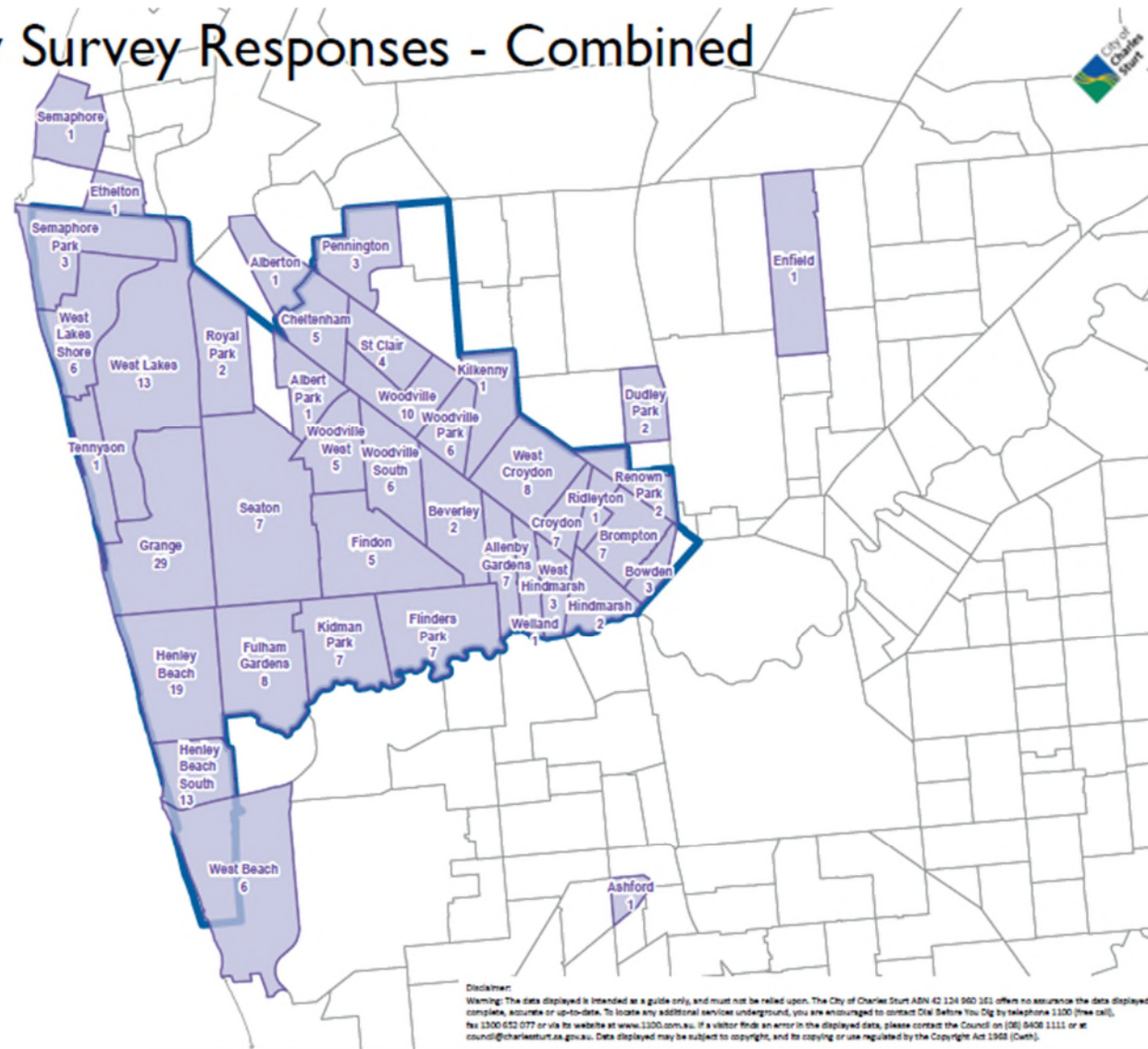


Figure 4: E Panel Survey – Respondent's Connection to the City



A review of the suburb that survey respondents originate from shows a good representation across most suburbs, with higher concentrations in the Henley and Grange locality and lower concentrations in the Woodville North and Athol Park locality. Refer Figure 5.

Tree Canopy Survey Responses - Combined



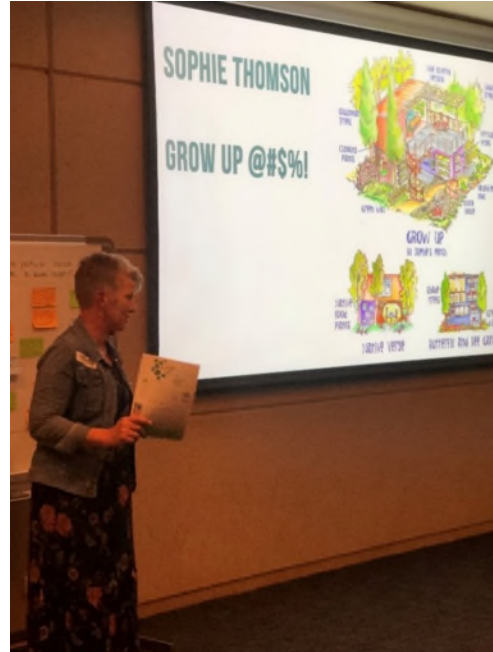
Q:\Projects\2021\2021-11-06 - Tree Canopy Consultation\20211106 - Tree Canopy Consultation.aprx

Figure 5: Map showing number of respondents by suburb from Community Survey and E-Panel Survey combined.

Examples of Communications and Community Engagement Activity

Growing Green Community Forum

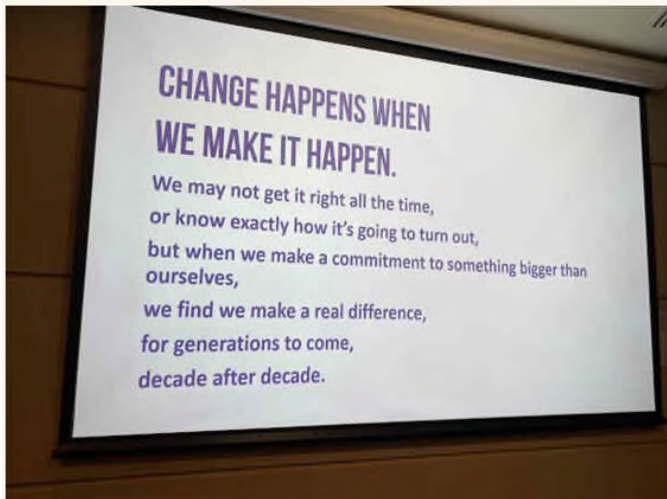
Sophie Thomson was a special guest presenter at our Community Forum on Wednesday 25 August 2021 and she actively promoted the TCIS through her social media channel.



Out and About



While the Royal Adelaide Show for 2021 may have been cancelled, I am just as passionate about the concepts within it, and one of those is the need for green canopy and shade trees. Shade and green space will help keep our city cooler, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and provide numerous other environmental, economic and wellbeing outcomes. So, a few weeks ago I was delighted to help the City of Charles Sturt with their Growing Green Community Forum. Their Growing Green: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045 is ambitious and aims to increase their city-wide tree canopy cover to 45%. They are committed to increase tree canopy cover across their council area and to do this they will not only increase their efforts, but work with residents, landholders, businesses, and developers, as a lot of the land within their Council area is privately owned. The guiding principles in their strategy apply to every council area, and every backyard for that matter too, including planting more trees, protecting existing trees and appreciating trees more.



I have done a lot of work with the City of Charles Sturt over the years and found them to be leaders, whether initiating the native bee project along the River Torrens <https://sophiespatch.com.au/2018/07/07/native-bee-bnb-project/>, facilitating sustainable verge planting programs <https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/services/home-and-property/your-verge/verge-gardens>, or encouraging community gardens and gardening. This Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy is a long-term project and I look forward to working with them and making a difference in our city. I love this slide from the presentation.

<https://mailchi.mp/sophiespatch/spring-gloriousness-at-sophies-patch?e=953d057246>

Your Say Charles Sturt <https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy>

The screenshot shows the 'Your Say Charles Sturt' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, All Projects, About, My profile, and a search bar. The main header features the project title 'GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 - 2045' and a call to action: 'Let's make our City greener, cooler and healthier. Comment on our draft Strategy and work with us to increase the tree canopy cover to 25% by 2045.' Below this, there's a 'Project Update' section with a thank you message and a 'News Update - Growing Green Community Forum' section featuring a photo of Sophie Thomson and a quote about her role as a special guest. A 'Where are the trees?' section includes a pie chart showing 37% public land and 63% private land. Other sections include 'Navigate this project' with links to project home, why we need more canopy cover, draft actions, the GROWING GREEN journey, what can I do to help?, and tree canopy survey. A 'What are the benefits of trees?' section features a photo of trees and text about biodiversity. A 'Complete our Survey' button is also visible.

GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 - 2045

Let's make our City greener, cooler and healthier. Comment on our draft Strategy and work with us to increase the tree canopy cover to 25% by 2045.

[Follow](#)

Home > GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 - 2045

Project Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our consultation and attended our Growing Green Forum. We will now review all the feedback received to develop and finalise our Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045 and prepare a report to Council.

News Update - Growing Green Community Forum

10 August 2021 - Growing Green: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045

Sophie Thomson will be our special guest

Join us to discuss our Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy. Sophie Thomson from Gardening Australia will also be joining us. Registration is essential due to Covid restrictions. [Learn more >](#)

Our City is GROWING GREEN

Help us make the City of Charles Sturt greener, cooler, healthier and an even better place to live. Our City is getting hotter from the impacts of climate change and the urban heat island effect. Trees provide cooling benefits, reduce heat-related illness, reflect heat and actively cool and clean the air. People need trees for their health and mental well-being. Trees also provide a sense of place and are critical to achieving biodiversity conservation. Planting trees is an investment in the future of our City. The mature trees we enjoy today and benefit from today, were planted by those generations before us, many decades ago. We propose an extended and intensive tree planting programme over many decades and we look forward to working with everyone in our community to grow the tree canopy across our City. **Our target is to reach a tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045.** This is an ambitious target and one that Council is keen to lead. To meet this target we will need to work with residents, landholders, businesses and developers as a lot of the land within our Council area is privately owned.

WHERE ARE THE TREES?

37% PUBLIC LAND

63% PRIVATE LAND

Please don't forget to tell us all the trees in your City. Please don't forget to tell us all the trees in your City. Please don't forget to tell us all the trees in your City.

Navigate this project

- [Project Home](#)
- [Why we need more canopy cover?](#)
- [Draft actions in our Strategy](#)
- [Our GROWING GREEN journey](#)
- [What can I do to help?](#)
- [Tree Canopy Survey](#)

What are the benefits of trees?

Trees improve biodiversity

Trees provide food and habitat for birds, bees and other animals.

Complete our Survey

The survey period has now closed.

CCS Website – 'Latest News':

<https://www.charlessturt.sa.gov.au/council/news-and-media/latest-news/growing-green-have-your-say>

The screenshot shows the 'Your Say Charles Sturt' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Council, Services, Community & Recreation, Environment, Development & Infrastructure, and Business. There's also a 'Chat online' button and a search bar. The main header features the project title 'GROWING GREEN - HAVE YOUR SAY' and a call to action: 'Let's make our City greener, cooler and healthier. Comment on our draft Strategy and work with us to increase the tree canopy cover to 25% by 2045.' Below this, there's a 'Project Update' section with a thank you message and a 'News Update - Growing Green Community Forum' section featuring a photo of Sophie Thomson and a quote about her role as a special guest. A 'Where are the trees?' section includes a pie chart showing 37% public land and 63% private land. Other sections include 'Navigate this project' with links to project home, why we need more canopy cover, draft actions, the GROWING GREEN journey, what can I do to help?, and tree canopy survey. A 'What are the benefits of trees?' section features a photo of trees and text about biodiversity. A 'Complete our Survey' button is also visible.

GROWING GREEN - HAVE YOUR SAY

Let's make our City greener, cooler and healthier. Comment on our draft Strategy and work with us to increase the tree canopy cover to 25% by 2045.

[Follow](#)

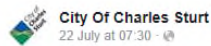
Home > Council > News and media > Latest news > Growing Green - Have Your Say

22 July 2021

Our City is Growing Green.

Help us make the City of Charles Sturt greener, cooler, healthier and an even better place to live. Our City is getting hotter from the impacts of climate change and the urban heat island effect. Trees provide cooling benefits, reduce heat-related illness, reflect heat and actively cool and clean the air. People need trees for their health and mental well-being. Trees also provide a sense of place and are critical to achieving biodiversity conservation. Planting trees is an investment in the future of our City. The mature trees we enjoy today and benefit from today were planted by those generations before us, many decades ago. We propose an extended and intensive tree planting program over many decades and we look forward to working with everyone in our community to grow the tree canopy across our City. **Our target is to reach a tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045.** This is an ambitious target and one that we are keen to lead. To meet this target we will need to work with residents, landholders, businesses and developers as a lot of the land within our Council area is privately owned. Read our draft strategy, complete the online survey and come to our forum. For more information visit:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityOfCharlesSturt/posts/182040907301304>



Help make Charles Sturt a greener, cooler, healthier place to live. Our target is to reach a tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045.

We encourage you to take a look at our our draft strategy, complete the online survey and come along to our forum in August. For more information visit:

🌳 Your Say Charles Sturt, our online community engagement hub

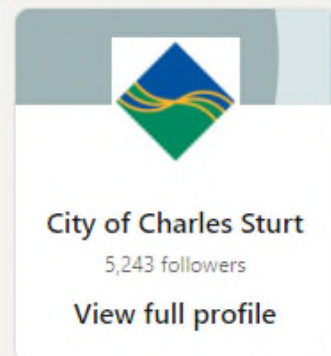
www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy

🌳 Alternatively you can call us on 8408 1111

Community feedback closes at 5pm, Sunday 5 September 2021.



Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6823876764155031552>



City of Charles Sturt

5,243 followers

2mo • 🌐

Help make Charles Sturt a greener, cooler, healthier place to live. Our target is to reach a tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045.

We encourage you to take a look at our our draft strategy, complete the online survey and come along to our forum in August. For more information visit:

🌳 Your Say Charles Sturt, our online community engagement hub

<https://lnkd.in/d-uAxf2>

🌳 Alternatively you can call us on 8408 1111

Community feedback closes at 5pm, Sunday 5 September 2021.

[#trees](#) [#treecanopystrategy](#) [#greencity](#)



LOCKDOWN 3.0



Midwives diverted from high risk zones

HEALTH CHALLENGES
BRAD CROUCH

SA Health has moved clinical staff who are not fully Covid vaccinated out of high-risk areas, most notably birthing suites.

Midwives who have not had both shots are now not allowed to work in birthing suites and a call has gone out to staff who are fully vaccinated to cover the shortfall.

However, with many midwives regularly working overtime there are warnings the public system will have trouble coping.

Unvaccinated staff working in other high-risk exposure areas are being redeployed.



Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation state secretary Elizabeth Dalke, pictured, said the situation with the growing cluster in South Australia justified the changes.

"Given the clear evidence on vaccination assisting to reduce viral load – and emerging evidence of reducing propensity of illness – it appears to be a reasonable public protection approach particularly given staff in these areas are working with vulnerable people, including babies," she said.

"We understand that those who are not vaccinated will be diverted into other areas of useful work in low-risk exposure areas."

The precautionary changes come as thousands of people are being notified elective surgery has been suspended until further notice.

When the lockdown began on Tuesday there were 16,445 people listed on the public system as "ready for surgery".

It is not known when elective surgery will restart.



LOCKDOWN SETS TAILS WAGGING

A dog enjoys a morning run with its owner at Unley Oval. Picture: Sarah Reed

CALIE BOND

SOME people hate being cooped up at home in lockdown, while others relish having a ready-made and fussproof excuse for avoiding tedious social occasions.

One species that unquestionably loves this government-enforced detention, though, is the pooch.

It's fair to say dogs' tails are wagging given they're the big winner of the seven-day lockdown getting to spend more time with their human family. But owners are reaping the rewards, too.

A recent study by James Cook University found that during last year's lockdowns, dog owners reported reduced levels of stress and loneliness.

According to the study, the need to exercise dogs provided much-needed routine to their owners' lives, encouraged them to keep their own fitness up, and gave them human interaction while out walking.

The Advertiser wants to know how your dog's holding up. Are they loving it? Let us know by sending in your photos or videos to The Advertiser. 8438 1044

Tourism crushed by Covid

Operators left reeling

THE REGIONS
MICHELLE ETHERIDGE

SOUTH Australia's lockdown has dealt a crushing blow to tourism operators across the state's regions as they were attempting to claw back trade lost in the pandemic last year.

However, one saving grace for the industry is the state's lockdown just missed the lucrative school holiday period.

Cadrier Pedy Retail, Business and Tourism Association committee member Terry Brennan-Kass said a strong winter season had come to a "smothering halt".

"It really kicked in with the start of the NSW issue and then Victoria went into restrictions, and with lockdown, that's destroyed tourism here," he said, adding that June and July were the mining town's busiest months, when cooler temperatures drew tourists up north.

Mr Brennan-Kass said almost everyone closed out ahead of SA's lockdown which started on Wednesday, spelling "disaster" for the mining town. The co-owner of Josephine's Gallery & Kangaroo Orphanage said the country should tighten up on international travel exemptions because of their ability to spread the virus.

On Kangaroo Island, for tourism operators still trying to recover from the December 2019-January 2020 bushfires, a lack of international tourists has left a gaping hole in visitor

numbers. Tour operator Craig Wickham, who runs Exceptional Kangaroo Island, said he supported what would "temporarily" be a "short, sharp lockdown" to stop community transmission and get business back on track.

"We've worked very hard to develop relationships with domestic travel agents... and really putting the experience in front of Australian travellers who are wanting to explore their own backyard, but as soon as a border shutdown occurs, it's cancel, cancel, cancel," he said.

Australia's vaccine rollout must be fast-tracked, he said, to help the industry recover.

"Yes, government can do better but they're only part of the solution. The business sector has a role to play and individuals have a role to play," he said.

Adelaide Hills Tourism chairman Martin Radcliffe said this week's lockdown was tough for everyone in tourism and hoped locals would support the region's businesses when they were able to return.

"Programs like the Great State Vouchers are going to be critical and I think as we come through lockdown, those programs will be extended," he said.

Meanwhile, timber mills and forests in the Green Triangle, which covers the state's South East and southwestern Victoria, have been issued a specialist industry exemption to continue operations during SA's lockdown.

Close of Roll for Supplementary Election



City of Port Adelaide Enfield

YOUR ELECTION NOTICE

Due to the passing of a member of the council, a supplementary election will be necessary to fill the vacancy of Councillor for Outer Harbour Ward.

The voters roll for this supplementary election will close at 5pm on Friday 30 July 2021.

You are entitled to vote in the election if you are enrolled on the State electoral roll for the council area. If you have recently turned 18 or changed your residential or postal address you must complete an electoral enrolment form available online at www.sasa.sa.gov.au

If you are not eligible to enrol on the State electoral roll you may still be entitled to enrol to vote if you own or occupy a property in the council area. Contact the council to find out how.

Nominations to fill the vacancy will open on Thursday 26 August 2021 and will be received until 12 noon on Thursday 9 September 2021.

The election will be conducted entirely by post with the return of ballot material to reach the Returning Officer no later than 12 noon on Monday 14 October 2021.

Mike Sherry
RETURNING OFFICER



www.sasa.sa.gov.au

DRAFT TREE CANOPY IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY 2021-2045

Community consultation

Help make Charles Sturt a greener, cooler, healthier place to live. Our target is to reach a tree canopy cover of 25% by 2045.

Read our draft strategy, complete the online survey and come to our forum.

For more information visit:

- Your Say Charles Sturt, our online community engagement hub, at yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy
- Charles Sturt libraries and community centres
- Alternatively you can call us on 8408 1151.

Community feedback closes at 5pm, Sunday 5 September 2021.



Summary of Community Feedback

As mentioned above, a total of 332 engagements occurred during the consultation period.

- 218 community members responded to our survey (64 online, 32 hard copy, 122 E-Panel).
- 67 community members attended our community forums and focus group activities.
- 34 community members contributed to other activities.
- 12 community members/organisations prepared written submissions.
- WACRA provided one deputation.

The survey results were extracted from the City of Charles Sturt's on-line consultation hub, "YourSay Charles Sturt", hard copy surveys, and our E-Panel, a statistically representative group of residents who have "opted in" to regular community engagement invitations. The data extracted from both sets of survey data, general community and E-Panel, is broadly consistent. For the purposes of the engagement reporting, no distinction is made between these groupings, unless it is pertinent to the discussion.

Note: Where ratings have been provided in the text, for example in the form of a number out of ten, the rating documented in this report is an average of the two ratings given by the E-Panel respondents and general community respondents.

The following summary of community feedback integrates all responses gathered from all our consultation activities including survey, face to face, written submissions and deputations. We have structured the feedback summary to align with the key elements of the TCIS, which are:

- Importance of Trees.
- Vision and Strategy.
- Target and Timing.
- Guiding Principles 1 to 6.
- Other Feedback.

Importance of Trees

Respondents were asked the question “How important are trees to you?” with the options ranging from ‘very important’ to ‘not important’ and ‘unsure’ and they were asked to explain the reason for their response.

Nearly 100% of respondents said trees are either *important* or *very important* to them.

92.7% of the broader community said trees are very important and 5.2% said important.

Of the E-Panel respondents, 84.43% said trees were very important and 15.57% said important.

Respondents told us trees were important or very important to them. The two figures below illustrate this vividly.

This clear community sentiment underscores the need for, and value of, this strategy.

The following key feedback was received regarding the importance of trees:

- Important and necessary for human (mental and physical) health
- Important and necessary for environmental health
- Shading and cooling
- Biodiversity, including habitat for birds and other creatures
- Enhance our homes, our streets and our suburbs
- Natural beauty and other aesthetic benefits
- Improve property prices
- Reduce greenhouse gases
- Enhance our quality of life

Trees are essential to the web of life - fungi, microbiota, insects, reptiles, birds, bees and kids - climbing is essential!

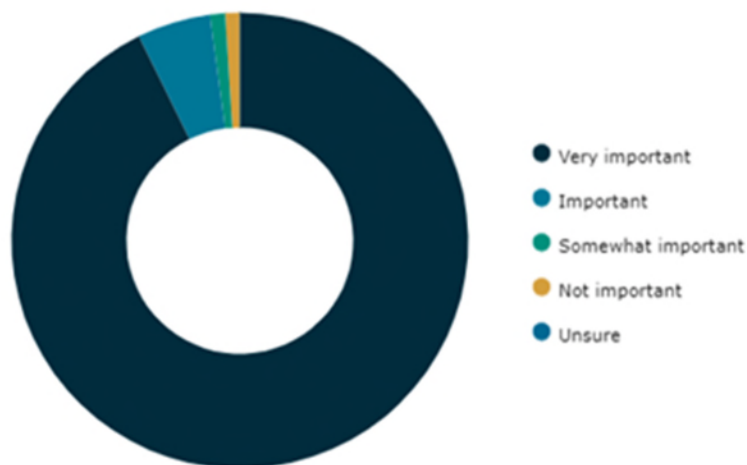
They shade us, cool our streets and provide solace and beauty.

Trees add monetary value to a suburb. Important for wildlife, cooling the environment.

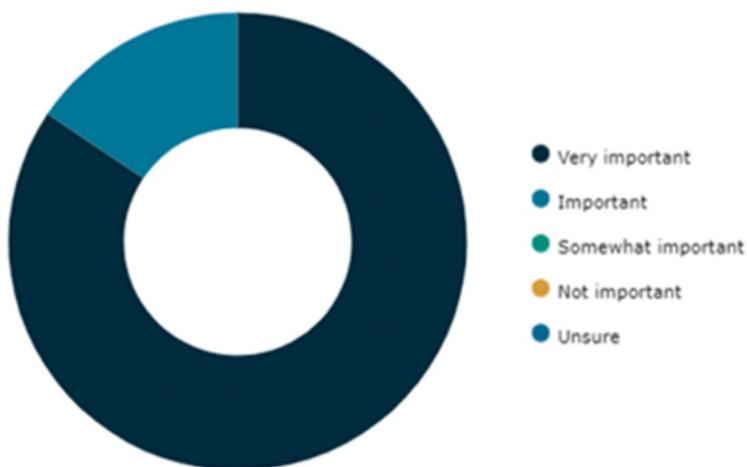
The lungs of life, a canopy to cool the planet, a habitat for birds and animals

Cools the neighbourhood and good for mental health.

Community-wide response



E-Panel



RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- Broaden the narrative by adding an enhanced recognition of the reasons that trees are important such as aesthetics, shading and biodiversity

Feedback from the consultation as to the reasons trees are important will inform the development of a future marketing and communications strategy to further the uptake and retention of tree planting in the public and private realm.

Vision and Strategy

Respondents were asked to rate the vision and strategy out of 10, with 0 being poor and 10 being excellent.

Overall, the draft vision and strategy received very strong support from respondents.

The Vision:

“The City of Charles Sturt has an extensive, healthy, diverse and sustainable urban forest which grows to reach a City-wide canopy cover target of 25% by 2045” **received a high level of support from respondents with an overall**

rating of 8.25/10.

Strategy:

The draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy **received a high level of support from respondents with an overall rating of 8/10.**

The ratings given to both the Vision and the Strategy indicate a high level of community support for this initiative.

Evident from the responses was a desire for greater greening across the City for several reasons, many citing the need for more trees to combat our changing climate, to protect and enhance our human health and wellbeing as well as to beautify our City.

Many comments were made lamenting the loss of trees across our City, and quite a number of respondents noted the urgency for action and a significant desire to stop further canopy loss.

The changes to urban form that see greater amounts of infill development that remove existing trees and provide little or no opportunity for any new tree planting was a theme repeated across a range of responses.

It is clear from the feedback, that many identified that the “business as usual approach” needs to change to increase the amount of tree canopy cover.

The draft strategy is comprehensive and supports achieving a target of 25% canopy cover

It is important to look after the tree cover we have and to keep expanding it to help slow climate change

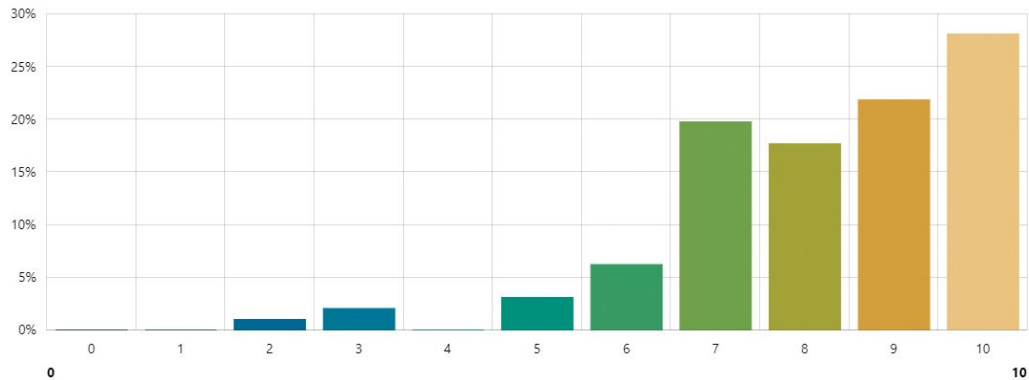
Trees are a significant strategy to cool our city; if appropriate resources are given, it can and must be achieved

Need a strong documented strategy and commitment to guide future councils.

I believe this is a very important project. It is a practical way that we can all be involved to reduce some of the effects of climate change and protect the local environment for future generations.

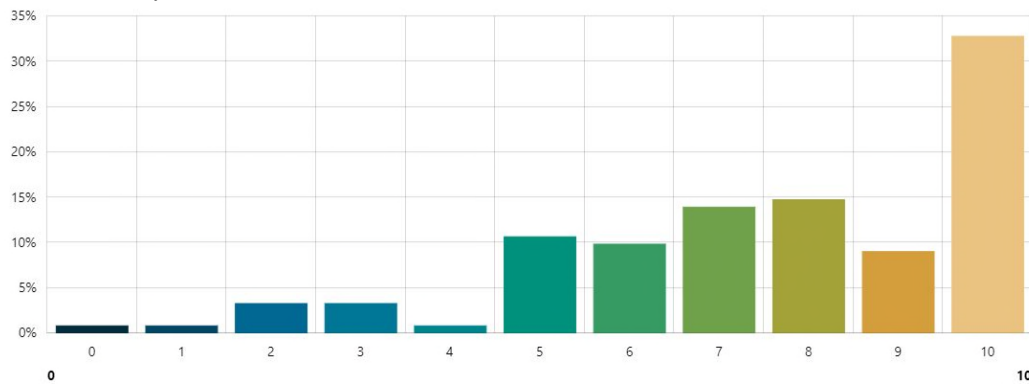
Draft Vision Ratings

Community - wide Survey



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
0%	0%	1.04%	2.08%	0%	3.13%	6.25%	19.79%	17.71%	21.88%	28.13%	96	8.20	8.50	2	10
0	0	1	2	0	3	6	19	17	21	27					

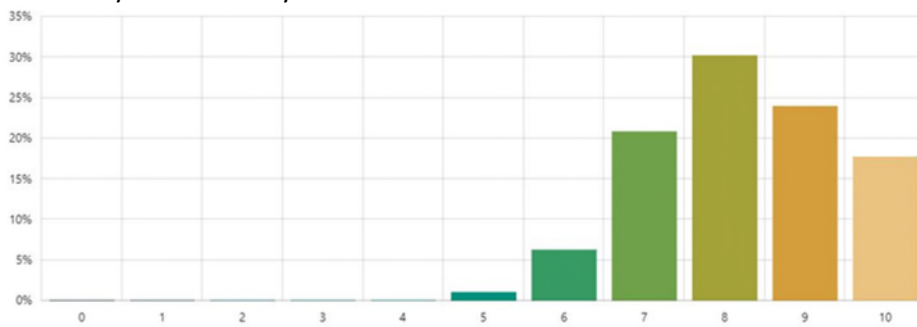
E-Panel Survey



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
0.82%	0.82%	3.28%	3.28%	0.82%	10.66%	9.84%	13.93%	14.75%	9.02%	32.79%	122	7.57	8.00	0	10
1	1	4	4	1	13	12	17	18	11	40					

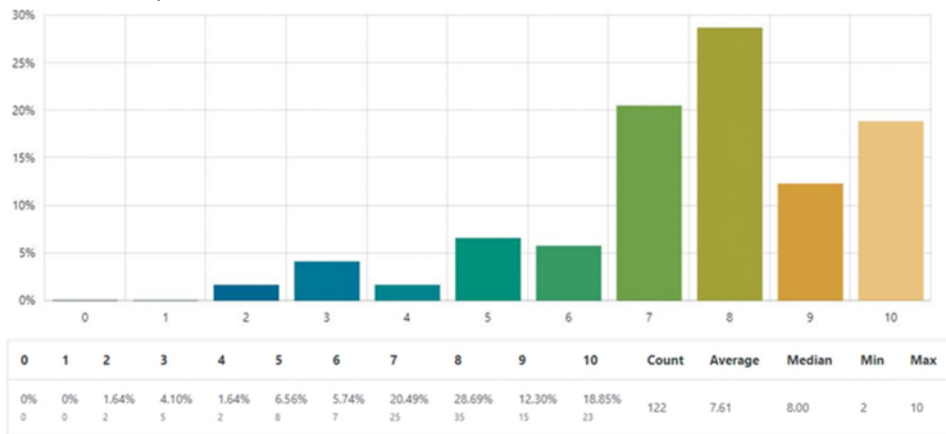
Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy Ratings

Community - wide Survey



0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Count	Average	Median	Min	Max
0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1.04%	6.25%	20.83%	30.21%	23.96%	17.71%	96	8.23	8.00	5	10
0	0	0	0	0	1	6	20	29	23	17					

E-Panel Survey



RESPONSE

Due to the high level of positive support for the Vision, no amendment will be made to the wording of the vision.

A more succinct “headline”-style "mission statement for the plan will be included to preface the vision: “Growing green: our plan for a greener, cooler city” (i.e. inserted before the vision statement).

The rating given to the Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy indicates a high level of community support for this initiative and gives further approval by the community that this strategic action is endorsed.

Target and Timing

We asked respondents if they thought the target of 25% canopy cover by the Year 2045 was realistic.

Target 25% Canopy:

Supported as realistic by 83% of respondents

5% thought this was unrealistic and 22% were unsure.

Meet the target by 2045:

Supported as realistic by 79% of respondents

9% thought this was unrealistic and 12% were unsure.

The feedback received on this section of the strategy frequently cited the urgency to act in the face of changing climate, as well as concern for the decreases that have occurred to canopy cover.

Many respondents noted that the target and timing was achievable with adequate resourcing and continued commitment to this strategy

Key feedback noted:

- Achievable with right planning and adequate resources
- Ensure we look after existing tree cover
- Ambitious but worthwhile
- Urgency
- Development impacts
- Council commitment to deliver on this strategy
- Allow community to plant on public land

A number of respondents felt that the target should be higher and the timeframe shorter.

Many noted the need for incentives to plant trees, and incentives to retain trees on private properties.

Realistic if we start immediately and keep focused on task.

Increasing tree canopy is vital to protect the environment and to maintain liveability of our suburbs as our climate changes, with good planning and commitment I believe the targets will be met.

If we want the environment to look after us, we need to look after the environment. Trees give life, together we can achieve this goal.

We need to have these goals for the benefit of future generations

Just plant the bloody things

Love the idea

If the planning and allocated resources to undertake the tasks is relevant to the timing plan, this should be achievable.

How realistic is the target of 25% by 2045?

Community-wide Survey:

	Realistic	Unrealistic	Unsure
Achieve a target is 25% tree canopy cover (we currently have 14% cover)	85.42% 82	7.29% 7	7.29% 7
Meet the target by the Year 2045	79.17% 76	10.42% 10	10.42% 10

E-Panel:

	Realistic	Unrealistic	Unsure
Achieve a target is 25% tree canopy cover (we currently have 14% cover)	81.15% 99	3.28% 4	15.57% 19
Meet the target by the Year 2045	78.69% 96	7.38% 9	13.93% 17

RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- Note within the strategy that it will be a living document and allow for further reviews every 5 years over the life of the plan 2021-2045.

Feedback from the consultation as to the response to, and the rationale for, the target and timing will inform the development of a future marketing and communications plan for the implementation of this strategy.

Principle 1 - Plant more trees (and continually review planting options)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

95.7% of respondents rated this principle as very important.

Of the 13 actions related to this principle, 12 of them were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

Feedback from respondents confirmed a high level of support for this principle and associated actions.

Some of the key feedback received included:

- This is necessary to increase our canopy
- Understanding Council's approach to where future plantings will be located and how many trees are needed (this is a body of work underway and to be completed within FY 21/22)
- That species selection, species diversity are important considerations
- Any new trees planted should be "climate-ready"
- More trees are important to enhance biodiversity and to attract birds and other species
- That mixed views exist regarding whether species should be native or exotic, with respondents noting the benefits and problems afforded by each

A number of respondents noted the need for a greater focus on the role and importance of water in relation to tree establishment and ongoing care.

Water is seen as a potentially limiting factor, and the opportunity to implement

Need native trees - Indigenous - for birds and climate realities.

Can you aim for trees that are not just native. Mitcham has beautiful tree lined streets that do not look dry like natives.

Please pick native trees that the birds like

Do not plant Eucalyptus trees in suburbia, leave them for Riverbanks, plantations, parks for wildlife, koala survival.

Diversity is nearly as important as percent of tree canopy cover

It takes 120 years for new trees to provide all the eco-system services of removed trees. Where and how could you add more cover?

It would be great to see more trees planted where space is already available. There are areas of open parks which have space for trees and shrubs already

<p>water sensitive urban design (WSUD) practices was also noted.</p> <p>Other comments noted that waiting for a reactive tree planting request before council planted a tree in a vacant space should change and a more pro-active approach to “filling in the gaps” was needed and that could include allowing tree planting request for any identified location, not just where they resided.</p>	<p><i>Consistency of street tree planting would be highly beneficial. Many streets in Charles Sturt have random spacing of trees of random species. More consistent planting with the same species in a street is much more aesthetically pleasing for neighbourhoods</i></p>
---	---

Community-wide survey:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 1: Plant more trees	95.70% 89	4.30% 4	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	93
Plant more trees in a programmed manner	68.97% 40	25.86% 15	3.45% 2	1.72% 1	0% 0	58
Identify the number of trees that need to be planted to achieve the target	68.85% 42	29.51% 18	1.64% 1	0% 0	0% 0	61
Develop a planting program	77.05% 47	22.95% 14	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	61
Identify the resources needed	75.41% 46	24.59% 15	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	61
Prioritise planting areas	75.00% 45	23.33% 14	1.67% 1	0% 0	0% 0	60
Get growing conditions right	69.49% 41	30.51% 18	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	59
Review the success of various species	65.57% 40	31.15% 19	1.64% 1	1.64% 1	0% 0	61
Ensure we have the right mix of species diversity	71.19% 42	25.42% 15	3.39% 2	0% 0	0% 0	59
Make sure we plant climate-ready trees	85.48% 53	12.90% 8	1.61% 1	0% 0	0% 0	62
Trial new species	27.12% 16	32.20% 19	35.59% 21	1.69% 1	3.39% 2	59
Trial different planting and maintenance practices	31.15% 19	45.90% 28	21.31% 13	0% 0	1.64% 1	61
Plant the right-sized trees that suit the location	72.13% 44	24.59% 15	1.64% 1	1.64% 1	0% 0	61
Review planting typologies	32.76% 19	51.72% 30	8.62% 5	1.72% 1	5.17% 3	58

RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- Provide greater focus on the role of water in urban greening, particularly with establishment of tree
- Identify that water urban sensitive design practices and other innovative solutions for passive watering using stormwater are considered and implemented for plantings where possible
- Consider a trial of new planting policy practices to allow for proactive infill plantings

Principle 2 – Have a plan (and set a target)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

82 % of respondents rated this principle as very important with the remaining 18 % rating this as important.

Of the 4 actions related to this principle, all four were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

Responses identified broad support of a planned, well-considered and methodical approach to increasing canopy and the need for this in the face of canopy loss in the City.

Many expressed the urgent need for more trees to cool our City and identified that planting and growing more trees was a significant climate change mitigation practice and wanted to prioritise planting along arterial roads.

Frequently noted was the impact of development and the challenges posed to the plan of increasing tree numbers and canopy cover. Council was often cited as not doing enough to stop tree removal in relation to new developments.

There was a mix of views regarding the ways Council will be able to achieve targets and the ways to enable private landowners to contribute to the realisation of the targets.

Recognition of the shared responsibility between the community and the Council to achieve increases in tree cover was prominent.

Ensuring that adequate resources were made available to achieve on-ground action was identified and ensuring this remained a priority of Council were noted as the ways to successfully deliver this long-term plan.

There was also a desire to have short-term plans developed within the context of this longer-term plan.

Commend the City of Charles Sturt (Council) for its active management and expansion of the urban tree canopy, in particular Council's ambitious vision to reach City-wide canopy cover of 25% by 2045

It is achievable, anything is possible - but it will take enormous effort, particularly given the current rate of tree and shrub removal from private property

It is realistic so long as there is a plan, and one that commences early and stays methodical

The draft strategy is comprehensive and supports achieving a target of 25% canopy cover

I think the target is easily achievable, so long as council maintains or even increases its engagement in the strategy.

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 2: Have a plan	81.72% 76	18.28% 17	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	93
Endorse the plan and target	63.93% 39	36.07% 22	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	61
Commit adequate resources	83.87% 52	16.13% 10	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	62
Undertake modelling	37.70% 23	45.90% 28	14.75% 9	1.64% 1	0% 0	61
Identify locations where trees are to be planted	77.05% 47	21.31% 13	0% 0	0% 0	1.64% 1	61

RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- That once locations where trees are to be planted are identified, this information is made publicly available
- Develop and communicate short term tree planting plans in the context of this long-term plan
- Provide education to help the community understand the planning system as it relates to tree retention and removals

Principle 3 – Protect more trees (and commit to protect them)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

90% of respondents rated this principle as very important.

Of the 7 actions related to this principle, all seven were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

The impacts of planning laws as well as infill and other forms of development were seen by a large number of respondents as a significant challenge to existing trees being retained and space for new trees being made available.

Many expressed a desire for Council to 'do more' to stop trees being removed and Council was seen as complicit in 'allowing' trees to be removed.

Another theme from the feedback was that more should be done to influence and regulate both development and developers.

The need for education and incentives to encourage trees to be retained on private land were frequently noted as being very important to the community. Some considered a form of "penalty" to prevent trees being removed was warranted.

The types of incentives people wished to be in place varied, with rate rebates frequently cited as a way to encourage people to plant more trees and to retain mature trees on their property.

Assistance in the form of subsidy to help manage private mature trees was also identified as a way of encouraging tree retention.

My real concern is the quite frequent sound of chainsaws in my area, cutting down trees that already exist, and the mindless clearing of blocks of land so they are completely bare

Ensure new buildings have room from trees, not built too close to road with paving and no gardens or street trees.

Create increased awareness to homeowners that verges or cross-overs are public space for everyone not an extension of a private driveway.

The impact of council being willing to approve rapid subdivision of land and the tearing down of trees to be replaced by homes with no space for gardens, is removing the tree canopy every single day.

Council have allowed too much development

Others expressed that Council should better control the number of trees being removed for driveways and that driveways should be limited to a single car width.	<p><i>It should go hand in hand: for every new house built, up goes a tree.</i></p>
More space for tree planting should be part of any new public infrastructure project.	

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 3: Protect more trees	90.11% 82	7.69% 7	1.10% 1	1.10% 1	0% 0	91
Adopt and promote the concept that we are custodians of trees for current and future generations	80.65% 50	14.52% 9	3.23% 2	1.61% 1	0% 0	62
Advocate for thoughtful design choices	59.02% 36	39.34% 24	1.64% 1	0% 0	0% 0	61
Monitor impacts on trees of newly updated planning laws	72.13% 44	24.59% 15	3.28% 2	0% 0	0% 0	61
Retain more trees with education, encouragement and incentives	77.42% 48	17.74% 11	4.84% 3	0% 0	0% 0	62
Reduce the number of trees removed for new driveways	71.67% 43	18.33% 11	8.33% 5	0% 0	1.67% 1	60
Advocate for increased tree protections and retentions in legislation	67.74% 42	24.19% 15	6.45% 4	1.61% 1	0% 0	62
Create more space and opportunity to plant trees	86.89% 53	13.11% 8	0% 0	0% 0	0% 0	61

RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- As a priority, provide education to help the community understand the planning system as it relates to tree retention and removals
- Place a higher priority on the investigation and consideration of forms of incentives (including disincentives) to achieve greater tree retention in the private realm
- Affirm the need limit the impacts of driveways on existing trees and recognise that they eliminate space for future tree planting
- Demonstrate design choices that allow for existing trees to be retained as part of development such as design guidelines

Principle 4 - More tree maintenance / management (and enhance our maintenance)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

71 % of respondents rated this principle as very important with 24 % rating this as important.

Of the 8 actions related to this principle, all eight were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

As per the feedback with principle 1, a number of respondents noted the need for a greater focus on the role and importance of water in relation to tree establishment and ongoing care.

Water is seen as a potentially limiting factor and the opportunity to introduce more water for trees such as implementing water sensitive urban design (WSUD) practices and irrigation was noted.

Recognition that care of the existing urban forest was important to achieve targets and ensure that existing trees live as long as possible by keeping them in a healthy condition.

Support for a programmed and proactive approach to replace trees when they have been removed.

The community also welcomed the opportunity to help care for trees on public land by monitoring their health and also taking steps such as providing supplementary water when necessary.

We just had El Nina and that's as wet as we were going to get and it wasn't that wet. So heading for much drier conditions which will stress even well-established trees.

Street trees need as much runoff as they can get. Surely a bit of a gravel base below a perforated gutter at least will allow some water to percolate into the rootzones for minimal cost?

encourage water sensitive urban design and other innovative solutions for passive watering (i.e. stormwater) of green infrastructure and street trees.

Ongoing maintenance of the existing urban forest is essential for any council to be successful in increasing its urban tree canopy.

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 4: More tree maintenance and management	71.28% 67	24.47% 23	3.19% 3	0% 0	1.06% 1	94
Ensure the current practice of inspecting and pruning at least every 3 years is maintained	61.29% 38	32.26% 20	4.84% 3	0% 0	1.61% 1	62
Check if any improvements to tree maintenance practices can be made	54.84% 34	41.94% 26	3.23% 2	0% 0	0% 0	62
Investigate what technology can be used to help us manage our trees	42.62% 26	45.90% 28	11.48% 7	0% 0	0% 0	61
Review existing tree data and capture more if needed to help manage our tree population	47.46% 28	45.76% 27	6.78% 4	0% 0	0% 0	59
Make sure we are helping trees at the right time when they aren't doing so well	75.81% 47	20.97% 13	3.23% 2	0% 0	0% 0	62
Engage our community to spot the signs of tree stress and what they can do to help	50.00% 31	46.77% 29	3.23% 2	0% 0	0% 0	62
Look at how we plan to replace trees as they get to the end of their life	70.49% 43	26.23% 16	3.28% 2	0% 0	0% 0	61
Help trees live and thrive as long as possible	80.65% 50	9.68% 6	4.84% 3	3.23% 2	1.61% 1	62

RESPONSE

The identified level of overall feedback affirms that this principle and associated actions shall stay the same as has been presented in the draft strategy and not be modified.

Principle 5 - Appreciate trees more (and engage our community)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

81 % of respondents rated this principle as very important with 18 % rating this as important.

Of the 5 actions related to this principle, all five were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

This part of the consultation received strong responses about the need to educate more people as to the benefits of trees, the need to retain existing trees and the importance of planting more trees. These were identified as critical to achieve a net increase in tree canopy through more trees actually being retained and more trees being planted. This was noted as being highly important by many respondents.

More communications and promotions by Council were seen as useful for themselves but also considered useful for others to help people understand how to request a tree be planted, to also understand the mechanics of our whole street planting approach, including consultation and reactive planting processes. It was noted if these were better understood, more tree planting would occur.

There was strong support to assign a value to green assets (trees) so that they were treated as being on par with grey (built) infrastructure. Commentary noted that the financial value to applied for development tree removal and planning offsets was too low and set the “tone” that trees were disposable and readily replaceable.

A number of respondents identified ways they could “champion” or promote Councils greening efforts:

- Participate in community action such as tree planting

We support Council’s proactive actions to explore and implement alternative mechanisms to educate the community and influence the retention of trees on private land through incentives and innovative design solutions

Some residents are allowed not to have a street tree, this spoils the streetscape

Continuous planting, maintenance, protection, research, surveys, community engagement, education of developers, prioritization of Council finance and Council support of innovative ideas that contribute to increased canopy cover and public awareness of its importance.

Community Engagement and education is essential if we are going to achieve our goals.

The labelling of the trees outside of the council chambers to indicate the age, species and how much they reduce the temperature is a great idea

Would like to help create green and cool places for all.

Happy to care for the tree on my nature strip

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer to educate the community including schools about trees • Run Council events for community and kids • Doorknock streets to support/educate residents to plant trees in street and private properties • Assist with petitions to get street trees planted <p>Young people particularly identified social media channels as ways to engage with Council about urban greening including ideas such as an Instagram ‘reels’ competition and participating in surveys on Instagram answering a question a day for a month and like to see the results in real time to see what their peers are saying.</p> <p>Other ideas included use of Reels on Instagram to track progress of tree planning and snapchat, Facebook and TikTok.</p>	<p><i>I would like to help our community realise the benefits of increased tree coverage in our council area</i></p> <p><i>I would love for policies and strategies that ensure new homes are set up for trees and owners/occupiers are giving information on their great value and how to look after them</i></p> <p><i>I am passionate about empowering people to be informed and act to help adapt to and mitigate climate change. I am appreciative that our Council is taking steps to do this and wish to work with them.</i></p> <p><i>I think your goal is a vital and worthy one and I certainly would be keen to be a part of any community involvement.</i></p>
---	--

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 5: Appreciate trees more (and engage our community)	80.65% 75	18.28% 17	0% 0	0% 0	1.08% 1	93
Develop and implement a range of engagement tools	39.34% 24	45.90% 28	13.11% 8	1.64% 1	0% 0	61
Educate our community about the work Council does to maintain and enhance our tree canopy	45.90% 28	45.90% 28	6.56% 4	1.64% 1	0% 0	61
Develop and implement a long-term communications strategy to educate and engage our community	51.61% 32	38.71% 24	9.68% 6	0% 0	0% 0	62
Value our green assets on par with grey assets	81.97% 50	16.39% 10	0% 0	0% 0	1.64% 1	61
Educate Council staff and stakeholders	68.85% 42	22.95% 14	8.20% 5	0% 0	0% 0	61

RESPONSE

The identified level of overall feedback affirms that this principle and associated actions shall stay the same as has been presented in the draft strategy and not be modified.

Feedback from the consultation will inform the development of a future marketing and communications plan for the implementation of this strategy.

Principle 6 – Monitor and evaluate our progress (and change course if we need to)

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of this guiding principle and related actions. (Note that the E-Panel were only asked to rate the guiding principles).

71 % of respondents rated this principle as very important with 24 % rating this as important.

Of the 8 actions related to this principle, all eight were rated as either very important or important by the majority of respondents.

A very high percentage of respondents supported the need to undertake monitoring and evaluation to measure progress against this plan.

Support for measuring our canopy every 5 years and reviewing and updating the plan at that time was strong.

Regular reporting of progress of trees planted within the last quarter and cumulative total for that year and years to date were also seen as valuable to keep engaging with the community about ongoing progress.

While such reporting exists via Council reports, providing this in a more accessible and user-friendly way via social media and our website were seen as valuable.

What you measure you grow!

Monthly reporting on trees planted versus trees removed

Monitor population health improvements / impacts

How many trees are planted by Council every year?

How will monitoring be undertaken to ensure continuity and validity of data over time?

Run a competition which street/suburb can improve % coverage

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not Important	Not Sure	Count
Principle 6: Monitor and evaluate our progress (and change course if we need to)	68.82% 64	27.96% 26	3.23% 3	0% 0	0% 0	93
Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan	59.68% 37	37.10% 23	3.23% 2	0% 0	0% 0	62
Measure progress	67.21% 41	31.15% 19	1.64% 1	0% 0	0% 0	61
Measure tree canopy cover every 5 years	71.43% 45	25.40% 16	1.59% 1	0% 0	1.59% 1	63
Review and update the plan every 5 years	66.13% 41	30.65% 19	3.23% 2	0% 0	0% 0	62

RESPONSE

In response to feedback received during consultation, the following changes were undertaken to finalise the plan:

- Regular reporting of progress of trees planted within the last quarter and cumulative total for that year and years will be included in the monitoring and evaluation plan
- Providing this in an accessible and user-friendly way via social media and our website

Other feedback

The consultation process also provided an important opportunity to hear feedback on potential project ideas as well as which existing programs / projects are vital to continue.

Suggestions included:

- If a tree is removed from the verge it should be automatically replaced
- Offer a Council rates rebate when people protect their large trees
- If a tree is removed because it is dead/damaged it should be automatically replaced – not rely on neighbour(s) to ring Council to agree to its replacement
- Facebook group for the trees of Charles Sturt where people can network and share ideas/ask questions about trees and how to protect them, and blow whistle if trees are in danger
- Tags on trees to educate people around the role of trees
- Provide planting advice and subsidise (mature) trees to resident who would like to plant trees on their property/front yard
- Need to encourage / get businesses to plant more trees eg in carparks
- Set up a register of significant and regulated trees
- put a protection order on a tree on my property which would be reflected in the value placed on my property
- Given tree loss occurring due to residential housing filling blocks. Require developers or builders to provide a tree and be responsible for its establishment for 12 months.
- Make trees fun!
- I suggest that there is some scope for supporting residents, in particular, older or disabled to care for existing trees on their property.
- Providing information to the community on how to care for the trees they have, especially street trees on their property would be helpful.

RESPONSE

Feedback received about potential project ideas will be used to inform the development of future annual business plans.

Next Steps

Following Council endorsement of the City of Charles Sturt Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045 we will:

- Inform stakeholders and members of the community who participated in the engagement process of Council's decision and where they can view the Plan.
- Promote and raise awareness of our Strategy with stakeholders and community, including local businesses.
- Commence actioning our TCIS.
- Monitor progress.
- Prepare reports to Council on an annual basis noting progress against this Strategy.

Copies of Written Submissions

Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy – Submissions

Attention Mr Paul Sutton
CEO – City of Charles Sturt

Good morning Mr. Sutton

As for the *"Growing Green: Tree Canopy improvement Strategy 2021-2045"*, my initial reaction after reading this feel-good mission statement was **ASPIRATIONAL** at best, dismayed at the prospect of the 25-year time frame and cynical of the "Our commitment" statement.

When our Council promotes this sustainable development vision, it is not simply good enough to integrate this greening improvement strategy into communication to persuade its stakeholders (i.e. ratepayers) to follow their vision – it must also change its corporate culture as well.

I have yet to grasp the inclusion and relevance of the Toyota-inspired KAIZEN element (page 28) in the Growing Green improvement strategy other than the reference to:

Improved consumer satisfaction.

My first question would be: where is the Council's PKI to manage, track and monitor its current tree management protocols across the whole Council area?

Minutes from the Corporate Services Committee meeting (Sept. 2020) clearly identified that no audit had been undertaken since 2001.

This would indicate that the Council has no current audit protocols in place to monitor and identify public land tree locations, nor a detailed current register of infill tree replacement plantings and whole of street tree plantings, and an inspection/maintenance program?

The budget for the entire Council area 2022 **Whole Street Planting = \$200,000**, while \$190,000 is allocated for a toilet at Parfitt Square, Bowden – a reserve the size of a postage stamp and only used by locals who can go home if nature calls! Or the basketball court at West Lakes that the locals do not want!

Over the past 24 months and within a 2 km radius from our home, 6 verge trees have been removed to make way for in-fills, a beautiful mature tree on Valetta Road was poisoned [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]; currently more in-fills on Marlborough Street – with no tree replacements or consequences for developers/others.

One only needs to drive through the adjoining West Torrens and Marion Council areas to witness the stark difference – Marion with tree lined verges on Marion Road, Cross Road, Sturt Street, Oaklands Road, Diagonal Road just to name a few.

Marion Council has announced a 30,000 tree planting program to double its street tree canopy designed to "blanket our streets in shade and attract birdlife" – **OVER THE NEXT 7 YEARS**. Gets even better with their residents enabled to use technology that when a tree is planted, it will appear on the map, when its being watered, photographs and full specimen details – all in real time!

Back to our Council roads and streets – over the years not a single tree planted on Tapleys Hill Road, Grange Road (despite assurances given by Chris Taras some 7 years ago that Grange Road would have a complete in-fill tree planting program that is yet to materialise) and too many roads and streets to document here. DIT may at times be described as "dysfunctional" but if the Marion Council can achieve such a great outcome, why not the City of Charles Sturt?

Strategy 2021-2045 – little wonder that one has the feeling of being underwhelmed, yet also buoyed with some optimism that at least something will be actioned to address this

"scorched earth" infill scourge afflicting every suburb . . . and God forbid – potentially every street!!!

In closing, may I also take this opportunity to acknowledge your staff: Jan Cornish (very much missed), Janet Willoughby, David Wheeler - and foremost, the incredible Chris Taras!!!

The many issues raised over many years had always been addressed in a very professional and respectful manner. Their personal and genuine attempt to assist me was always very much appreciated and exemplified the meaning of "customer service".

Best wishes and regards

[REDACTED]

Growing Green: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045

Hi Mark

Attached is my submission in response to the Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy. I would appreciate it if you could acknowledge receiving my email so I know it has arrived ok.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

Submission from [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

DRAFT

1. Plant more trees

The Strategy needs to state clearly the planning/regulation action the Council has available or intends, to ensure infill development requires the retention of trees or shrubs or development that provides space for tree planting on the subdivided land or adjacent kerb.

The Strategy needs to address the lack of coordination between the Council and State Government regarding Main Road tree development and maintenance.

A significant improvement in street canopy in the Council area needs to occur along main roads. During the 40 years I have lived in this area, I have seen many examples of poor maintenance of Main road street trees, no attention to replacement of damaged or dead trees, inconsistent planting of varieties along the same road, little or no weed maintenance.

Where there have been major state infra-structure developments, mature trees have been cut down in some cases unnecessarily. This occurred during the T2T Project. In this case, when the replacement trees were planted, some were very poor specimens, planted with careless staking and with a variety that provided far less shade. Trees in some cases were planted at an inappropriate time of the year and when trees died as a result, no replacement occurred. Despite my efforts to draw the Project team's attention to these inadequacies of the landscaping contractors at the time, nothing was done. This highlighted to me the lack of liaison between the Project team and the Council or perhaps a lack of interest by the Council to monitor such landscaping that could have provided a major improvement in amenity in this Council area.

1.5 'Growing Green' should also highlight the value of growing shrubs as well as trees. In many private, business and council-owned, parks and gardens as well as kerbs, shrubs are more appropriate and would also be significant in keeping our suburbs cooler.

Council needs to better utilise already existing opportunities to develop green linkages and wildlife corridors eg there is limited diversity of planting along the Linear Park and beside train corridors which could provide for a diversity of wildlife as well as increasing the tree canopy.

The need for a more coordinated, thoughtful and informed approach with regard to planting diversity within Council should be highlighted in the Strategy.

There could be a far greater variety of native plantings in parks, housing developments and along kerbs. For example, the recent development of MJ McNerny Reserve could have included more bird attracting native bushes as an understory. Similarly in some recent street redevelopments, kerbside planting was with one species of plants only eg Rosetta Street was planted with Statice, which looks colourful but provides no habitat instead of choosing a variety of native flowering plants such as Grevilleas. The recent redevelopment of the plantation in the middle of Port Road with little plant diversity was a lost opportunity in this regard.

1.13 The quality of the shade provided needs to be considered when selecting trees.

Many native trees do not provide the deep shade we desperately seek in summer that is provided by some deciduous trees such as the Plane trees in Rosetta Street roundabouts; the wonderful avenue of European rees (I am not sure of the name, perhaps Ash?) along Port Road; Manchurian Pear(not sure if this is the correct name), which is in the Welland Shopping Centre car park; the wonderful shady trees we sit under during Writers' Week in the Pioneer Women's Memorial Park next to the Parade Ground.

Tree planting approach needs to be consistent within the Council.

It is astonishing that quite recently two or three wonderful mature shady trees which were part of a lovely avenue along Port Road, were removed to accommodate 6 mature Bottle trees(I think that is the variety) which were relocated to this location and which must have been a very expensive project. These trees have a very narrow canopy and provide little shade. This is in contrast to the removed trees, the shade of which drivers enjoyed whilst waiting for the lights to change at Rosetta Street Port Road intersection. Who made this dreadful decision? It is obvious that there is much education work to be done within council itself! It might also be added that a beautiful bed of red roses, which gave great joy in this same block was removed during the Port Road Flood mitigation and plantation development Project never to return. Why was this allowed to occur?

2.2 Resourcing of the Strategy will require a change of priorities in the Council Budget.

It is hoped that the invitation to the community to participate in providing feedback on the draft Strategy through the Community Workshop Event, the survey and to write submissions is not just a token process. It would be reassuring if there was some early intent shown by Council that such resourcing is possible. To implement this Strategy would involve a significant reallocation of resources. It would be disingenuous if this community involvement process was used as justification for increasing rates to pay for the Tree Canopy Strategy.

3.4 'In the absence of legislative instruments...'

Does this suggest that our Planning laws cannot prevent inappropriate development, which reduces tree canopy? How then can Council really achieve the change it is seeking in this Strategy?

3.5 Mechanisms to ensure retention of public trees with private development need to be outlined.

Will the Council be able to ensure space for tree planting occurs in the Bianco development? This will be a test case for whether the Council's golden intentions as expressed in this document can translate into a reality. In the current Bianco Development Plan the minimum amount of green space has been allocated and this is in one block rather than spread throughout the development to allow for tree planting that could provide shade to the homes and roadways.

3.6 The Council needs to advocate more strongly at the State Level regarding Tree Canopy Strategy implementation. Strategies need to be indicated.

3.7 Council needs to advocate more strongly for space for trees in road constructions, new developments etc. Mechanisms need to be suggested.

4.1 Is inspecting and pruning of Council trees currently occurring? I haven't seen much evidence in my area. How can Council press for this to occur along main roads that are the responsibility of the State?

4.3 Urban forest? Is this the new term for the hoped for increase in tree planting. I am not sure this is a useful term.

4.6 Very few residents would be aware that they can **request a tree** in front of their home. I didn't until I stumbled across it after living here for a number of years. More could be done to make this known.

Further suggestions

1. It would be helpful if there was a **contact person at the council for specific planting information** eg to get advice if a street tree is not thriving; if there was a street tree recently damaged that needed to be replaced; if recently Council-planted trees or plants had been stolen
2. There needs to be a focus in the Strategy to get business more involved eg with the planting of **more trees in car park areas**
3. **When paving occurs along Main and Council roads, there should be a space left for future tree planting.** I have seen examples where street trees have died over the years and never been replaced. Then when repaving has occurred, the space where there once was a tree is completely paved over excluding the possibility of a new tree being planted. This has occurred in a number of places along Torrens Road over the years near where I live.
4. **Avenues of similar species of trees create a far more attractive street-scape.** Unfortunately over the years individuals have chosen to plant their own tree in the front of their property. In some cases, it was that there was no tree there and they may not have been aware a Council-provided tree could be requested. As a result there are many streets with a hotch-potch of trees, which reduces the aesthetics and amenity of the street. Where streets have been planted with a single variety, those streets are more beautiful and hence far more sought after and this adds to the value of the homes and the attractiveness of the suburb/Council area as a whole.

Hello Mark,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this strategy. My main comment on this strategy is: why are the council not already doing this? They declared a climate emergency, and have done the heat mapping, and the scientific information on the importance of trees in helping to cool our suburbs is not new.

Please start taking action Charles Sturt council! We have had enough consultations!

We have also known that Charles Sturt has one of the lowest canopy covers in the state for some time and that they have a terrible reputation for removing large trees. The policy of replacing trees with two new trees is not enough - do two small saplings really replace the habitat, cooling and carbon sequestration benefits of large trees?

I am tired of large consultation documents that take months to move through slow turning wheels of council. I am tired of green-washing infographics that barely contain any meaningful information.

What this consultation shows us is that the City of Charles Sturt is behind the times! Come on let's get moving - this is an emergency!

Kind regards,



Hi Mark

Please find attached a submission from WACRA in reference to the Growing Green: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy. Hopefully WACRA's support will benefit the ultimate acceptance and full implementation of the strategy.

with best wishes



Submission to Charles Sturt Council re *GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 – 2045*

WACRA, like Charles Sturt Council, recognises the importance of acting on the Climate Emergency we now find ourselves in. When we restructured the association's committee in late 2019, we established three task groups – Council Connect, Climate Emergency and Coastal Management. All three groups fully endorse Council's *GROWING GREEN: Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021 – 2045*.

In 2021, WACRA has so far made three deputations to Charles Sturt Council. Two were presented by Kate Denton and Pedro Schultz in January, regarding the decline of tree canopy in our city. These deputations highlighted the need for budget commitment by Council and protection of old trees/planting of new trees. They emphasised how trees are pivotal to addressing the climate challenge: tree canopy absorbs carbon, reduces heat, slows wind velocity, improves air quality, reduces runoff and erosion, reduces noise and dust impacts, and produces oxygen. WACRA made a third deputation in July to endorse the *GROWING GREEN* strategy and encourage its acceptance by Council.

Therefore, we are delighted that Council has agreed to a canopy strategy that is ambitious comparative to other councils and aims to address these issues. The canopy percentage in

the city has continued to decline. In 2008 canopy cover was 15.51% of Charles Sturt, by 2020 it was just 13.84%. This is despite Council having had a 20% by 2020 canopy goal. It is pleasing to see this decline acknowledged as a driver for the strategy.

In November 2020, WACRA made a submission to the Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 put forward by Zali Steggall (Member of Parliament for Warringah). In our submission we stated the following:

- WACRA's mission statement *Building healthy communities* directly relates to the issue of climate change in our communities
- WACRA Climate Emergency Group's mission statement *Increase awareness of and take action with the community towards mitigating the effects of climate change* directly relates to the issue of climate change in our communities
- We are a coastal community so will be strongly affected by climate change, and want to see not just adaptation (as per the initiative AdaptWest Climate Change Adaptation Plan) but mitigation.

These statements are applicable to the *GROWING GREEN* strategy. Addressing the Climate Emergency is a matter of both mitigation and adaptation. One without the other is insufficient. The *GROWING GREEN* strategy incorporates both elements and WACRA endorses this.

In May 2021, WACRA provided a response to the *Green Adelaide Draft Regional Landscape Plan 2021-2026* (<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/green-adelaide-regional-landscape-plan>). Some points of interest relating to Council's *GROWING GREEN* principles are:

- **Tree laws:** Our regulated tree laws are confusing to many residents. Groups such as the Environmental Defenders Office, Australian Institute of Architects, National Trust SA and Nature Conservation Society SA have made recommendations of possible interest to Charles Sturt Council re protecting trees and valuing their worth, largely in relation to new developments, planning applications and home owner support to retain trees (**Principle 3: Protect more trees (and commit to protect them)**)
- **Nature education:** Not only should Green Adelaide implement programs in schools and community environments but they should also target decision makers as they make budget decisions (**Principle 5: Appreciate trees more and engage our community**).

In our July 2021 deputation to council in support of the *GROWING GREEN* strategy, WACRA highlighted the following issues as of particular concern (with the relevant *GROWING GREEN* principles in brackets):

1. How to educate residents to better understand the crucial role of trees in climate mitigation and community health. (**Principle 5: Appreciate trees more and engage our community**)
2. How to get the community to realise its role and become engaged in the commitment to an increased canopy because private property owners are also part of the solution. For every development application there need to be conversations around climate mitigation. This could include discussions about better garden choices, verges, Council support, etc. (**Principle 5: Appreciate trees more and engage our community**)
3. How to engage with developers to ensure new designs go further than minimum Planning and Design Code requirements and go towards supporting the 25% canopy goal. (**Principle 3: Protect more trees (and commit to protect them)**)
4. How to work with other organisations such as Green Adelaide to maximise tree planting opportunities and see this as an addition to Council's committed budget, not

a replacement. (**Principle 1: Plant more trees (and continually review planting options** and **Principle 2: Have a plan (and set a target)**)

5. Valuing native flora and fauna. Where possible, it would be good to use Australian species rather than introduced tree species, and where reserve plantings occur to use local indigenous trees to aid in the preservation of local flora and fauna diversity.

(**Principle 1: Plant more trees (and continually review planting options)**)

The 'Ideas for community and business activities' webpage on the Charles Sturt Council website (in relation to the *GROWING GREEN* strategy)

<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy/what-else-can-i-expect-see> lists 'some examples of different ways we can raise the profile of trees, showcase the many benefits trees offer, celebrate great stories and initiatives, encourage positive action and achieve our canopy target.' These ideas are excellent. Kate Denton, in her January deputation to council, also suggested these two initiatives:

- Assign an environmental officer to all planning approvals.
- Incentivise residents to plant trees and/or become involved.

WACRA is currently endorsing and participating in the 'My Tree Project' whereby schoolchildren from three local primary schools will plant their own tree at home or at their school. This project fits under the category 'School Engagement'. In addition, earlier this year WACRA supported an application for Green Adelaide funding to restore and increase tree canopy cover at Henley High School and install a native garden. Both projects will have a cooling effect, improve biodiversity, provide educational opportunities about the natural world and the challenges ahead, as well as enhance physical and mental health. These are all aims of the *GROWING GREEN* strategy.

In conclusion, WACRA is keen to support this strategy in whatever ways we can. We can use our website (<http://wacra.org.au/>), Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/westernadelaidecra>), general meetings and newsletters to highlight this initiative to our membership (approx. 100) and other interested followers (approx. 200). The *GROWING GREEN* strategy survey

(<https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/tree-canopy/tree-canopy-improvement-strategy-survey>) asks 'How important are trees to you?' as well as how important

planning, protecting, maintaining and appreciating them are. WACRA's response to these questions is VERY IMPORTANT. We welcome this strategy and recognise its significance for our western suburbs.

Bert Brown
Chairperson, WACRA

Good afternoon Mark and Georgina,
Please find attached submission from Green Adelaide in response to the City of Charles Sturt Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy.

Kind regards,
Mei-Lin

Mei-Lin Graue

Policy Officer

Green Adelaide

Department for Environment and Water

P (08) 8463 3729

81-95 Waymouth Street, Adelaide 5000

Dear Mr Hannan

RE: City of Charles Sturt – draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy 2021-2045

Green Adelaide staff would like to commend the City of Charles Sturt (Council) for its active management and expansion of the urban tree canopy, in particular Council's ambitious vision to reach City-wide canopy cover of 25% by 2045.

We welcome the opportunity to provide comment on Council's Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy and provide the following for consideration by Council.

Overall Green Adelaide staff are supportive of the six Guiding Principles and the supporting actions, which are clear and concise. In particular, the acknowledgment that ongoing maintenance of the existing urban forest is essential for any council to be successful in increasing its urban tree canopy. Further, we support Council's proactive actions to explore and implement alternative mechanisms to educate the community and influence the retention of trees on private land through incentives and innovative design solutions.

It is suggested that Council may want to consider acknowledging and strengthening the connection between water and urban greening. In particular, an action to encourage water sensitive urban design and other innovative solutions for passive watering (i.e. stormwater) of green infrastructure and street trees.

Partnerships across Government, industry and the community will underpin the success of achieving increased urban tree canopy across the City of Charles Sturt and the rest of metropolitan Adelaide. As you may be aware, Green Adelaide is working on a number of projects to increase tree canopy cover and green spaces to create cooler urban areas that encourage biodiversity and improve community health and wellbeing, including:

- ▣ development of a metropolitan-wide Urban Greening Strategy,
- ▣ preparation of advisory material to support the Planning and Design Code's new tree planting and landscaping policies for infill development (and identification of supporting incentives), and
- ▣ coordinating the updating of urban tree canopy and heat data to understand trends and help identify priority strategic greening investment decisions.

Green Adelaide staff look forward to continuing collaboration with Council staff on these projects and future projects identified through Council's Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy.

For further information regarding this matter, please contact Alison Collins, Team Leader Planning within Green Adelaide on alison.collins@sa.gov.au or 8463 4341.

Yours sincerely

LOUISA HALLIDAY

Manager Strategy and Performance, Green Adelaide

Hello Mark

Firstly congratulations on this project. It's so important particularly in our council area which seems to be over run by development that leaves no green space I live in the West Hindmarsh in a street with many citrus trees as street trees. 20 years ago when I first moved in thought 'how lovely' But given they need a lot of water and the proliferation of gall wasp it seems like a very poor choice. I'm wondering if there are plans to change them for something more appropriate If not possible through the Council then could I plant a tree and tend it if the council removed the lemon out the front of our house. And what tree would you recommend? It seems jacarandas do well or should it be a native



Hi Mark, I've given a bit of input over the years around trees and it is so great to see all this info on the website and what seems a much more genuine commitment by Council

It astounds me how little the average resident still really 'gets it'. Especially when redeveloping and considering retention of established trees.

For me (since you are seeking feedback!) key areas to do more in is:

1. A really strong focus on providing resources to speak with every resident that purchases in the area (as many will knock down and build), to every building application, and implementing incentives to builders to plant natives through nursery vouchers and the like. Stats on how just a small diverse garden which can look fabulous will make a difference even rather than the awful bereft gardens most people go for. might help change plans if they understood that they can make a contribution.
2. Dedicated water! I see so many Trees in reserves that only get a few drops (for weed growth around the base of the tree) do poorly and rarely do anything to establish a decent canopy. Could consider a volunteer program (akin to the teams that go around removing graffiti), that gets a council truck to water reserve and new street trees? Got to be loads of retired truck/delivery drivers that would enjoy that? We just had El Nina and that's as wet as were going to get and it wasn't that wet. So heading for much drier conditions which will stress even well-established trees.
3. I don't understand why there is not more perforated guttering being used during routine gutter replacements (and water sensitive urban designs in more serious street upgrades. There are some great examples in other councils but I see little or none in CCS as yet. Street trees need as much runoff as they can get. Surely a bit of a gravel base below a perforated gutter at least will allow some water to percolate into the rootzones for minimal cost?
4. Change the horrid planning act that allows unrestricted urban infill with absolutely no requirement to consider existing vegetation.(OK maybe this is a hard one, but there is an election looming 😊)
5. Keep promoting verge plantings . I have gradually been digging mine up, but it is hard going in soil that is contaminated with building rubble. I would love it if Council had a service that did some of the soil prep and removed existing couch grass . Another unlikely one I know, but it would incentivise people ?

Thanks for your ongoing work in this area.

[REDACTED]
ph: [REDACTED]

Or chat with me on Teams (only available for internal staff)

Good Morning Mark

I've just ready the Tree Canopy Consultation email which prompted me to send you an email.

I live at the below address in [REDACTED] and that corner always gets forgotten by the council. We maintain our own Verges as well as across the road which is Port Adelaide Enfield etc. Rubbish collection also has its moments and quite often I get missed. Last year when they planted the trees on Fortiscreen Ave , I had hoped they would come around the corner and plant some on Eastbourne Tce. They didn't. So I am all for the Tree Canopy Consultation, and would love some trees planted on our Strip from Fortiscreen to Ward St.

I have tried several times but with works on the roads they were run over etc Anyway just thought I'd put my corner in the spotlight for getting some trees planted.

Thanks

[REDACTED]

--

Dear Mark,

Some feedback as alternative viewpoints are often useful.

Re: Tree density within Charles Sturt Council.

I don't fully agree with this push to plant more & more trees within the council area to increase the tree canopy area.

There has to be a balance between housing and trees. Urban infill is necessary to stop Adelaide sprawling over good farm land to the north and south (and the east if you count Mt.Barker).

Yes, trees are absolutely great when suitable species are grown. Obviously they can enhance the streetscape.

However, they are also a risk in relation to falling limbs (to human life, power lines, damage to house roofs, leaves in gutters & drains etc.)

IMO - councils have already planted the wrong type of trees in some streets. I also note council planting trees underneath power lines. Never understood this one.

In my street, the council planted bottlebrush trees. These trees have grown so well and now flower nearly all year round. This creates problems which were never thought about.

The flowers & leaves are extremely messy when the trees are in full bloom. Next comes the aggressive honey eater bird

species.....namely the wattle bird and noisy minor bird. The wattle bird takes over the whole street and chases all

other species away. This bird is extremely obnoxious & annoying with its continual screeching and bird calls

ALL DAY LONG. The noisy minor bird lives in large gangs who delight in attacking all other bird species who they mingle with.

From before sunrise & all the way through to sunset, wattle birds are screeching and squawking in amongst the bottle brush trees.

Council has created an artificial environment that favour this bird species. They have taken over my street and live

here nearly all year long. No rest from their intrusive noise, especially if one works from home as I do. So much for more trees!

My concerns are: Council should be very, very, very careful as to the type of trees it chooses to plant. Do not

plant a whole street with only one type of flowering bush that attracts noisy obnoxious birds! I can walk over to the next

street (no bottlebrush trees) and see nil wattle birds. Result - A more peaceful street.

I work outdoors all over Adelaide & country S.A. – I do not hear the cacophony of obnoxious wattle birds anywhere

equivalent to my street in West Beach. My observations are backed up by my travels. I know a bit about this.

As for providing a cooling effect? Bottlebrush trees I doubt do not have any great effect on the houses in my street. A bit of

shade perhaps for cars parked along the street, but that is all. Why not encourage white painted house roofs?

White reflects the strong summer sun and decreases heat inside homes. Canvas shade awnings also help around the house.

What about tree shade during the winter months? My house is shaded by the neighbour's two huge palm trees during the colder months, robbing me

of sunlight to warm my house. Shade is not always desirable. I have to heat my house more now because of shade. More energy expended. More greenhouse gases.

It's true that bottlebrush trees don't drop huge limbs that damage many people, cars & houses. But they do provide a place for this monoculture of

birds to live, who unfortunately create a lot of noise pollution. Can't stress this enough. Not good for mental health (humans).

Food for thought? Custodians of trees?? Really, what does this mean? Now I fear that council will require a permit before I can even prune my trees!

No thank you Charles Sturt Council. Stay out of my garden please. ***If I wanted to live in an urban forest (jungle), then I would move there.***

Cities are places where people live. Well thought out and planned locations for trees have a place in our cities, but not forests. The same applies to wildlife. Cities are not the best place for wild creatures (including vermin such as foxes) to live amongst cars, dogs, cats etc.

I do hope that Charles Sturt Council will not be driven by ideology. Everything green is good. Not always. More trees means more pruning, more two stroke engine driven saws, more storm damage, more leaf litter, more street sweeping.

Yes – trees are great. But please Charles Sturt.....don't get carried away with it.

Regards



I totally agree with this plan and would like the council to plant 3 or 4 trees on our front lawn verge at [REDACTED]



Hi Mark,

I have read the Council's interest in increasing the tree canopy in the Council area, and was disappointed to see that our council falls well short of other Council canopies.

This raises the question, what are the differences in Council policies and planning between our Council and others who have higher canopy percentages?

Is there a Best Practice of planning policy that the Councils around Adelaide follow?

My first impression is that the problem has been created by infill, which leaves no room for the greening of the area, and tall trees with canopies.

In our area, a look at where two houses have been built on a block where there was previously one, shows these houses are gutter-to-gutter, with small courtyard back-yards and little room for any major greening, let alone a tall tree!

So, generally, any rainwater which falls drains into the street. Because the street gutters fill with leaves, waste and other detritus, this is all swept into the stormwater drains, and eventually out to sea. This effect can be seen after heavy rains, where the flow of filthy stormwater out to sea affects Henley and Grange, areas that are a major asset to the City of Charles Sturt, to a point where, for example, the Annual Grange to Henley Open Water Swim had to be cancelled this year after heavy rains the day before the swim.

This rainwater used to soak into the ground, then down into the aquifer, supplying water for any tall trees in the area. Now, those trees are lacking that water and it's nutrients. There has also been a drop in aquifer level, possibly a result of our diverting water into the gutters, and out to sea. Perhaps the Council could promote the idea of keeping the rainwater on the property by promoting drainage bores or soakage pits to take the rainwater from the house. I believe that some other Councils in Adelaide have started using soakage pits from the gutters for both their street and parkland trees.

I wonder also whether one of the planning policies Council could make is a maximum percentage of hard surface allowed on any development of vacant land, e.g. subdivided plots, can only be 80%, which would limit the building size, but allow more open area to gather water, rather than run off to the gutters! Some kind of regulation saying that the 20% open space must be contiguous might encourage more tree planting - if that space is in fragments around the house, it can only accommodate gravel and succulents.

I hope your strategy is successful. We have a number of large trees around our house and it does exactly what your strategy states - a cooler, pleasant area to live. I wish more residents would see the benefits.



Hi Mark,

Please see as follows my feedback regarding the Draft Tree Canopy Improvement Strategy.

I think the vision is good, but it's concerning there is not a single mention in the whole strategy of planting native species. Research from all over the world consistently shows that planting native (especially indigenous) tree species in urban areas improve biodiversity outcomes. Take for example, the research conducted by Ikin et al. in Canberra. They found that suburbs with >30% native street trees, and reserves adjacent to these suburbs, had significantly higher bird species richness and diversity. I've attached this study for your reference. Another study from South Africa showed that native street trees have a significantly higher prevalence of birds (and nests), and supported more species and in greater densities than non-native street trees. I've also attached this study.

O'Donnell and Chambers have written a very useful report about how and why local governments in Western Australia should be incorporating native tree species in urban forest strategies. They found that native trees have multiple economic, environmental, and social benefits over exotic species in urban areas. For example, trees that are native to an area need less fertiliser than exotic trees, as the species have evolved and adapted to grow within the soils. Using fertiliser in excess has damaging impacts on ecosystems and waterways, and its application costs time and money. Local native species generally have lower water requirements than exotic species as well. Please see their report attached.

The City of West Torrens, supported by TREENET, planted some *Acacia melanoxylon* (Blackwood) in Azalea Drive, Lockleys about 20 years ago. This species is indigenous to the

Adelaide region and they are thriving in this street tree trial. I acknowledge that any tree is better than no tree, and I'm not suggesting the City of Charles Sturt plants only local native tree species. They aren't going to be suitable for all situations. But I think it's time to "branch out" a bit and plant indigenous tree species wherever you can, and I'd like to see this principle added to the draft strategy.

Kind regards,

