



Shire of
Serpentine
Jarrahdale

Urban and Rural Forest Strategy

2018-2028



Timeframe
2018/2028



Economic
Benefit



Environmental
Benefit

Vision for greener, cleaner suburbs a step closer.

The Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale has taken a significant step towards cleaner, greener and more sustainable future neighbourhoods following the adoption of its first Urban and Rural Forest Strategy.



The Reason...

Trees are an important natural asset that provide shade, reduce air temperature and heat in residential areas and control storm water flow.



Right now...

Retain current level of tree canopy cover in suburbs and maintain rural character of the Shire.



In the future...

Increase the number and community support of trees and enhance community wellbeing and health.

Supporting a greener SJ.

The benefits

This Strategy raises awareness of the significance of greenery in out suburbs. Trees and plants improve people's sense of wellbeing.

There are a number of benefits that would arise from the Strategy when implemented. These include, but are not limited to, the below points:

Environment

- Increase biodiversity
- Trees act as wind breaks
- Plants improve air quality
- Plants reduce greenhouse gas emissions

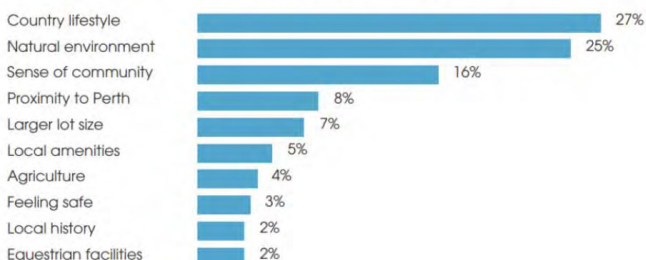
Social

- Trees can contribute to the character of our Shire
- Combat urban heat where temperatures build-up due to low vegetation

Economic

- Increase property values
- Provide cooler liveable residential areas.
- Reduce energy demands particularly in summer due to shade

What people value most about living in the Shire



What is the Strategy?

The Urban and Rural Forest includes trees and other plants in urban and rural areas. An Urban and Rural Forest Strategy provides a pathway for achieving and managing the Shire's trees and other plants for the benefit of the entire community.

While other Perth local governments have prepared strategies that address only urban areas, the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale's Strategy has been prepared to reflect its unique combination of urban and rural communities.

There are many economic, environmental and social benefits to tree canopy cover. Trees are an important natural asset that provide shade, reduce air temperature and control storm water flow.

They also offer economic value by helping reduce energy costs and increasing property values. Studies have also shown green space to have a positive impact on mental health.

The Strategy formalises the Shire's commitment to managing, protecting and retaining trees and native flora. The Strategy will guide the Shire in its vision to create and maintain cool, healthy and liveable communities which integrate the natural environment and reflect the Shire's unique sense of place and identity.

Cooler suburbs

Trees are especially effective for cooling neighbourhoods and improving comfort during warm, sunny weather through evaporation and shade. It is six degrees cooler under a full tree canopy cover. Shade is critical for improved human thermal comfort.

Green open spaces and green roofs will not provide shade for pedestrians unless trees are included. Green walls can provide shade if grown over frames or trellises. Trees are the free air conditioners for our suburbs.

Deciduous trees that lose their leaves in winter provide shade in summer while allowing sun through for winter warmth.

"People feel better in places where plants are present. A thriving urban forest is a community asset."

Your input

The Shire sought the community's advice while preparing the Strategy.

- The Shire hosted an online community survey and held two community consultation workshops in February and April 2018 to receive your comments and ideas on the values, issues, opportunities and options for the creation of the Strategy.
- The Shire also sought public comment on the draft version of the Strategy up until July 23, 2018.
- Thank you to everyone in the Shire who participated.

Outcomes

Specifically, the Strategy seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Retain the current level of canopy cover, and increase where possible.
- Maintain the rural character of the Shire.
- Increase community support for trees.
- Enhance community wellbeing and health.
- Promote environmental sustainability.

Find out more

To download the
**Urban and Rural Forest
Strategy 2018-2028**

go to
[www.sjshire.wa.gov.au/
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