

9.5 - Notice of Motion – Free Verge Plant Program (SJ4087)

Councillor	Councillor Rich
Disclosure of Officers Interest:	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Rich via email on Monday, 11 September 2023.

The Notice of Motion is “That Council:

REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer to bring a report to Council for consideration as part of the 2024-25 budget process, reviewing the current Street Tree and Verge Plant Programs, in particular considering the following:

- a. effectiveness of the programs;
- b. funding and resources allocated to the programs, and whether such is sufficient based on current and project demand levels;
- c. degree of alignment of the programs with the Shire’s ‘Urban and Rural Forest Strategy 2018-2028’;
- d. investigates additional funding opportunities.

Relevant Previous Decisions of Council

Nil.

Officer Comment

The Shire currently operates two programs which provide opportunity for residents to apply for:

1. Free street trees to be planted on a resident’s verge;
2. Free verge plants to be planted on a resident’s verge.

Both programs are limited in their capacity to deliver upon all requests received. The Shire’s webpage contains information on how to apply for either program, and indicates that due to resourcing limits, not all requests can be guaranteed to be met. As part of the application process for free verge plants, residents are directed to the Landcare SJ’s website to submit an online application for the Free Verge Plants program. Their application is then received and assessed by Landcare SJ following which vouchers are emailed to successful applicants. The resident then may redeem the voucher at the nominated nursery to receive the plants.

If supported, this notice of motion will deliver a detailed report to Council that considers the degree to which current programs remain fit for purpose, and what may need to be considered for the future.

Contact Us

Enquiries

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In Person

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Attachments (available under separate cover)

Nil.

Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

Councillor Recommendation

That Council:

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- b. funding and resources allocated to the programs, and whether such is sufficient based on current and project demand levels;**
- c. degree of alignment of the programs with the Shire's 'Urban and Rural Forest Strategy 2018-2028';**
- d. investigates additional funding opportunities.**