

Implementation Plan for Urban and Rural Forest Strategy									
Strategies	Actions	Timing	Priority	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator	Tasks	Progress and comments	Traffic light
Goal 1: Retain current level of canopy cover, and increase where possible									
1.1 Retain current level of canopy coverage	a) Complete and maintain a database of trees on public lands and incorporate on Shire's asset register	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Natural Reserves Coordinator, Asset Management	Database completed and trees on asset register	Incorporate tree database into assets register	Budget for a Consultant to complete a survey in terms of the Shire's digital data specification, ASpec is required. A Business case will be submitted for the 23/24 financial year.	Red
							Request budget to continue tree capture program	A Business case will be submitted for the 23/24 financial year.	Red
	b) Continue with and build on the Shire's tree planting program	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Parks and Gardens	Planting program annual targets met	Continue tree planting program annually	Annual tree planting program is nearing completion for the 22/23 season	Green
							Request budget to build on tree planting program	Completed	Green
	c) Adequately fund maintenance program for trees on public lands	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Parks and Gardens	Complaints about maintenance are reduced each year	Request budget to increase funding to tree maintenance program	Completed - increase in 22/23 budget approved including FTE	Green
	d) Enforce scheme provisions which require DA for vegetation removal and/or protection of significant vegetation	Ongoing	Medium	2018/19 - 2027/28	Statutory Planning, Compliance	Number of development applications for vegetation removal lodged	Incorporate scheme provisions into DA assessment	All applications are assessed against clause 7.12 of Town Planning Scheme No.2	Green
	e) Enforce Council policy 2.1.12 - Street Trees, particularly during demolition and development	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Statutory Planning, Compliance	No loss of identified trees occurs during demolition / development	Incorporate Policy provisions into DA assessment	Officers use pre-lodgement discussions with prospective applicants to discuss potential impacts to street trees.	Green
	f) Consider increasing staff knowledge on the Vision for SJ (importance of leafy, rural character) and the benefits of the urban forest	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Human Resources	Implementation of URFS consistent with action plan	Include Vision and benefits of urban forest in induction pack	The Visions project will not commence until later in the year after the staff engagement survey is completed in Sept. However, our advertisement for new staff highlights the Shire's focus to sustainably manage this growth while protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of our region	Yellow
	g) Prioritise tree retention in road design, maintenance and construction	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Engineering Services, Operations	Engineering procedure provides guidance on tree retention	Engineering procedure to provide guidance on tree retention	Written procedure to be developed. In practice, Business as usual to protect and retain trees as part of design process. AS4970-2009 "Protection of trees on development sites" being applied to tree retention.	Yellow
h) Prioritise tree retention in drainage maintenance	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Operations	Engineering procedure provides guidance on tree retention	Engineering procedure to provide guidance on tree retention	AS4970-2009 "Protection of trees on development sites" being applied to tree retention	Yellow	
1.2 Increase canopy coverage	a) Develop a street tree masterplan and style guide for townships that highlights opportunities on all lands and considers sense of place, fauna habitat and bushfire risks	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Landscape, Parks and Gardens	Street tree masterplan and style guide completed	Street tree masterplan	Developers submit street tree masterplans for each development or each estate.	Green
							Style guide for townships	This will be prioritised for the 22/23 financial year depending on workload	Red
	b) Work with agencies to increase canopy coverage on Government-controlled land	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator	Increased canopy on Government land	Work with agencies that control land in the Shire	The Shire does not have jurisdiction over State and other agencies but engages in discussions when and where possible to facilitate desired outcomes.	Yellow
	c) Consider carbon offsets programs (credits or carbon neutral)	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator	Scoping paper for offsets completed	Scoping paper for carbon offsets	A Business case will be submitted for the 23/24 financial year	Red
d) Continue program for Verge tree planting on request	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Parks and Gardens	Number of verge trees planted annually	Plant verge trees on request	Underway (Business As Usual) - included in seasonal planting/replanting	Green	
Goal 2: Maintain the rural character of the Shire									
2.1 Enhance sense of place	a) Develop a tree selection matrix for the Shire which identifies species which promote sense of place and provides guidance on	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Landscape, Parks and Gardens	Tree selection matrix completed	Tree selection matrix	Completed. Still requires feedback from Operations in regards to suitability of species.	Green
	a) Update and revise the Significant Tree Register	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Strategic Planning	Significant Tree Register updated	Revise current entries in register	All entries in old register were located if possible and assessed	Green
							Advertise for nominations for register	Call for nominations advertised and over 50 nominations received, with more ongoing	Green
							Check out nominations for register	All nominations received assessed for inclusion on the register	Green

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2.2 Protect historic, heritage and cultural values							Council approval for updated register, with delegation of additions	First stage of register, with Shire-controlled trees only, approved by Council in December 2021, with State government and agencies and private property trees to be included in future stages	
	b) Number of community events/activities/programs promoting relevant information	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Community Development	Number of promotional events sharing relevant information	Promote relevant information at community events	Update of MHI - consultation and presence at any events could be included here. 2020/21 - Key initiatives: Wander out Yonder - Sharing information on our natural environment Nearer to Nature events Plant Detective - School holiday journey through the forest, to collect clues to identify plants and discover how they are used by animals. 2021/22 - Key initiatives: Developed 3 x play trail apps in Jarrahdale, Whitby Falls, Mundijong and Brickwood Reserve. The apps share knowledge on local trails, natural environment and local community groups that support these activities. Night Stalk - Promotes importance of nocturnal animals and caring for our local nature in Brickwood Reserve.	
2.3 Protect green linkages and small pockets of bushland	a) Work with developers at structure planning and subdivision to protect local green corridors and establish environmental linkages through urban areas	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning	Percentage canopy retained after subdivision construction	Incorporate consideration of green corridors and environmental linkages into structure plan and subdivision assessment	Environmental concerns and more specifically tree cover are discussed with developers at pre-lodgement meetings and expectations in this regard are made clear. Processes for mapping canopy on GIS to measure the success of these discussions are currently being considered.	
2.4 Preserve trees on private property and in new developments	a) Consider extending tree database to map those on private land	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning	Scoping paper on resources required to map trees on private land	Scoping paper for mapping trees on private land	Council adopted the significant trees register on Shire land and this will be done for private land, acknowledging that it will be a much more complicated process due to private ownership.	
	b) Scope opportunities for incentives to retain trees on private land including	Long term	Medium	2023/24 - 2027/28	Statutory Planning	Scoping paper for incentives Implementation of recommendations	Scoping paper for tree retention incentives	Awaiting the approval of Scheme 3 by the WAPC to establish what will be required to establish these incentives.	
	* Consider free mulching options * Develop a policy that considers flexibility regarding setbacks						Implement recommendations from scoping paper	Awaiting the approval of Scheme 3 by the WAPC to establish what will be required to establish these incentives.	
	c) Ensure that retained vegetation and trees on developments are adequately protected during the construction phase of the subdivision	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Engineering Services	Percentage canopy retained after subdivision construction vs proposed level of retention	Protection mechanisms for trees and vegetation on developments during construction	AS 4970 - Protection of trees on Development sites - is required to be applied during Engineering works in developments, as per WAPC condition of subdivision.	
	d) Engage Housing Industry Association to build urban form that retains and gives space for trees	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning, Building Services	Meet with HIA to develop a program to address issue	Meet with HIA to develop program to build urban form that retains and gives space for trees	Discussions with the HIA have indicated that they would have little impact in this space as it is the developer that clears all of the land at subdivision stage. Strategy could be used as a mechanism to dissuade WAPC from approving mass vegetation clearing in new subdivisions. Could develop guidance for new owners building on semi rural lots to balance vegetation retention with bushfire safety. Working on a comprehensive guide for 'building on a property in SJ' and can include tree retention.	
Goal 3: Increase community support for trees									

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3.1 Establish a community education program about the benefits of trees	a) Increase community knowledge, awareness & education about the link between urban forest and improved mental and physical health, economic benefits and environmental values	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Communications	Community education program developed and implemented	Community education program on URFS and benefits of trees	Promotion of annual Free Verge Plant program; Promotion and celebration of the SJ Garden Competition (2020 + 2021)	
	b) Hold garden competitions to encourage individual pride and maintenance of residential gardens and verges	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Strategic Planning	Number of garden competitions	Garden competition program	Garden competition for front gardens and verges held in 2020 and 2021, and will return in 2023. Future competitions will be held every two years.	
	c) Promote existing planning tools and policy including Council Policy 2.1.12 - Street Trees and Tree Preservation Orders	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Statutory Planning, Communications	Publication of information on planning tools and policy	Promote and publicise planning tools and policies	Officers use pre-lodgement discussions with prospective applicants to discuss potential impacts to street trees. Shire website updated in December 2020 and Council Policy 2.1.12 - Street Tree; Promotion and publication of Significant Tree Register	
	d) Continue program of Community tree planting days and consider establishing "Adopt a tree/verge" program	Ongoing	Medium	2018/19 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator, Landcare SJ Inc.	Number of tree planting days	Program of community tree planting days	Community tree planting days continued with Landcare SJ Inc. with the 2022 planting program well on the way.	
	e) Work with Landcare to hold property planning workshops on tree retention and building design for both peri-urban and residential land (particularly where density is increasing)	Long term	Medium	2023/24 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator, Landcare SJ Inc.	Number of property planning workshops	Property planning workshops on tree retention and building design	Not actioned - discussion to be had with Landcare SJ Inc.	
3.2 Prepare and deliver a marketing strategy for the URFS	a) Track progress annually through review of CSIRO's Urban Monitor data provided by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and report to the community	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning, GIS	Annual canopy change measured and publicly reported	Annual review of canopy cover via Urban Monitor data	Urban Monitor data updated whenever a new data set is released, noting that it is not always updated annually.	
							Report canopy cover change to community	The Shire is working with State agencies to access their data for use on our Intramaps (noting that usage agreements are required)	
	b) Provide access to tree survey data on Shire public Intramaps	Long term	Medium	2023/24 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator, GIS	Tree survey data on Shire public Intramaps	Place tree survey data on public Intramaps	Business case will be submitted for the 23/24 financial year to capture data to be created and submitted in the future. Tree survey data can be easy to put on the Shire's public IntraMaps when the data is available.	
	c) Use social media to regularly communicate with community, particularly as the demographic changes towards a younger community	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Communications	Number of social media posts	Communicate with community via social media	Social media channels utilised to promote environmental programs, events and initiatives on an ongoing basis.	
	d) Develop appropriate and effective marketing strategies which highlight benefits of trees and vegetation likely to resonate with different demographic groups	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Communications	Community education program developed and implemented	Community education program on benefits of trees and vegetation	Different communication methods utilised to highlight the benefits of trees and vegetation (social media posts, media releases, photos and videos)	
3.3 Ensuring the right trees are planted in the right place	a) Increase and utilise staff knowledge on arboriculture and horticulture	Medium	High	2020/21 - 2022/23	Operations	Staff across the Shire have access to knowledge	Utilise staff knowledge on arboriculture etc.	Business As Usual	
							Increase staff knowledge on arboriculture etc.	Business As Usual	
	b) Provide Tree "surgeon" service/advice to assist landowners prior to development and with concerns about trees	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Parks and Gardens	Tree surgeon advice available	Provide tree surgeon advice	No internal "tree surgeon" resource available to provide this service. Business case will be submitted for the 23/24 financial year.	
	c) Support for Landcare practices and centres by the Shire and provision of resources	Long term	Medium	2023/24 - 2027/28	Natural Reserves Coordinator, Landcare SJ Inc.	Support provided to Landcare	Support Landcare and provide resources	Funding of Landcare SJ Inc. and the Landcare centre is ongoing	
Goal 4: Enhance community wellbeing and health									
4.1 Provide access to green infrastructure	a) Include processes to encourage consideration of the urban forest in decision making, planning and policy	Ongoing	Medium	2018/19 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning	Procedure developed	Procedure for consideration of urban forest in decision making, planning and policy	The Shire has joined the WALGA Urban Forest Working Group that considers local government response to urban forests in collaboration with the DPLH. Whilst the group is in its infancy it has already proved useful in guiding Shire actions in this regard. Established the State of the Environment TAG to assess progress on Strategic environmental documents.	
	b) Increase shade through clustering trees rather than shade sails where practical	Ongoing	Medium	2018/19 - 2027/28	Parks and Gardens	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on increasing shade	Business As Usual	

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	c) Encourage community gardens and productive verges	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Landscape, Community Development	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on community gardens and productive verges	Landscape will develop this in the 2023/24 financial year. Program could also be implemented via Reserves Coordinator/SJ Landcare arrangements.	
	d) Consider green infrastructure along cycle paths	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Engineering Services	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on green infrastructure along cycle paths	Implemented in accordance with Liveable Neighbourhoods Element 2 - R47 as the guiding document.	
4.2 Combat the urban heat island effect	a) Identify areas which retain heat (commercial, industrial and rural cleared land) and target as part of tree planting program	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Parks and Gardens, Landscape	Number of trees planted in commercial, industrial and cleared Rural areas	Identify areas which retain heat	Resourcing has delayed project initiation but it is envisaged for the 22/23 financial year possibly using CSIRO mapping	
	b) Consider requirements for public open space in industrial and commercial areas	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning	Scoping paper developed	Scoping paper for providing POS in industrial and commercial areas	The revised 2015 State Liveable Neighbourhoods policy that provides for these matters has been delayed and has not been formally endorsed by the WAPC. No date has been set for consideration of this policy. In the absence of a revised LN Council will have to consider its own policies for approval by the WAPC possibly going up against the development industry.	
4.3 Green POS and road reserves	a) Planting according to road hierarchy to be considered in tree matrix and tree planting program	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Engineering Services, Landscape, Parks and Gardens	Tree planting program developed and implemented	Consideration of planting according to road hierarchy	Formal tree planting program to be developed. Draft matrix completed. Still requires feedback from Operations in regards to suitability of species.	
	b) Review existing areas of public open space (POS) for opportunities to improve utilisation and enhance canopy	Short term	High	2018/19 - 2019/20	Parks and Gardens	Tree planting program developed and implemented	Review POS for tree planting opportunities	Current approved policies are being implemented	
							Tree planting program in existing POS	Current approved policies are being implemented	
c) Consider trees as noise and wind breaks	Ongoing	Medium	2018/19 - 2027/28	Parks and Gardens, Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on trees as noise and wind breaks	Local Planning Policy 4.16 Tree Retention and Planting has been revised and public engagement has been completed. The policy will soon be finalised and adopted by Council. It is acknowledged that trees don't significantly attenuate noise unless the diameter of the trunk, and the density of trunks, is significant		
Goal 5: Environmental sustainability									
5.1 Improve species diversity and tree health	a) Develop maintenance plan using Intramaps street tree layer from street tree pickup for replacement of aging trees and provide species diversity and resilience	Medium	High	2020/21 - 2022/23	Parks and Gardens	Maintenance plan prepared	Maintenance plan for street trees	Initial preparation of plan underway - the plan will be completed for implementation during 23/24.	
	b) Increase skills and improve planting practises through good baseline knowledge and databases of local trees	Medium	Medium	2020/21 - 2022/23	Parks and Gardens, Landscape	Database completed and maintained	Database of local trees to increase skills and improve planting practices	Skills and planting practices via training and resourcing underway	
	c) Publicly recognise the value of shrubs and habitat	Ongoing	Low	2018/19 - 2027/28	Communications	Community education program developed and implemented	Community education program on the value of shrubs and habitat	Promotion of internal (Shire) and external (third-party) environmental programs, events and initiatives on an ongoing basis.	
5.2 Protect the Peel-Harvey catchment	a) Include vegetated assets as part of stormwater and nutrient management with the inclusion of trees in these assets	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Engineering Services, Parks and Gardens	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on using trees and other vegetation in stormwater and nutrient management	Procedure to be developed. Water Sensitive Urban Design & Better Urban Water Management principles incorporated within developments as business as usual	
	b) Consider species targets for native trees - create habitat, diversity, targeting faunal species (cockatoos, bandicoots, etc.)	Long term	Low	2023/24 - 2027/28	Landscape, Parks and Gardens	Tree selection matrix completed	Tree selection matrix that considers species targets for native trees	Resourcing has delayed project initiation but it is envisaged for the 22/23 financial year	
5.3 Improve soil health, air quality and water quality	a) Consider planting of vegetation in rural and peri-urban areas where new development is proposed to provide screening and wind breaks	Ongoing	High	2018/19 - 2027/28	Strategic Planning, Statutory Planning	Guidance developed and included in procedure	Procedure provides guidance on planting of vegetation in rural and peri-urban developments	Landscaping conditions have been imposed on developments within rural areas in accordance with Local Planning Policy 4.16: Landscape and Vegetation Policy. Local Planning Policy 4.16 has been revised and public engagement has been completed. The policy will soon be finalised and adopted by Council. The policy still needs to be finalised and adopted by Council.	