

Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

Consultation Report



March 2025

Recognition of Kurna Miyurna and Yarta

We acknowledge and respect the native title holders and Traditional Owners of the Adelaide region – the Kurna People – and pay homage to their ancestors who maintained the natural processes of the land we are on and whose spirits still dwell on Yarta (Country).

In the spirit of recognition of our shared future, we have collaborated with representatives of Kurna on the content within this draft strategy and will continue to work with Kurna to implement it.

Mutual respect and trust will enable us to walk side-by-side and restore Yarta.

Green Adelaide led the preparation of the draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide on behalf of the Government of South Australia.

For further information

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<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/urban-greening-strategy>

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Introduction

The Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide aims to drive an ambitious and coordinated approach to the greening of metropolitan Adelaide.

It seeks to bring together state government, metropolitan councils, non-government organisations, industry peak bodies, research institutions, Kurna people and the broader community to achieve a more resilient and liveable city by 2050. Everyone has a different, but important, role to play.

The Urban Greening Strategy sets a long-term shared vision – **a resilient and liveable Adelaide for all: leafier, cooler and more biodiverse** and identifies practical actions to turn this vision into reality.

It outlines the following 6 priority areas for action:

- Cooler, greener and healthier development
- Government leading by example
- Building nature back in
- Future-proofing our urban forest
- Improving greening equity
- Scaling up impact by working together.

For copies of the draft strategy and supporting background papers visit:

<https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/urban-greening-strategy>

Purpose of this report

The draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide was released for public consultation from Monday 30 April to Friday 28 June 2024.

This consultation report summarises the:

- consultation approach and process, including who participated
- key themes heard from the consultation

About the consultation

Consultation objectives

The objective of the consultation was to test and refine elements of the draft strategy for metropolitan Adelaide, in particular:

- identifying the level of support for the proposed vision
- understanding stakeholders and the community's perspective on urban greening opportunities and challenges
- seeking feedback on each priority area, including the proposed outcomes and actions and identifying any gaps
- understanding the level of support for different options for measuring performance for increased urban tree canopy, greater tree species diversity and reduced urban heat.

The outcomes of the consultation process will also inform the development of a supporting implementation process by:

- identifying priorities for action and where individual organisations might be interested in leading or partnering
- providing an opportunity to identify potential projects and initiatives
- identifying how Green Adelaide can best design a cross-sector collaboration process for government and non-government partners to work together on shared urban greening projects in the future.

Additionally, the Legislation, Policy and Urban Greening Background paper was consulted on to learn whether all potential legislative and policy improvement opportunities had been identified.

Approach and outreach

There were 2 key stages of consultation to prepare the draft strategy, which included:

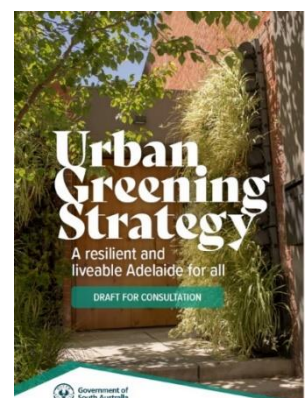
Stage 1: Scoping and early engagement (2021 to 2022)

Green Adelaide undertook a literature review, practitioner survey and stakeholder workshops to better understand who is working on urban greening in metropolitan Adelaide, what they are doing, the critical gaps and what kind of strategy would work best.

Stage 2: Drafting, stakeholder engagement and investigations (2022 to 2024)

To support the preparation of the draft strategy, Green Adelaide undertook an extensive range of engagement activities with a wide range of stakeholders that have a role in delivering or influencing, and/or an interest in, urban greening.

This engagement process was overseen by a Government Leadership Group, which included senior representatives from the Local Government Association as well as the following government agencies: Department for Infrastructure and Transport, Renewal SA, Department for Trade and Investment, as well as Department for Education, Department for Health and Wellbeing, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Infrastructure SA, Wellbeing SA and SA Water.



Technical working groups (with cross-sector membership) were also set up to provide advice and support evidence-based content. Membership of these groups was sought via an expression of interest process and focused on:

- urban heat and tree canopy
- urban biodiversity
- policy and green open space.

For further detail about Stage 1 and 2 of the consultation and reports on each, refer to Appendix 1 or [Green Adelaide's website](#).

Stage 3: Public consultation on the draft strategy (30 April to 28 June 2024)

Once the strategy was drafted, Green Adelaide created a range of resources to help inform the public about the strategy, including:

- a summary of the draft strategy
- partner and community summaries
- a YourSAy webpage
- video content
- social media posts
- emails to targeted stakeholders

Green Adelaide also undertook a number of engagement activities to support participation. These consultation activities undertaken are summarised in Table 1 overleaf.

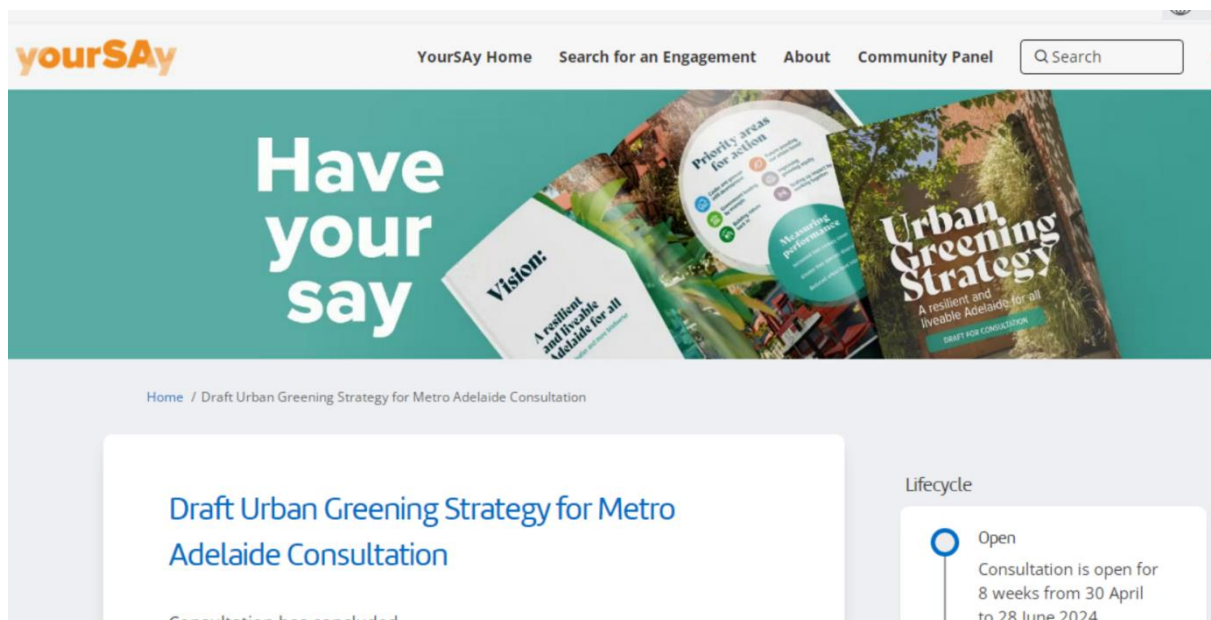


Table 1: Activities undertaken during consultation on the draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

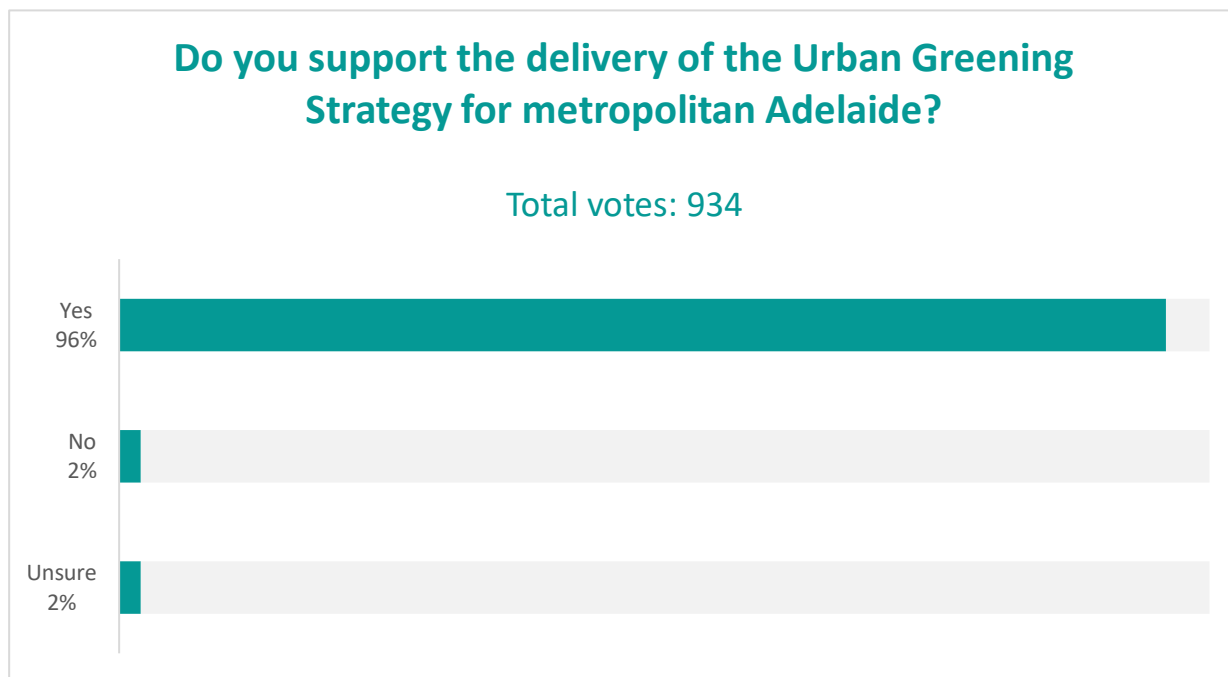
Type of activity	Consultation activity	Date / place	Participants
YourSAy online consultation hub	YourSay page	30 April to 28 June 2024	13,390 visits
	Online survey	30 April to 28 June 2024, via YourSAy	Open to everyone 354 people responded
	Written submissions	30 April to 28 June 2024, collected via email	Open to everyone 75 submissions received
	Online discussion	30 April – 28 June 2024, via YourSAy website	Open to everyone 17 questions received
	Quick poll	30 April to 28 June 2024, via YourSAy website	934 responses to the quick poll – 96% support the draft strategy, 2% didn't support it and 2% unsure
Webinar	Online presentation and Q&A, with Green Adelaide Planning Team Leader Alison Collins and Sustainable Communities Team Leader Christy Spier	22 May 2024, via Microsoft Teams	Open to everyone 109 people listened to this live and provided responses to 3 questions using Slido function
Workshop	Conversation with Green Adelaide's Kurna Advisory Group – Warpulai Kumangka	10 April 2024, Kurna Living Cultural Centre, Bedford Park	Members of the advisory group

Type of activity	Consultation activity	Date / place	Participants
Greening Adelaide Leaders Breakfast	Speakers: • Deputy Premier Hon. Susan Close • Green Adelaide Presiding Member Professor Chris Daniels • State Planning Commission Chair Craig Holden • RMIT Professor Sarah Bekessy	6 May 2024, National Wine Centre, Adelaide	64 people attended State government executives, council CEOs, mayors, research institutes leaders and industry peak bodies non-government organisation executives
Targeted stakeholder workshops	Focused specifically on Priority 3: Building nature back in and Priority 6: scaling up impact by working together Leading practitioners from local government, agencies, eNGOs, research and the development sector with a known interest or expertise in urban biodiversity (including: urban ecologists, educators, landscape architects, planners, urban designers and sustainability officers).	17 May 2023 Veal Gardens Pavilion, Adelaide	38 people attended State government (15 people) Local government (12 people) Non-Government Organisation (4 people) Kaurua (1 person) Tertiary education (2 people) Development sector (2 people)
	Partnering with the University of Adelaide and focused specifically on Priority 3: Future-proofing our urban forest and Priority 6: scaling up impact by working together Leading practitioners from local government (including arborists, landscape designers, asset managers and sustainability officers), LGA, research institutions and government agencies that own land.	21 May 2021, Urrbrae House, Waite Campus	37 people attended State government (9 people) Local government (17 people) Non-Government Organisation (3 people) Tertiary education (5 people) Nature based business (3)

Type of activity	Consultation activity	Date / place	Participants
	Focused on Priority 2: Government leading by example and Priority 5: improving greening equity Targeted stakeholders – Senior subject matter experts (e.g. open space, asset managers, landscape architects, sustainability officers) from state and local government	11 June 2024, Local Government House	30 people attended State government (13 people) Local government (17 people)
	Hosted by the State Planning Commission and focused on Priority 1: Cooler and greener infill development Targeted stakeholders – Development sector peak bodies	6 September 2024	Representatives from Property Council, Housing Association of Australia (HIA), Master Builders Association (MBA) and Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) and the State Planning Commission attended.
Social media	Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn (including posts, online articles including InDaily, podcast, social media advertising campaign, webinar views)	30 April to 28 June 2024	657 social media comments and private messages across all channels 700 new followers to Green Adelaide's social channels 2 online articles 173 Podcast episode listens A month-long social media advertising campaign that included video and static creative content across Facebook, Instagram and YouTube targeted at people living in metropolitan Adelaide with an interest in the environment 300 Webinar series views

What we heard

Overall, the feedback showed a high level of support for the draft strategy, which was reflected in this online poll, whereby 96% of respondents indicated a positive response.



Source: YourSAY

The pages that follow provide a high-level summary of the key themes of feedback that was received about the draft strategy across all consultation methods undertaken¹.

¹ It should be noted that respondents may have participated via multiple consultation mechanisms. For example, a respondent could have provided feedback via a written submission, YourSAY survey and the quick poll.

The vision

There is widespread support for the vision of the draft strategy, with most respondents regarding it as a suitable and timely response to urban greening concerns within Adelaide, and sharing a hope and enthusiasm for the vision of a 'cooler, leafier and more biodiverse' Adelaide.

Much of this support hinges on the strategy's ability to put words into action and create tangible greening outcomes across metropolitan Adelaide.

Respondents commonly suggested that the strategy needed to also address these key challenges:

- small blocks with large homes that do not allow for adequate green space.
- lack of influence on developers to retain trees and provide greater space for green infrastructure
- conflicting pressures created by the need for more homes due to a growing population
- turning strategy and research documents into tangible outcomes
- convincing private landowners of the value of urban greening.

They also suggested that the strategy needed to enable these key opportunities:

- better legislative and planning instruments to exert greater influence on developers to support greener outcomes
- innovative green development of underutilised spaces, such as along train lines, verges and parking lots
- leveraging community education and participation to support greening projects.
- providing greater support for community groups to undertake urban greening.

The priority areas

An online survey sought to understand respondents' views on the level of importance of the 6 priority areas identified by the draft strategy.

Overall, all the priority areas and actions were recognised as important and supported. It was recognised that the many of the priority areas and actions were interrelated and support each other.

'Cooler and Greener Infill Development' was ranked as most important, closely followed by 'Building Nature Back in'. This is consistent with feedback received across all consultation methods. Some of the main themes that appeared in the feedback were about:

- developers being a key threat to green infrastructure within metropolitan Adelaide. There was strong support for actions focused on incentivising and enforcing greater greening outcomes within developments.
- a perceived surplus of research and investigations into the subject matter, but a lack of clear and decisive action with tangible results for the community
- a strong preference for initiatives that show immediate results and actively involve residents in the greening process. Many respondents expressed a personal desire to get involved.
- the importance of education and awareness raising to improving urban greening outcomes
- supporting Green Adelaide to take the lead on the implementation of the strategy
- clarifying the role and responsibility of different organisations to implement the strategy.

The table below identified which priorities are considered the most important, while the pages that follow detail the feedback received about each of the specific priority areas.

Q10 The draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide has 6 priority areas of action. Please rank these priorities in order of most important to least important to you most important (1 = most important, 6 = least important).

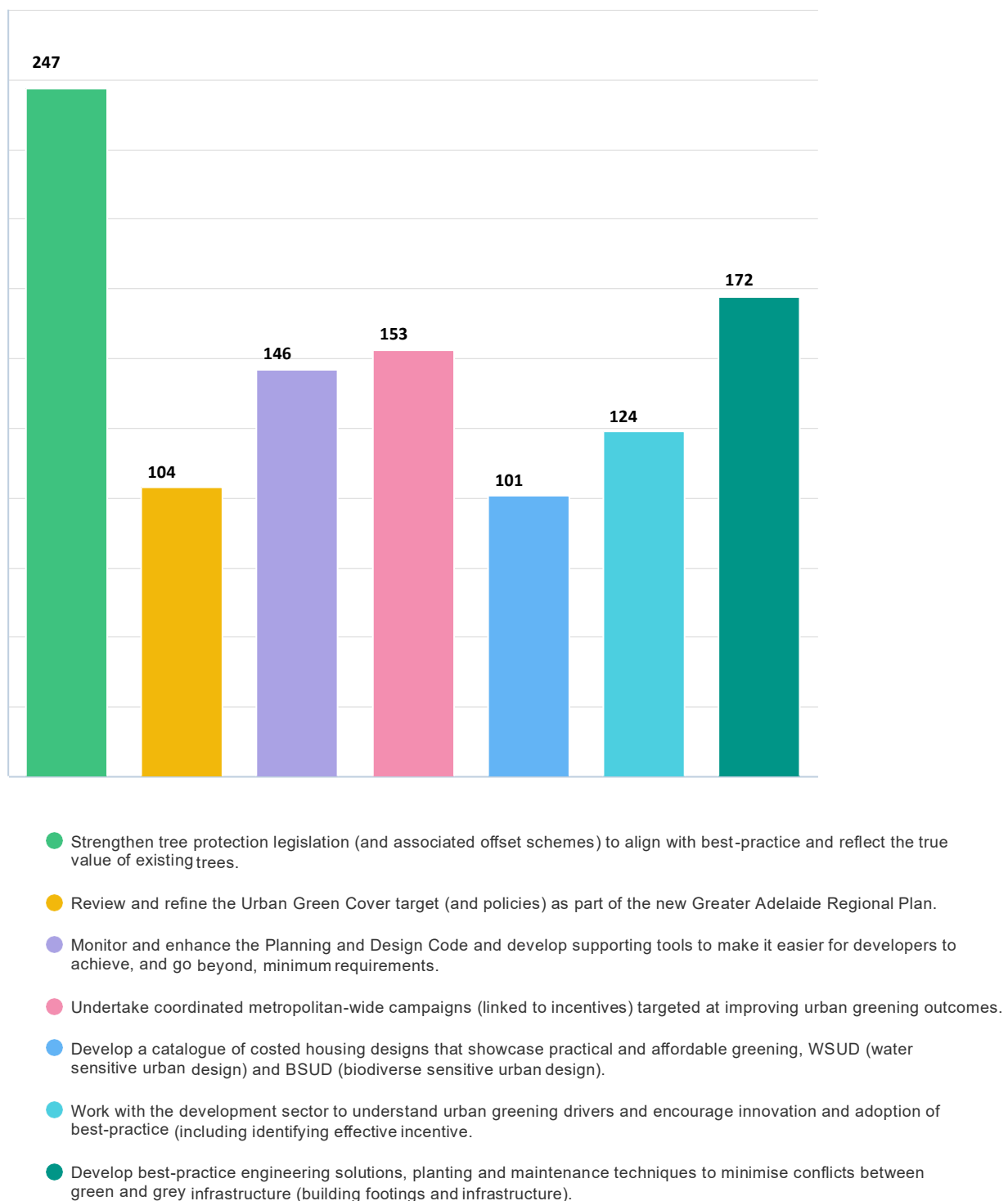
Priority areas	Average ranking
Cooler and greener infill development (facilitating good design outcomes for infill development that protect existing trees and provide sufficient space for new urban greening, trees and other types of greenery)	2.72
Building nature back in (protecting and improving biodiversity in urban environments both on public and private land)	2.73
Future-proofing the urban forest (making sure our urban forest is resilient to the impacts of climate change through increasing diversity of plantings, diversity within species and ensuring adequate water supply)	3.60
Improving greening equity (making sure that all residents across metropolitan Adelaide have access to urban green spaces and the benefits they provide from a cooling, productivity, and health and wellbeing perspective)	3.63
Government leads by example (government driving better greening outcomes and to show leadership in this space such as trialing new ideas, research and implementing innovative solutions)	3.94
Scaling up impact by working together (government and non-government organisations working together to enable greening action to happen at a metropolitan scale and have collective impact)	4.38

Mandatory Question (354 response(s))

Priority Area 1: Cooler, Greener and Healthier Development

Overall, feedback provided through the various consultation methods demonstrated strong support for cooler and greener infill development, with an emphasis placed on ensuring significant green infrastructure and critical habitat is retained.

Responses to the online survey showed strong support for the key action in this priority area relating to strengthening tree protection legislation.



Optional question (353 response(s), 1 skipped)

Key feedback suggested:

- widening the scope of the priority area to focus on all development types not just infill development, such as master planned (greenfield and brownfield), commercial and industrial developments.
- having harsher penalties for tree removals, with the potential for modifying the definition of regulated and significant trees to accurately capture the impact of removal, such as widening the definition to include canopy cover
- improving the integration of the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* and the *Planning, Development and Infrastructure Act 2016* to better protect native vegetation.
- investigating ways to integrate effective compliance and monitoring methods (for tree canopy policy) for the Planning and Design Code
- considering stronger and clearer urban greening and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) policies in the Planning and Design Code, educating planners to help interpret the policies and providing further resources and for developers
- investing in education about the public perception around trees, to encourage planting of trees on private property and reduce concerns about tree ownership and safety
- providing incentives to developers to improve greener outcomes, given that a common perception is that developers will not do this without appropriate incentive and enforcement.

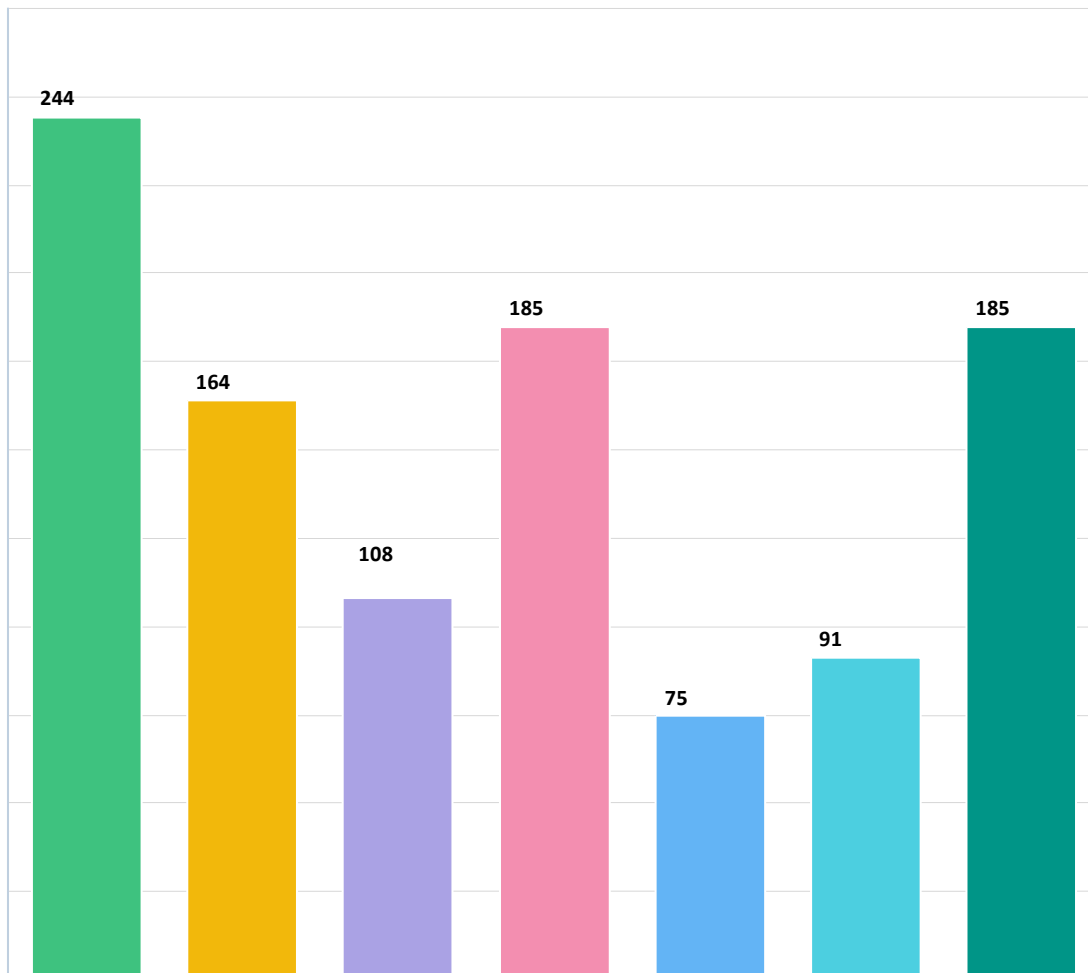
Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

- implementing financial incentives for people with significant tree canopy on their property to ensure homeowners retain existing greenery and encourage planting
- leveraging underutilised aspects of the streetscape, such as verges, to create productive green spaces that compensate for the loss of greenery in developments
- making amendments to the Planning and Design Code to include clearly defined greenspace requirements for developers, particularly in subdivisions
- providing incentives for homeowners and business owners to establish and maintain areas of high-quality biodiversity and habitat on private land
- emphasising the use of native vegetation and incorporating indigenous knowledge to infill development to ensure green areas are effectively planned and managed, ensuring long term viability in a changing climate.

Priority Area 2: Government leading by example

Overall, feedback provided through the various consultation methods demonstrated strong support for government leading by example, particularly by prioritising projects that deliver world-class urban greening and water sensitive urban design (WSUD).

Responses to the online survey reinforced this view, showing strong support for the key action in this priority area relating to the integrating urban greening and WSUD in government projects.



- Integrate urban greening and WSUD as part of business-as-usual in government projects: such as transport infrastructure upgrades and new schools; healthcare facilities and other government land.
- State and local governments to deliver flagship greening, BSUD and WSUD projects that cross boundaries and set new benchmarks.
- Identify and implement solutions to key barriers to BSUD and WSUD in public infrastructure and projects, such as maintenance.
- Investigate alternative approaches to installing utilities infrastructure in roadways to create more space for trees.
- Review restrictions on planting near utilities infrastructure, including permitted species lists.
- Determine and apply an agreed method for applying economic valuations to trees and other green infrastructure.
- Investigate including green infrastructure into public asset management systems and account for trees as appreciating assets.

Optional question (353 response(s), 1 skipped)

Key feedback suggested:

- addressing the legislative barriers to council greening projects through the establishment of new standards for safe planting in proximity to utilities, particularly regarding the interaction between tree canopy and overhead powerlines.
- removing or modifying the extent of exemptions for state Government agencies from tree protection regulations and other local planning laws related to greenspace preservation
- reviewing all relevant government legislation for the on-ground impacts and unintended consequences they pose upon the urban forest
- increasing government investment to support local governments to deliver best practice BSUD and WSUD projects, including funding for maintenance to ensure the long-term viability of urban greening projects and future amenity
- establishing an agreed methodology for the valuation of trees that ensures consistency between local governments, drawing on successful case studies from other cities to inform implementation
- ensuring greening net-gain is part of how government business is done
- better supporting urban greening in major infrastructure projects, as well as ongoing maintenance, management and retention of trees and creating more space for plantings
- ensuring existing asset systems and horticultural maintenance evolves so that multiple benefits are achieved and can be sustained within the long-term financial plans of local councils
- ensuring government showcases best-practice green and blue infrastructure along active transport corridors, in major land releases, schools and other government lands, and undertakes demonstration projects – this will set a high standard for private developers and underscore the government's commitment to urban greening.

Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

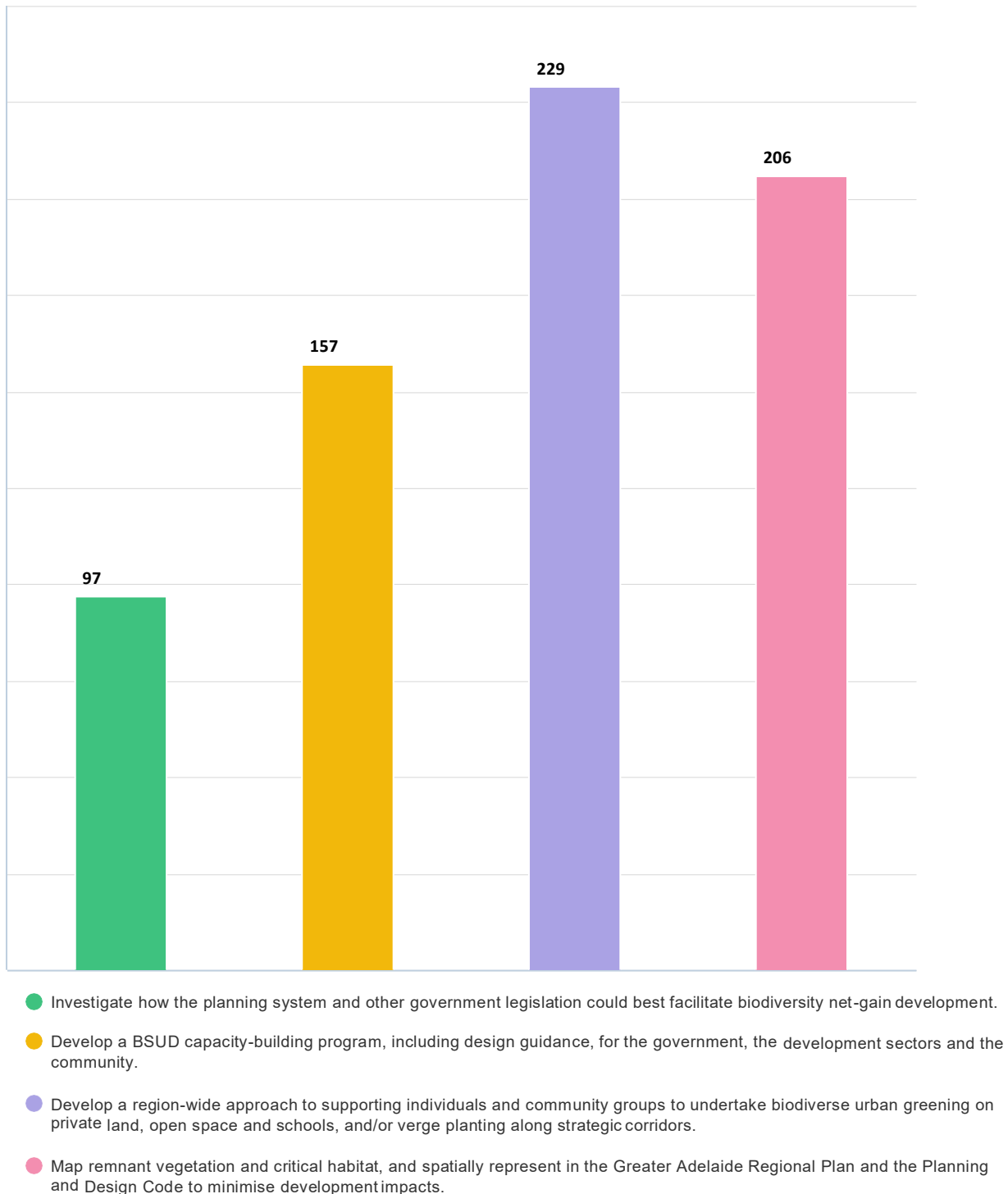
- prioritising actionable outcomes that utilise existing research to respond to urgent needs, such as the planting of trees in areas that are lacking
- generating excitement within the community through collaboration with developers to produce flagship green-space projects that showcase best-practice - urban greening
- increasing the regulatory presence that state and local government have over developers to ensure compliance with the Planning and Design Code
- protecting and promoting key green areas in Adelaide, such as the parklands
- educating the public about the importance of trees and green spaces to raise awareness and support for green initiatives
- building the WSUD and BSUD capacity of state and local government staff
- increasing the amount of funding available to put existing powerlines underground, especially in bushfire-prone areas. For areas where 'undergrounding' is not practical, it is recommended that alternative solutions be explored, such as innovative engineering solutions, strategic tree-planting and arborist-approved pruning techniques.
- identifying a mechanism to protect trees and biodiversity on Australian Government land and establish greening targets that reflect local priorities
- considering tree rebate schemes to encourage private landowners to plant trees on their properties and increase tree canopy coverage.

A number of responses also identified concern about a perceived lack of cohesion and shared vision across government agencies regarding green initiatives, which could undermine efforts.

Priority Area 3: Building Nature Back In

Overall, feedback gained through the various consultation methods demonstrated strong support for building nature back in, particularly through the prioritisation of BSUD across metropolitan Adelaide.

Responses to the online survey showed strong support for the key action of this priority area relating to supporting greening on private land and public spaces such as verges, parks and schools.



Optional question (349 response(s), 5 skipped)

Key feedback suggested:

- providing greater support for landowners, schools and community groups to conduct local greening projects through increased funding and dedicated project officers, with an emphasis on seeing projects to completion
- prioritising biodiversity within greening efforts through the creation and preservation of functional habitat and wildlife corridors
- raising awareness and educating the public about the benefits of green spaces and how to participate in greening efforts, including holding community events, providing information packs and running educational campaigns on the value of trees and biodiversity
- providing better direction to implement the BSUD approach – many of the strategies, actions, and performance targets recommend or link to tree planting, and while this is generally beneficial, there is also a need to recognise the importance of higher quality understory plantings and groundcover using a BSUD approach
- improving biodiversity data and supporting spatial layers, and linking to the planning system
- undertaking strategic mapping of important habitat linkages and corridors to identify areas for conservation, habitat restoration and targeted mitigation of threats
- providing incentives for homeowners and business owners to establish and maintain areas of high-quality biodiversity and habitat on private land
- providing consistent funding for maintenance to ensure the long-term viability of urban greening projects
- investigating BSUD education options, noting there is a broad lack of awareness in the sector about how to build biodiversity into a project. Consider a “recipe” for BSUD that can allow designers and anyone working on a project to build this into their design.
- ensuring clear BSUD targets to guide implementation throughout the industry.
- updating and improving the Botanic Gardens Plant Selector Tool.

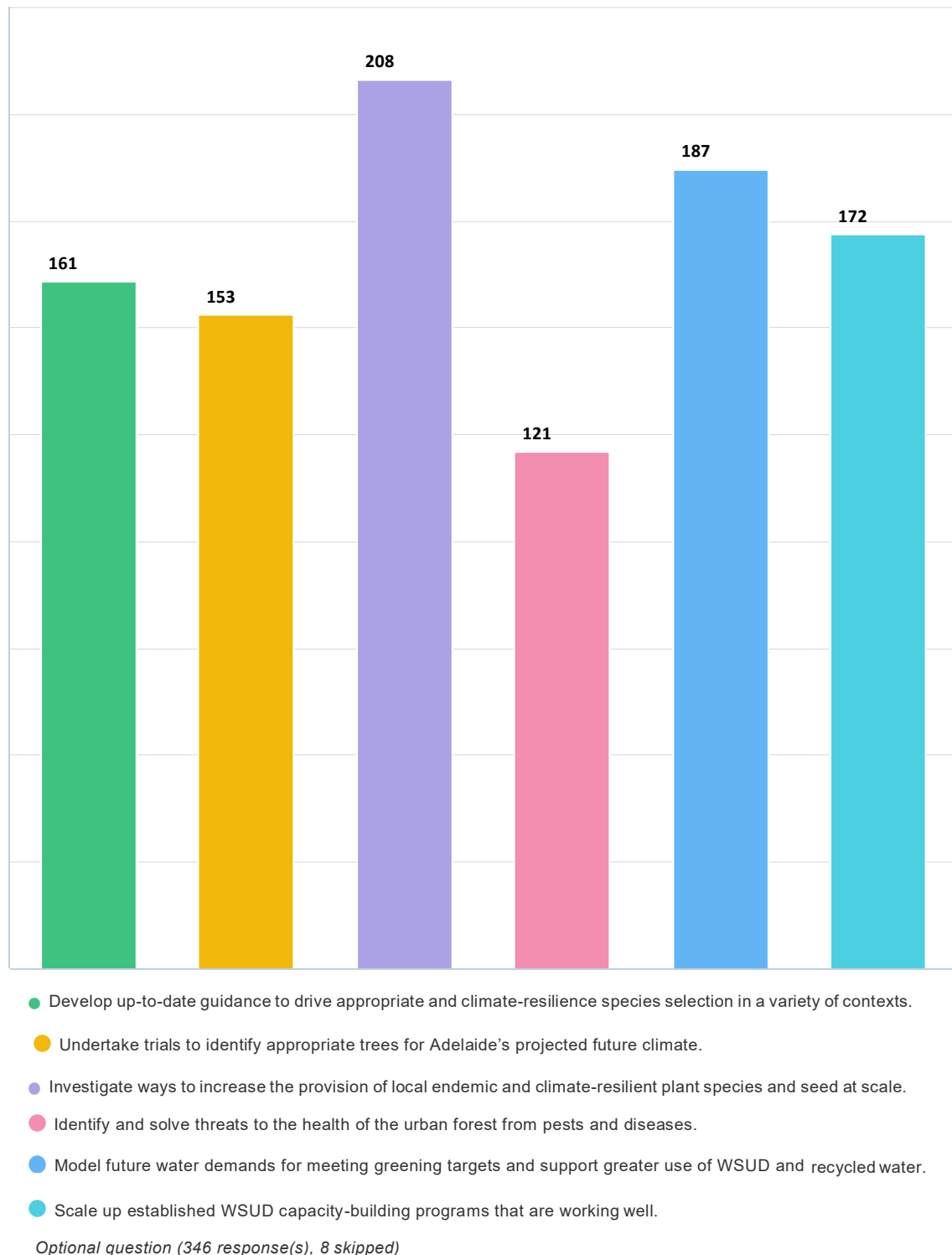
Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

- capitalising on currently underutilised areas of the urban landscape to green up local areas, such as train stations, roundabouts, and verges
- providing greater protection for remnant vegetation in metropolitan Adelaide that is not currently covered by the *Native Vegetation Act* through changes to regulatory instruments
- ensuring areas of valued native vegetation and habitat are protected, and coordinate a strategic review of protection of urban biodiversity areas (including the Hills Face Zone)
- increasing references to the importance of coastal and estuarine ecosystems and the value of these habitats for biodiversity enhancement
- supporting community groups and ‘Friends of parks’ volunteer groups to expand
- considering opportunities to improve the alignment between local biodiversity priorities and the state policies and legislation through the Open Space Strategy for Greater Adelaide and the proposed *Biodiversity Act*.

Priority Area 4: Future proofing our urban forest

Across the various consultation methods, respondents were generally supportive of this priority area given the increasing threats faced by the urban forest, with emphasis placed on the need to mitigate the pressures of climate change and infill development.

Responses to the online survey showed strong support for the key action in this priority area relating to increasing the provision of local endemic and climate-resilient plant species and seed at scale.



Key feedback suggested:

- focusing on diverse plantings to ensure urban areas support a variety of plant and animal life into the future
- ensuring greening efforts include more than trees and include understory planting
- providing incentives and securing greater local production of native plant stock to ensure adequate supply for future greening projects within the region
- addressing declining water quality and availability through greater use of sustainable water management, harnessing recycled, reconstituted, and bore water to meet current and future needs of plant life
- ensuring that prioritisation and trade-offs are carefully considered by the water sector to ensure there is enough water for greening
- building the skilled workforce, in roles such as engineers, arborists and horticulturalists.
- recognising that scaling up capacity-building programs requires investment security and increased resources
- recognising the importance of collaborating with, and supporting, the nursery industry to invest in growing adequate amounts of quality tree stock for a diverse range of species
- ensuring further research is undertaken to identify plant species with physiological features required to thrive in a future metropolitan Adelaide
- undertaking research about how to best protect and future-proof our urban forest.

Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

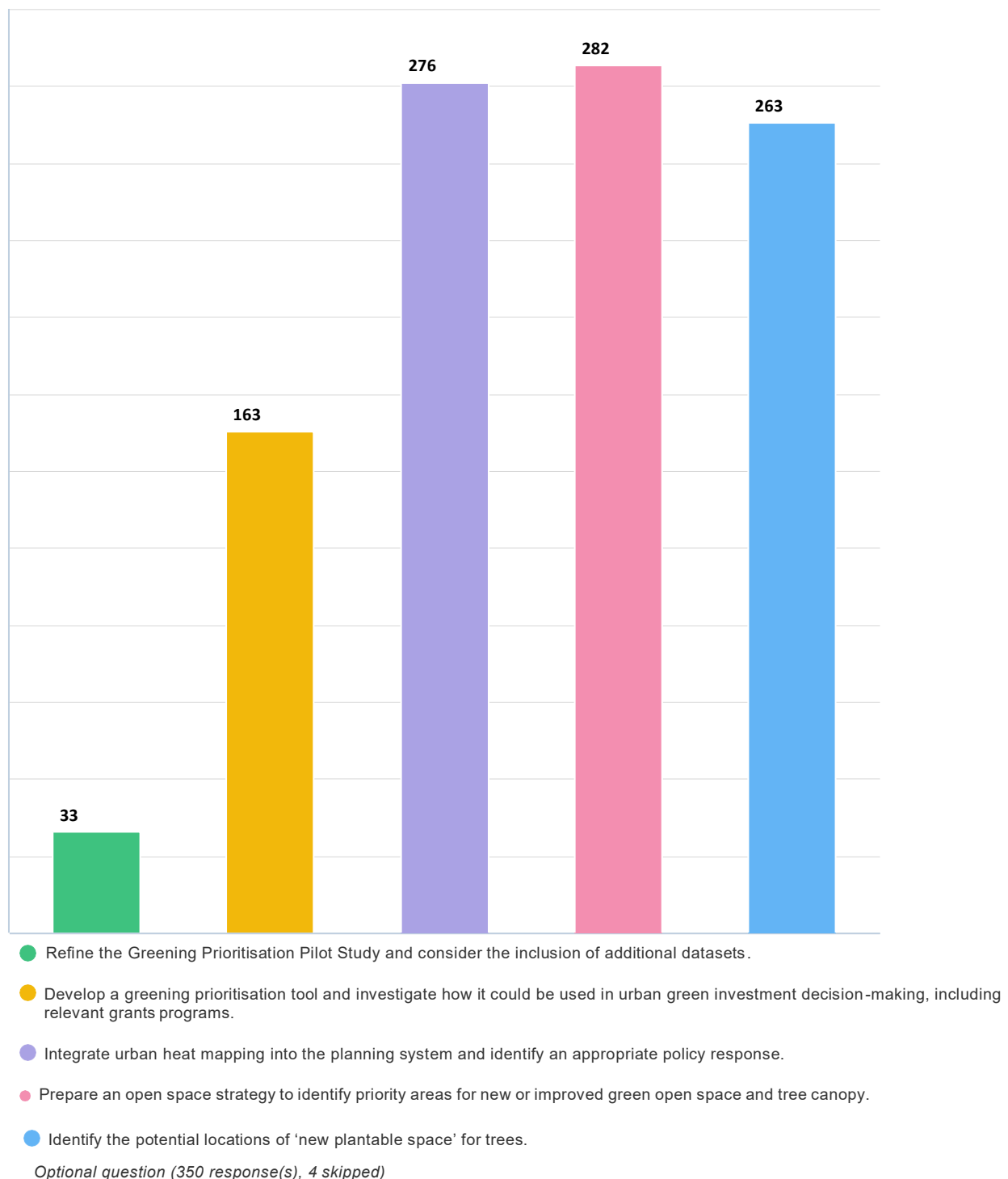
- placing greater importance on ensuring the survival of current trees and wildlife through increased water allocation and improved programs to monitor for large-scale pests
- unlocking the potential of private land to facilitate growth and survival of the urban forest through supporting homeowners to increase plantings in backyards
- ensuring future generations are educated on the importance of the urban forest through school programs and projects
- incorporating the urban forest into local economies through the creation of jobs around planting, maintaining and education
- undertaking research to provide a robust approach to decision-making in relation to species diversity in the local context.

A number of responses also raised concern about the lack of active terminology in the strategy's actions and an overemphasis on conducting research rather than taking tangible action.

Priority Area 5: Improving greening equity

Overall, feedback gained through the various consultation methods demonstrated strong support for improving greening equity, with a large emphasis on ensuring green spaces are accessible to all users across metropolitan Adelaide.

Responses to the online survey showed strong support for the key actions relating to integrating urban heat mapping into the planning system and identifying an appropriate policy response, preparing an open space strategy to identify priority areas for new or improved green open space and tree canopy, and identifying the potential locations of 'new plantable space' for trees.



Key feedback suggested:

- focusing on the creation of new plantable spaces beyond identified areas, including innovative use of engineering to support the planting of trees in challenging spaces
- providing financial and physical support to disadvantaged groups for creating and maintaining green space on private property
- prioritising funding (including grants schemes) for low-socioeconomic areas that are disproportionately lacking in quality green spaces
- making the most of current open green spaces by increasing biodiversity and providing for a mix of uses, such as ensuring access is not limited to special interest groups
- encouraging innovative greening approaches to ensure urban areas that are lacking in available open space still benefit from greenery, such as green walls and alternative parking modes to allow for greater verge planting
- recognising the need for catch-up provisions for areas of lower canopy and recognising the context of landscape settings (such as Hills Zones or coastal areas)
- recognising that green spaces need to be attractive, with resources such as shade, seating and disability access
- recognising that in greenfield development, smart open space designs are needed – new open space needs to build on existing natural assets and water drainage pathways to deliver multiple benefits
- considering road space beyond just verges and medians, as well as identifying unused road space.

Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

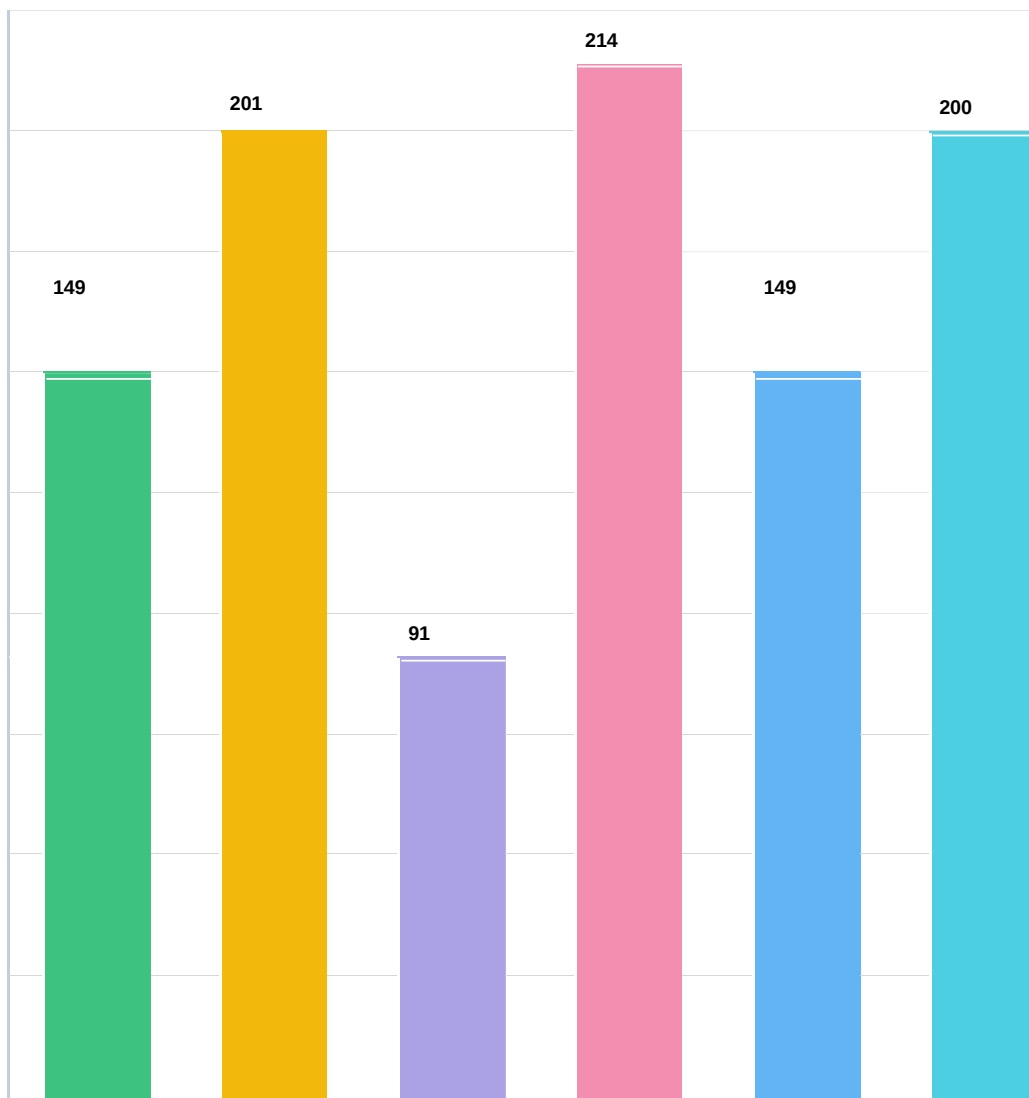
- developing policies to support people in rental accommodation and public housing to have equitable access to canopy and green spaces, with responsibilities established for landlords to ensure adequate greenery for tenants
- ensuring that green spaces are readily accessible for all users by identifying barriers to people of different abilities and modes of transport, as well as the need for additional facilities to support users such as restrooms, parents' rooms and seating
- enabling residents to create their own green spaces, particularly by providing support to older and disabled residents to plant and maintain their private gardens
- fostering Indigenous collaboration in the design of green spaces to facilitate greater health and wellbeing outcomes associated with establishing person-to-nature connections
- identifying new open space areas to improve equity and enable habitat connectivity
- providing funding for open space land acquisition and greening
- identifying priority river corridors to revegetate
- investigating carbon offsetting opportunities and understanding how trees and other plants (under the care of a local council) can be considered for carbon offset purposes.

Some respondents also raised concern about the potential for over-researching urban greening issues and, as a result, delayed progress. Some respondents felt that the research already exists, so the next step is to take informed action, backed by targeted funding.

Priority Area 6: Scaling up impact by working together

Overall, feedback gained through the various consultation methods demonstrated strong support for scaling up impact by working together, with a particular emphasis on greater collaboration across government departments and involvement of First Nations groups.

Responses to the online survey showed strong support for the key actions relating to developing a centralised hub to share knowledge, investigating funding mechanisms to support urban greening, and working with Kaurna to identify partnership opportunities.



- Prepare an implementation plan to identify opportunities for greater coordination, efficiencies and impact.
- Investigate funding mechanisms for expanding urban greening, WSUD and BSUD delivery.
- Develop an applied research pipeline to identify and fill knowledge gaps.
- Develop a centralised hub to share knowledge across the region, between sectors and with the community.
- Extend the reach of established bridging organisations and networks that are working well.
- Work with Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) to identify opportunities for partnerships with Kaurna.

Optional question (346 response(s), 8 skipped)

Key feedback suggested:

- elevating Indigenous knowledge within the priority area through broadening the scope of collaboration with First Nations groups to move beyond KYAC.
- leveraging collaboration between agencies to facilitate proactive community education about the benefits of urban greening
- ensuring greater investment in local research and information sharing to successfully respond to knowledge gaps identified by the strategy
- identifying areas of policy that hinder the successful collaboration of government and non-governmental agencies.

Respondents also identified the following opportunities:

- ensuring that collaboration around greening projects is based on creating ground-level impacts with clear timelines for action that is presented to the community
- increasing community involvement and engagement with greening action, particularly with residents and landowners affected by development
- prioritising the allocation of funding to groups acting collaboratively to incentivise scaling up
- simplifying processes and reducing red tape that hinders grassroots efforts and delays the progress of community groups
- building industry capacity through introducing WSUD, BSUD and nature-based solutions to tertiary education programs
- supporting professional industries to upskill their members through accredited training channels, to facilitate multi-disciplinary skills development
- supporting the establishment of applied research hubs that facilitate stronger collaboration between government agencies and researchers, such as the proposed Future Trees Hub.

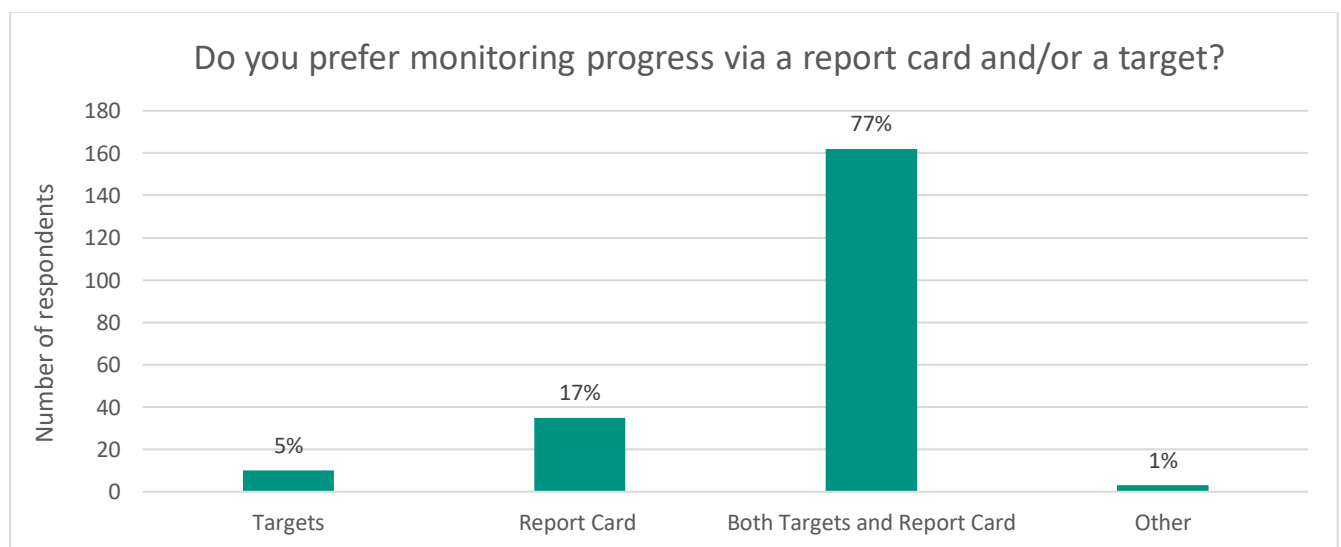
Many respondents recognised that this priority area could be the hardest to deliver action on. Concerns that were commonly raised included that the proposed actions within this area seemed overly bureaucratic and unrealistic, potentially leading to limited tangible outcomes. There was a desire for more practical, on-ground actions rather than just planning and research.

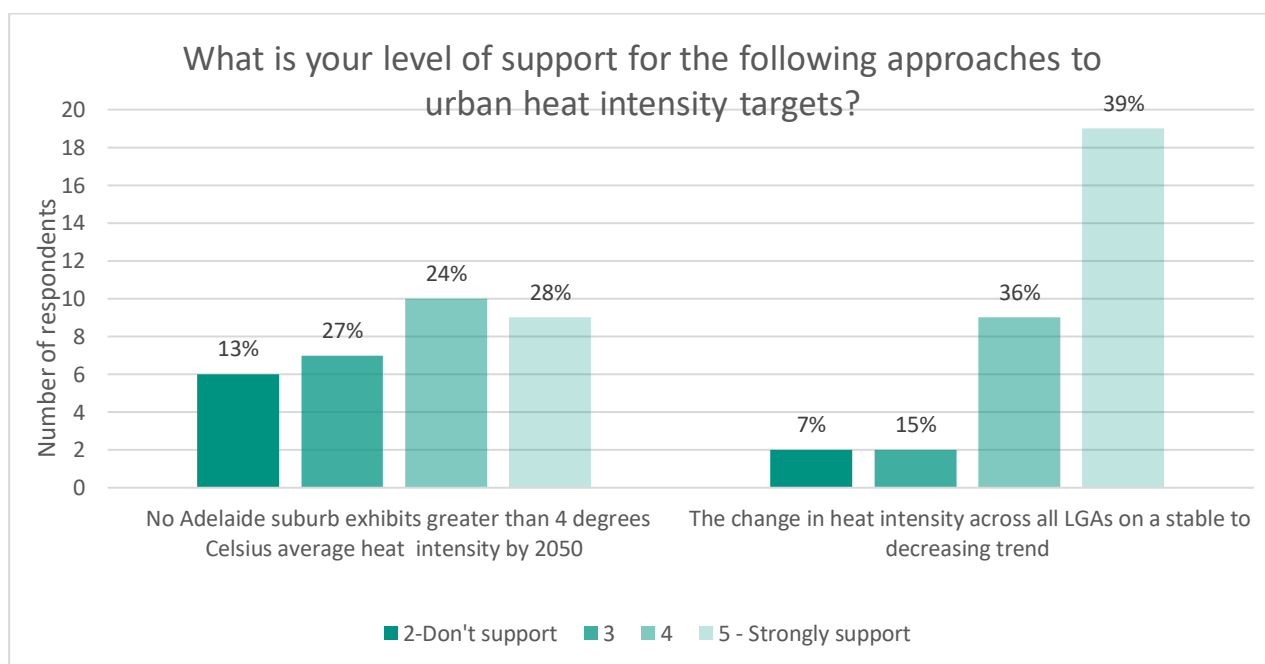
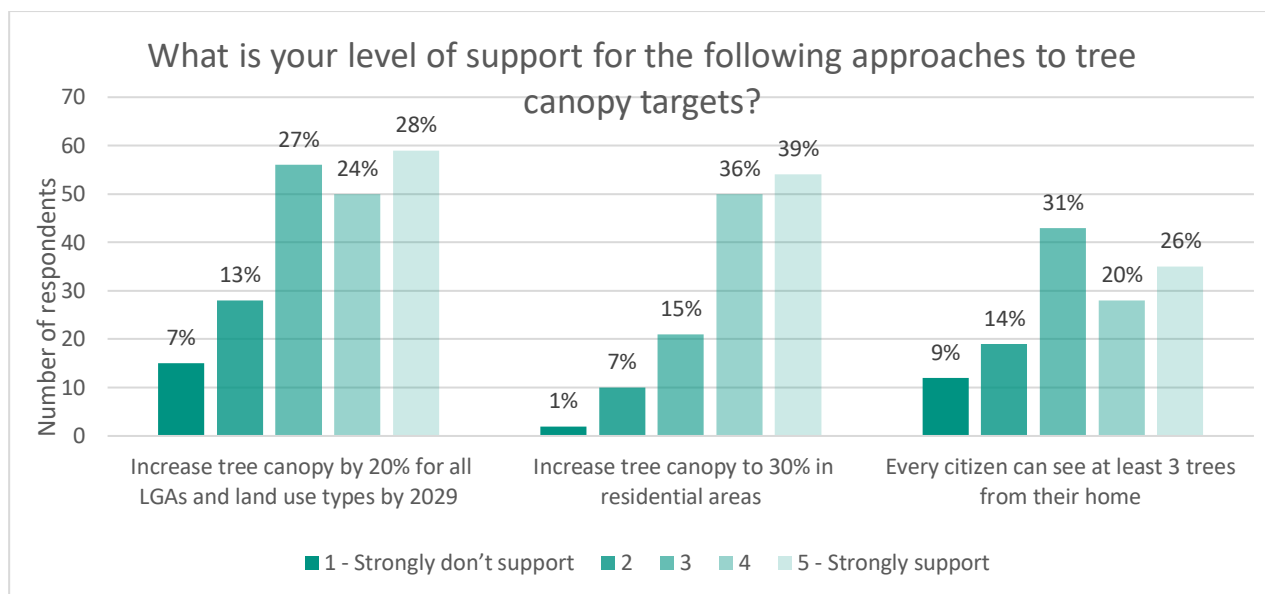
Monitoring and measuring performance

Feedback was also sought about how the strategy should monitor progress to increase urban tree canopy cover, reduce urban heat and achieve greater species diversity.

At the targeted stakeholder workshops, a 'pulse check' was undertaken to gauge preferences for monitoring and measuring performance. It showed:

- a strong preference for measuring performance using a combination of targets and a report-card approach
- general support for monitoring to occur every 3 to 5 years across all performance measurement areas
- mixed views about the approaches to tree canopy targets, with:
 - the strongest support for increasing tree canopy to 30% in residential areas
 - moderate support for increasing tree canopy by 20% for all LGAs and land-use types by 2029
 - less support for the approach where every citizen can see at least 3 trees from their home.
- a stronger preference for using a target relating to the change in heat intensity across all LGAs on a stable to decreasing trend, compared to 'no Adelaide suburb exhibits greater than 4 degrees Celsius average heat intensity by 2050'.





Increase tree canopy

From the public consultation, feedback about the 'increasing tree canopy' target suggested that:

- targets must have consequences for failed completion, particularly for developers
- targets should be simple and objective without room for loopholes
- reporting should be undertaken across smaller timeframes, such as every 2 to 3 years.
- measurement should emphasise tracking the equity of canopy across suburbs and land-use categories
- targets should include longer timeframes to ensure adequate time for investment and planning
- targets should reflect the needs of particular suburbs and areas to ensure equitable outcomes, rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach
- methodologies need to be consistent and easy to work with.

Improve plant species diversity

From the public consultation, feedback about the 'greater tree species diversity' target suggested that:

- a more complete baseline of data across all land categories is required before diversity can be accurately measured
- the focus should not be limited to tree diversity, but also include other vegetation types that are important for biodiversity
- there is an overreliance on local government street tree data, which does not capture the shared responsibility of increasing tree diversity across Adelaide
- measures for biodiversity should be region-specific and backed by research.

Reduce urban heat intensity

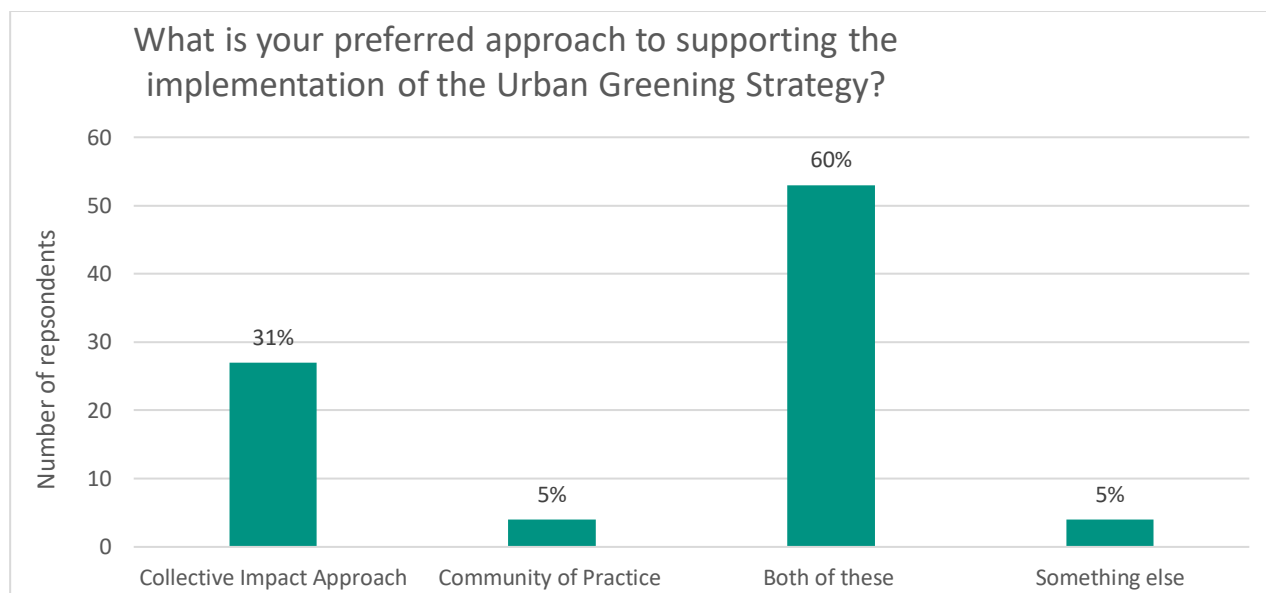
From the public consultation, feedback about the 'reducing urban heat intensity' target suggested that:

- measures should focus on the areas where people live, rather than less populated areas such as agricultural land
- data should be easily accessible and understood by councils for analysis and localised application
- the frequency of reporting urban heat intensity should coincide with tree canopy cover reporting to more fully support assessment of greening projects
- measurements should be taken at a smaller scale to capture localised heat problems.

Approaches to implementing the strategy

At the 3 targeted stakeholder workshops, a 'pulse check' was undertaken to gauge the preferred approach to implementing the Urban Greening Strategy.

The results of this 'pulse check' show very strong support for implementing both a collective impact and a community of practice approaches.



Commentary on the use of a collective impact approach included the need for:

- adequate resources, including sustained funding beyond electoral cycles and dedicated staff with mandated support to take action
- governance to be established that supports collective decision-making, endorsement and accountability processes
- any approach to be adaptable and responsive to emerging issues and opportunities
- a shared narrative about the benefits of urban greening
- efforts to be coordinated and avoid replication
- an annual forum for stakeholders to provide input on project ideas and updates, and enable coordination of budget bids.

Commentary on the use of a Community of Practice approach included the importance of:

- highlighting lessons learned, knowledge sharing, and celebrating the successes of the Urban Greening Strategy
- community education
- stakeholders working collectively rather than in parallel
- focusing on fostering collaboration and information sharing
- serving as a forum for professional development.

Potential topics for a Community of Practice included:

- Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design (BSUD): including improving how BSUD is quantified, how it is valued long-term, and forecasting any benefits
- identifying ways to quantify the asset valuation of greenery, including health and ecosystem services

- identifying key projects and initiatives for implementing the strategy.

Other feedback provided via the public consultation about approaches to implementing the strategy emphasised the need for collaborative action, with a particular focus on:

- ensuring collaboration between state and local government and relevant industries to update and develop planning policies and guidelines to support green outcomes within projects
- ensuring increased involvement by government in the private development sector, particularly to influence greater retention of green infrastructure within infill development
- providing greater funding to councils to enable improved local greening outcomes
- providing greater clarity within the strategy regarding future funding and commitments to practical on-ground implementation
- involving the community in greening projects, such as tree planting and maintenance of green spaces
- developing strong links between government bodies and local growers to ensure adequate supply of plants for future projects and to support the innovation of climate-resilient plants
- providing more clarity about roles and responsibilities in implementing the strategy and ensuring there is leadership and shared will for implementation.

This feedback has informed the amendment of Priority 6, as well as how to best support the implementation of the strategy.

Playing a role to help deliver the strategy

Feedback provided via the public consultation about the role that respondents or their organisation could play to help meet the vision of a cooler, leafier and more biodiverse Adelaide most commonly included:

- undertaking projects that prioritise increased greening and biodiversity
- delivering consistent education to the community on the benefits of urban greening and opportunities to make a difference.
- advocating for green, cool and biodiverse spaces to clients
- planting trees and vegetation within personal gardens
- planting trees within public spaces
- encouraging homeowners to develop their verges to support greater biodiversity
- incentivising tree planting on private land via rebates
- providing climate change data for the region.

Summary of key changes in response to consultation

The strategy has been strengthened in response to the consultation process in the following ways:

Priority Area 1: Cooler, Greener and Healthier Development

- This priority area has been broadened to include all development types (not just infill development). In reflection of this change, the term 'infill' has been removed from the title.
- This priority area has also been renamed to include 'healthier' in its title. This is to recognise the importance of urban greening to creating positive community health and wellbeing outcomes.

All priority areas

- Priority narratives have been updated to broaden them and to add additional clarity.
- Case studies have been updated to showcase additional contemporary examples of the work that has occurred and/or is underway.
- Some actions have been streamlined and some new and more proactive actions have been included such as:
 - Further incorporation of 'recognition and reward' as key mechanisms for showcasing good practice, setting a standard and incentivising behaviour change.
 - Better recognition for the important role that sporting and recreation facilities, linear parks, grants and incentives programs, engineering solutions and a strategic and coordinated research program play in urban greening.
 - Greater clarification of and recognition of the importance of the nursery industry, building the capacity of the arboriculture and horticulture industries, understanding future water needs and integrated water management approaches, expansion and improvement in quality of public open space.
 - Further emphasising the critical requirement for capacity building programs and to create knowledge hubs for WSUD, BSUD and nature-based solutions encompassing tertiary education programs and other industry learning forums. Further clarification about the importance of remnant native vegetation and 'diverse habitat' and 'not just trees' in relation to urban greening and taking this into account as part of economic valuation.

New section: Implementation approach

- A new 'implementation approach' section has been included to outline how the strategy will be implemented, including:
 - How partners will work together, including roles and responsibilities.
 - Clarifying the facilitation role that Green Adelaide will play in fostering a cross-sector collaboration process, recognising the diversity of expertise, roles and responsibilities held by a diversity of different sectors and professions.
 - The 7 principles for investment and prioritisation.
 - Funding mechanisms, such as co-investment, grants programs and potential new funding sources.

Extended section: Measuring success

- The 'Measuring success' section has been extended from 1 page to 14 pages. This is based on responding to the outcomes of the **Performance indicators and targets discussion paper**.
- This section now includes information about the:

- new 30% urban tree canopy target for metropolitan Adelaide
- performance investigation area for reducing urban heat
- performance investigation area for improving plant species diversity.

Legislation, Policy and Urban Greening Background Paper

- Additional suggestions will be incorporated into the **Legislation, Policy and Urban Greening Background Paper** to identify potential opportunities where adjustments to legislative and policy settings could improve urban greening outcomes.

Informing the implementation of the strategy

The outcomes of the consultation process will also inform the **implementation of the strategy** through:

- identifying priorities for action and where individual organisations might be interested in leading or partnering
- providing an opportunity to identify potential projects and initiatives
- identifying how Green Adelaide can best design a cross-sector collaboration process for different government and non-government partners to work together on shared urban greening projects in the future.

Appendix 1 – Summary of the pre-release consultation process

