

Draft Urban Greening Strategy for Metropolitan Adelaide

Priority areas

Key outcomes

Actions

1. Cooler and greener infill development

- Policy and legislation better support urban greening and are in line with national best-practice
- Developers and community have increased knowledge, motivation and capacity to practically and cost-effectively achieve greening, cooling and biodiversity outcomes
- New developments include trees by adopting innovative and cost effective solutions

- 1.1. Strengthen tree protection legislation (and associated off-set schemes) to align with best-practice and reflect the true value of existing trees
- 1.2. Review and refine the Urban Green Cover target (and policies) as part of the new Greater Adelaide Regional Plan
- 1.3. Monitor and enhance the Planning and Design Code and develop supporting tools to make it easier for developers to achieve, and go beyond, minimum requirements
- 1.4. Undertake coordinated metropolitan-wide campaigns (linked to incentives) targeted at improving urban greening outcomes
- 1.5. Develop a catalogue of costed housing designs that showcase practical and affordable greening, WSUD and BSUD
- 1.6. Work with the development sector to understand urban greening drivers and encourage innovation and adoption of best practice (including identifying effective incentives)
- 1.7. Develop best practice engineering solutions, planting and maintenance techniques to minimise conflicts between green and grey infrastructure (building footings and infrastructure)

2. Government leading by example

- Innovative and best practice green and blue infrastructure is showcased in government infrastructure works and major projects
- Barriers to BSUD and WSUD are solved to accelerate implementation
- Trees are appropriately valued as essential community assets that contribute to the wellbeing of our community and environment

- 2.1 Integrate urban greening and WSUD as part of business-as-usual in government projects including: transport infrastructure upgrades (particularly roads with a high level of pedestrian and cyclist activity); major land releases; new schools and significant upgrades; SA Water assets; healthcare facilities; other government land
- 2.2 State and local governments to deliver flagship greening, BSUD and WSUD projects that cross boundaries and set new benchmarks
- 2.3 Identify and implement solutions to key barriers to BSUD and WSUD in public infrastructure and projects, such as maintenance
- 2.4 Investigate alternative approaches to installing utilities infrastructure in roadways to create more space for trees.
- 2.5 Review restrictions on planting near utilities infrastructure, including permitted species lists
- 2.6 Determine and apply an agreed method for applying economic valuations to trees and other green infrastructure
- 2.7 Investigate including green infrastructure into public asset management systems and account for trees as appreciating assets

3. Building nature back in

- More biodiversity net gain development
- Increased motivation and capacity to undertake BSUD (government, council, developer, and community)
- Areas of valued native vegetation and critical habitat are protected

- 3.1 Investigate how the planning system and other government legislation could best facilitate biodiversity net gain development
- 3.2 Develop a BSUD capacity-building program, including design guidance, for the government, the development sectors and the community
- 3.3 Develop a region-wide approach to supporting individuals and community groups to undertake biodiverse urban greening on private land, open space and schools, and/or verge planting along strategic corridors
- 3.4 Map remnant vegetation and critical habitat and spatially represent in the Greater Adelaide Regional Plan and the Planning and Design Code to minimise development impacts

4. Future proofing our urban forest

- Increased knowledge and availability of locally endemic and climate-resilient plant species
- Improved urban forest resilience and health
- Government, councils, developers and community motivation and capacity is increased

- 4.1 Develop up-to-date guidance to drive appropriate and climate-resilient species selection in a variety of contexts
- 4.2 Undertake trials to identify appropriate trees for Adelaide's projected future climate
- 4.3 Investigate ways to increase the provision of local endemic and climate-resilient plant species and seed at scale
- 4.4 Identify and solve threats to the health of the urban forest from pests and diseases
- 4.5 Model future water demands for meeting greening targets and support greater use of WSUD and recycled water
- 4.6 Scale up established WSUD capacity-building programs that are working well

5. Improving greening equity

- Urban greening investments are prioritised in areas of low greenery, high urban heat and high socio-economic disadvantage
- Priority areas for new and/or improved green open space are identified
- Locations for new feasible plantings are identified to expand the urban forest

- 5.1 Refine the Greening Prioritisation Pilot Study and consider the inclusion of additional datasets
- 5.2 Develop a greening prioritisation tool and investigate how it could be used in urban green investment decision-making, including relevant grants programs
- 5.3 Integrate urban heat mapping into the planning system and identify an appropriate policy response
- 5.4 Prepare an open space strategy to identify priority areas for new or improved green open space and tree canopy
- 5.5 Identify the potential locations of 'new plantable space' for trees

6. Scaling up impact by working together

- Roles and responsibilities are clear, learnings are shared, co-investment is optimised and cross-sector challenges are addressed
- Quality information, research and guidance to achieve urban greening is available to all
- Aboriginal wisdom is recognised and partnership opportunities are facilitated

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

Vision: A resilient and liveable Adelaide for all: cooler, leafier and more biodiverse

Measuring performance

1. Increased urban tree canopy

2. Greater tree species diversity

3. Reduced urban heat

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