

DRAFT URBAN FOREST STRATEGY

MARCH 2024

An Urban Forest is a nature-based solution to urban challenges such as summer heat and climate impacts. The Strategy has been prepared so Mildura's tree population grows each year in a way that ensures:

- Shade is maximised;
- Tree health is prioritised;
- All neighbourhoods have fair access to trees; and
- Species selection is appropriate.

WHY DOES MILDURA NEED AN URBAN FOREST STRATEGY?

Mildura and surrounding smaller towns experience hot summers. Urban areas experience these hot summers more intensely as there are more dark surfaces that absorb heat (this is known as the urban heat island effect). Trees provide shade and help our streets feel cooler. There are a number of other environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits of having more trees too.

WHERE WILL THE TREES BE PLANTED?

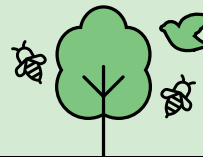
The actions in the Strategy are focused on land that Council manages (like nature strips and roads). Although the Strategy focusses on government-owned land, an open invitation is extended to all landowners to join with Council in creating a Mildura that is more attractive and a cooler place to live in summer.



We have prepared a Draft Mildura Urban Forest Strategy and are now inviting you to provide feedback.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Reduce carbon
Minimise stormwater runoff
Reduced air pollution
Habitat
Flood risk mitigation



SOCIAL BENEFITS

Increased pedestrianism
Social cohesion
Reduced stress
Identity of place
More appealing streetscapes
Reduces sun exposure



CULTURAL BENEFITS

Creation of local identity
Reinforcing traditional owner's status
Culturally significant trees



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Increased property values
Reduced energy costs
Reduction in health related costs
Retail / food and beverage spending



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THE STRUCTURE

The Draft Urban Forest Strategy comprises a vision, objectives, strategies and actions as identified in the figure below.

There are also four targets that Council will measure its tree population against as the Strategy is implemented. These targets relate to:

- Distribution of trees;
- Tree health;
- Canopy cover or shade; and
- Species diversity.

An implementation strategy will guide the delivery of the actions in the document, the progress of this implementation will be monitored and reviewed over time.

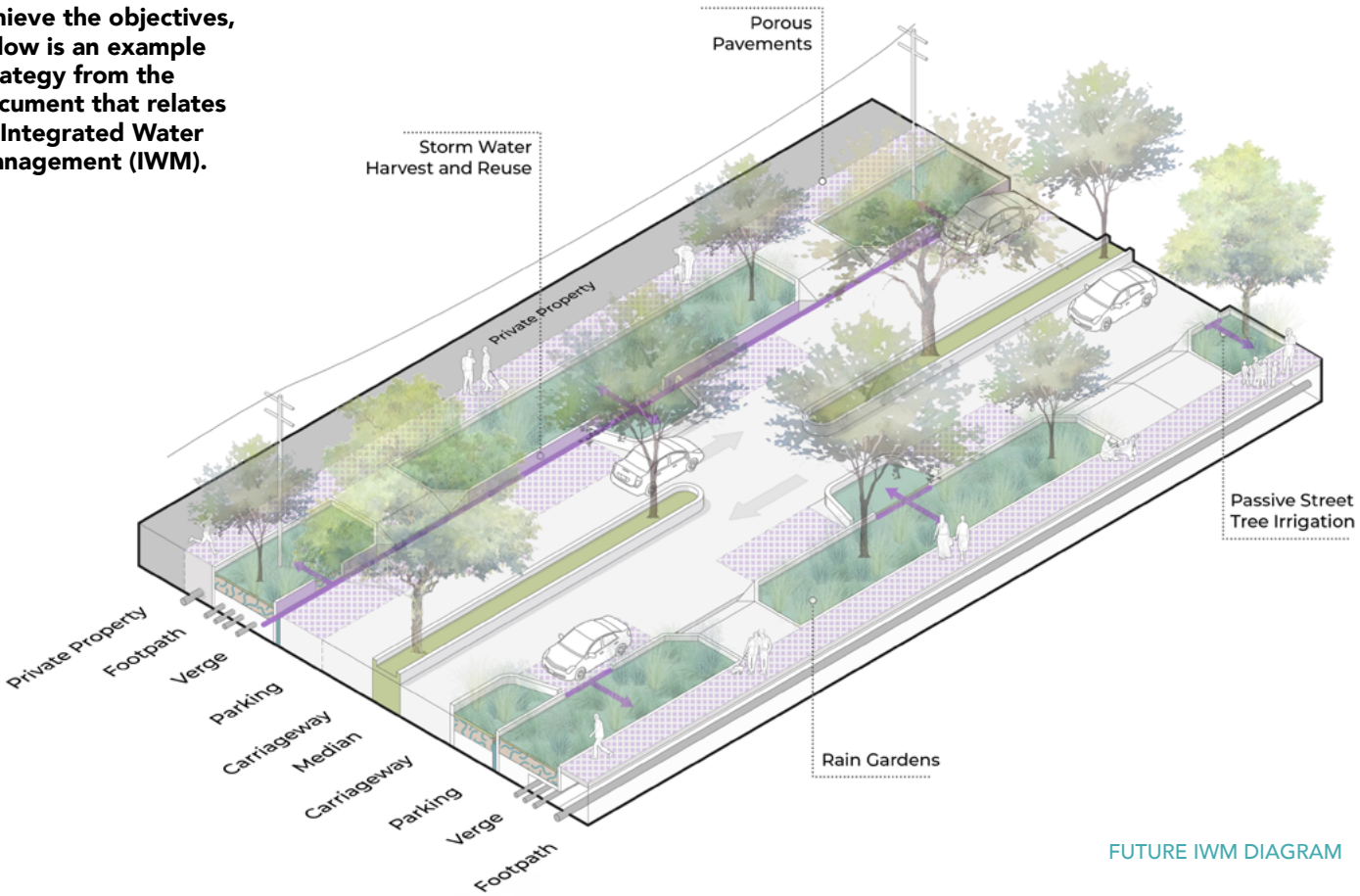


EXAMPLE STRATEGY

Strategy 9 - Implement best practice integrated water management solutions

The Urban Forest Strategy document includes 13 strategies which outline how to achieve the objectives, below is an example strategy from the document that relates to Integrated Water Management (IWM).

This strategy seeks to implement improvements to way trees are kept watered and healthy as identified in the diagram below.



VISION

Mildura is home to a thriving urban forest that enhances community wellbeing and ensures current and future generations can enjoy the many benefits of trees.

Drawing on the collective effort of Council and the community, Mildura’s urban greening initiatives are underpinned by evidence-based decision-making to respond to the local climate and sustain the ever-expanding tree canopy.

OBJECTIVES

These objectives outline what the strategy aims to achieve in terms of policy, partnerships and planting methods.

- OBJECTIVE 1
Greening is at the forefront of decision making.
- OBJECTIVE 2
Tree planting & maintenance is responsive.
- OBJECTIVE 3
Partnerships contribute to urban greening efforts.

Image of street in Merbein (current)



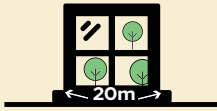
Image of how this street could be improved through increased tree plantings in the nature strips and central median.



STRATEGY TARGETS

The targets are aimed at maximizing the resilience, effectiveness and overall health of the tree population.

TREE DISTRIBUTION



TARGET

Ensure lots have visibility to at least 3 trees within 20 metres from their lot frontage.

TREE CANOPY COVERAGE



TARGET

Achieve a 30% net canopy coverage.

USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY (ULE)



TARGET

Ensure no more than 10% of the tree population has a ULE under 10 years.

SPECIES DIVERSITY



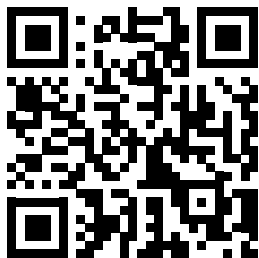
TARGET

Achieve a 10/20/30 mix, a tree population should not be comprised by more than 10% of any one species, 20% of any one genus and 30% of any one family.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The Urban Forest Strategy will be available for public feedback between Tuesday 12 March and Friday 19 April 2024.

You can access the Strategy and provide your feedback by [clicking here](#), or by scanning this QR code.



WANT TO HEAR MORE?

We will be hosting in person consultation Pop-up events at the Powerhouse Precinct on Hugh King Drive in Mildura.

Friday 15 March 1pm - 3.30pm Powerhouse Place

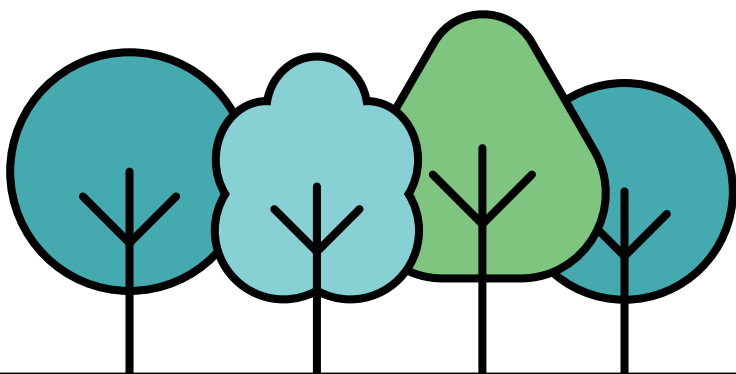
Saturday 16 March 10am - 12pm Powerhouse Place

Sunday 14 April 10am - 12pm Powerhouse Place

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Following your feedback, the draft Urban Forest Strategy will be updated and finalised for Council adoption. The actions within the Strategy will form part of Council's work program.

WE ARE AIMING TO COMPLETE THE FINAL STRATEGY BY JUNE 2024 .



DID WE GET IT RIGHT?

WE'VE DONE OUR HOMEWORK AND LISTENED TO YOUR EARLIER FEEDBACK AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

What do you think of the targets, issues and opportunities discussed in the draft Strategy?

What are your main areas of interest / key priorities and why?

What ideas have we missed?

What is important to you in terms of trees in your community?

What do you value?
e.g. shade, colour, amenity, iconic trees etc.

TIMELINE

- ☒ Aug 2022 **Commencement**
- ☒ Nov - Dec 2022 **Round 1 Consultation**
- ☒ Dec 2022 - Feb 2023
Principle & Strategy Development
- ☒ Mar - May 2023 **Round 2 Consultation**
- ☒ Jun 2023 - Feb 2024 **Prepare Strategy**
- ☐ **Mar - Apr 2024 (we are here now)**
ROUND 3 CONSULTATION
- ☐ May - Jun 2024
Finalise Strategy for Adoption



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