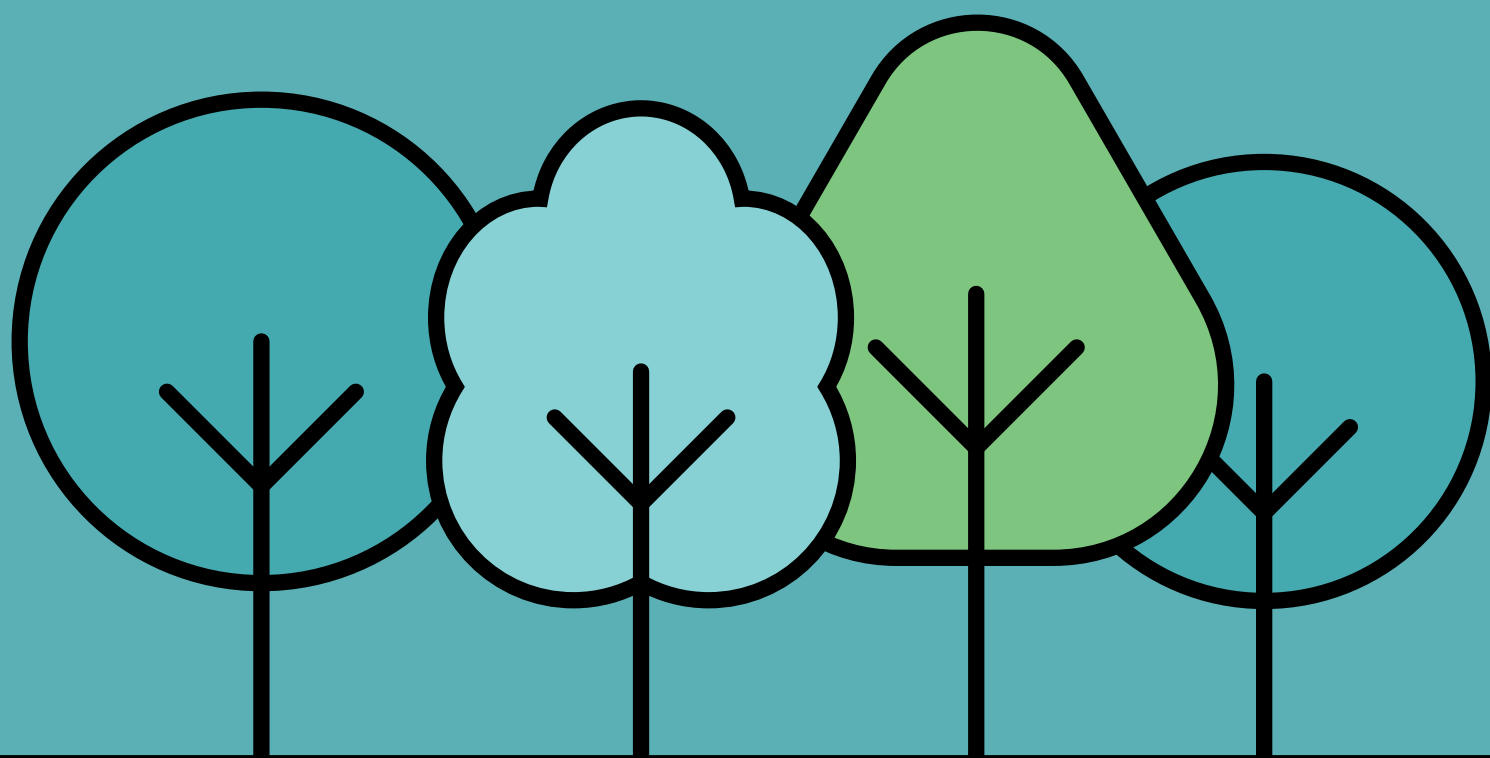


4. STRATEGIC PLAN

This section sets out the Strategic Plan comprising the thirteen strategies that will be used to achieve the vision and objectives for Mildura's urban forest.



4.1 VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision and objectives for Mildura’s urban forest strategy have been prepared with careful consideration to the knowledge and aspirations shared by the community and stakeholders during consultation activities and workshops as well as the analysis presented in the Existing Conditions section of this Strategy. The Structure of the Urban Forest Strategy Strategic Plan Section is identified below.

VISION + OBJECTIVES

The Vision and Objectives are what the Strategy is seeking to achieve.



STRATEGIES + ACTIONS

The Strategies discuss how we are going to get there and the Actions outline the further work that needs to occur.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Outlines the timing + responsibilities for the delivery of each Action.



URBAN FOREST STRATEGY TARGETS

Delivering the Strategies and Actions will result in progress towards achieving the 4x Urban Forest Targets is how we manage success.

MONITORING + REVIEW

Outlines the approach for reviewing delivery of Actions and monitoring progress against each of the Targets.

Image of street in Merbein (current)



Image of street in Merbein, showing visual interpretation of urban forest opportunities (potential future)

Through visual representation, this image of a street in Merbein has been embellished with nature strip plantings. As identified in the Background chapter, introducing more shade on concreted areas such as roads has the opportunity to mitigate against the urban heat island affect.

The benefits of central median plantings area:

Utilising the wide road reservations to plant canopy generating trees.

Provides shade to existing road surfaces.

They are generally free from the impediments of above and below ground servicing infrastructure, including above ground powerlines.



4.2 VISION STATEMENT

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.

4.3 OBJECTIVES FOR THE URBAN FOREST

There are three guiding Objectives for the Strategy. Each Objective is supported by a series of strategies that identify how the objective will be achieved.

OBJECTIVE 1

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

Objective 1 seeks to adapt planning and policy conditions to shape tree distribution, coverage, species selection and tree health across the municipality. This includes the use of integrated policy methods to support urban greening initiatives, and the use of planning controls to support gains in net canopy coverage.

Strategy 1 Utilise planning scheme controls to deliver urban forest targets.

Strategy 2 Embed urban forest aspirations and targets into existing Council strategies.

Strategy 3 Utilise coordinated policy and strategy to deliver sustainable place-based tree planting and watering approaches.

Strategy 4 Optimise collaboration within Council to achieve urban forest outcomes.

OBJECTIVE 2

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

Objective 2 seeks to implement place-based planting and watering approaches, that responds to the physical environmental conditions. This objective aims to incorporate innovative infrastructure solutions to reduce maintenance requirements and implement sustainable water management practice.

Strategy 5 Adapt planting methods to respond to site conditions.

Strategy 6 Direct new plantings to priority areas.

Strategy 7 Determine areas for new tree planting sites.

Strategy 8 Select tree species in response to site context.

Strategy 9 Implement best practice integrated water management solutions.

OBJECTIVE 3

PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN GREENING EFFORTS.

Objective 3 seeks to strengthen stakeholder participation in decision-making and tree management practice, recognising that positive urban forest outcomes require multi-sectoral involvement to achieve an equitable distribution of greenery and maximised community benefit. This includes participation from community groups and private sectors to assist with tree planting, watering, seasonal pruning and general care.

Strategy 10 Promote tree education and awareness with the community.

Strategy 11 Reinforce the character, culture / image and highlight the value placed on significant trees.

Strategy 12 Involve the community in urban forest decision making.

Strategy 13 Advocate to key government agencies and authorities to improve the urban forest.



OBJECTIVE 1

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

Council has several policies and strategies that aim to support Mildura's urban tree population, such as the *Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025*, the *Environmental Sustainability Report 2019 – 2020*, and the *CBD Access and Mobility Strategy*. However, there is an opportunity within these policies to identify tree planting targets for Council to strive towards consistent with the Strategy. There is also further opportunity to develop an organisational structure that supports a coordinated approach to ensuring Mildura's urban forest thrives, progressively as each new residential subdivision is approved, each annual tree planting program is implemented and each new protected bike network is designed.

Improving the integration of urban forest outcomes across Council policy and strategy will help establish a consistent effort across internal departments to improve tree outcomes. This improved internal coordination will strengthen Council's message when communicating expectations to development proponents and other organisations that interact with Council.

The Mildura Rural City Council Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) is a key mechanism to implement and incorporate urban forest objectives into local policy. This approach elevates the responsibility of the development sector to deliver better tree planting outcomes in partnership with Council and consistent with existing planning scheme provisions.



OBJECTIVE 1

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

STRATEGY 1

Utilise planning scheme controls to deliver urban forest targets.

The planning scheme currently includes general aspirations to improve the urban forest. Embedding the specific urban forest outcomes and targets that are set out in this Strategy within the Planning Scheme (See Table 3) ensures Council's aspiration for improved urban forest outcomes are made clear for all future development proponents. This ensures urban forest outcomes are responded to via planning permit applications and the preparation of strategic plans and planning scheme amendments for sites across the municipality.

While the success of the Strategy is not dependant on this Planning Scheme Amendment (a process which can take up to 2 years), this amendment will strengthen the guidance and requirements for permit applications when it comes to making decisions about trees as part of new developments.

Planning Scheme Section	Recommended Planning Scheme Update / Inclusion
Updates to existing planning scheme local policy	
Clause 12.01-1L Protection of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include a strategy that references the benefits the urban forest provides for biodiversity in terms of habitat provision.
Clause 15.01-1L Urban design in Mildura	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include a strategy that references the urban forest as a key urban design outcome.
Inclusions as part of new provisions	
Residential zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include neighbourhood character objectives related to the urban forest in the application of any new schedules or amendments to existing schedules of the residential zones.• Include requirements for tree planting in decision guidelines as part of the application of or amendment to schedules to residential zones.
Development Plan Overlay (DPO)	<p>A DPO may be applied to guide the development of a new subdivision area or to establish direction for change in an established area, if relevant all future DPO schedules should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include a requirement in the "requirement for development plan" for planting of new trees consistent with the targets in this strategy.
Design and Development Overlay (DDO)	<p>A DDO may be applied to an activity centre or key development corridor, if relevant all future DDO schedules should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include a landscaping section under buildings and works requirements that requires tree planting consistent with the guidance in this strategy.• Include decision guidelines related to the provision of trees to contribute to the urban forest.

Table 3. Planning scheme opportunities

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

STRATEGY 2

Embed urban forest aspirations and targets into existing Council strategies.

Council's existing strategies provide general guidance related to urban forest outcomes (see Table 4). Embedding urban forest targets into these strategies will enable Council departments to factor urban greening into decision making to more effectively achieve urban forest targets.

Existing Strategy	Relevance to urban forest	Recommended updates
<i>Council Plan 2021 – 2025</i>	Seeks a net increase in canopy coverage.	Include urban forest targets in the next version of the Council Plan.
<i>Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025</i>	Seeks to improve net canopy coverage in urban areas.	Outline the benefits of achieving urban forest outcomes. Include reference to urban forest targets.
<i>Environmental Sustainability Report 2019 - 2020</i>	Establishes a series of targets for environmental sustainability outcomes. Includes targets related to biodiversity.	Include urban forest targets as a key contributor to environmental sustainability outcomes.
<i>MRCC Public Open Space Strategy 2021</i>	Guides Councils provision and management of public open space. Seeks to increase shade within public open space areas.	Include urban forest targets as a key contributor to improving shade outcomes within open space areas.
<i>CBD Plan 2020-35</i>	Aims to improve the public realm by introducing a series of guidelines aimed at increasing tree coverage, improving species diversity and using water sensitive urban design.	Include urban forest targets and guidance around innovative planting approaches in concreted areas (refer to Table 7).
<i>CBD Access and Mobility Strategy</i>	Shade is important the comfort of people commuting to and within the CBD. Creating more shade within the CBD is a key recommendation of this Strategy.	Update Section 4.5 to specify where new plantings should be prioritised as per the Priority Area Mapping undertaken for the Urban Forest Strategy.
<i>The Cool It Project (2018)</i>	Identifies areas in the municipality that are most in need of urban greenery and makes recommendations on tree distribution and canopy coverage.	Include urban forest targets as key determiners in defining priority "Cool It Project" sites.
<i>Significant Tree Register (2020)</i>	Recognises the value of trees in the community, acknowledging their: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and social value • Ecological and environmental value • Personal and spiritual value • Practical and commercial value • Property value and economic value 	Review to include consideration of trees with cultural heritage value and expand to include trees on private land (discussed in Strategy 11 and 12).

Table 4. Recommended updates to existing Council strategies

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

STRATEGY 3

Utilise coordinated policy and strategy to deliver sustainable place-based tree planting and watering approaches.

Tree planting and maintenance practice forms a key component of Council's existing policies and strategies, and these documents provide guidance for Council and development proponents about planting and caring for trees. There is further opportunity to incorporate place-based planting and maintenance guidance (see Objective 2) into these documents.

Policy / Strategy	Relevance to Urban Forest	Recommended Update / Inclusion
Existing policy / strategy		
<i>Urban Nature Strip Policy</i>	Provides policy direction in relation to the use and maintenance of nature strips in residential areas throughout the municipality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase restrictions on tree removal to prioritise the protection of healthy trees. • Specify the targets for the urban forest strategy in the "important part of the landscape" section to highlight the opportunity nature strips play in contributing to the urban forest. • In the "nature strip maintenance section" identify opportunities for community to engage in caring for the nature strip, as identified in Strategy 12.
<i>MRCC Urban Tree Strategy 2021-2026</i>	Seeks to strengthen Council's approach to tree planting, such as watering practice, maintenance, protection (including penalties for removal), risk management and education .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the "priority area" section to reference best practice planting and watering approaches identified in Tables 6, 7 and 9. Update the "education and awareness" section to reference the education and partnership opportunities identified Strategy 11. • Review the "Tree Protection" section to ensure penalties for tree vandalism and removal of trees are reflective of the aspirations this Strategy sets for improved canopy outcomes and reflect these in new or revised local laws.
<i>Tree Database</i>	Provides guidance on tree species selection by detailing information such as tree height, suitable planting settings and hardiness.	<p>Include further technical information to provide a greater level of detail for Council and development proponents on species selection decision including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considerations related to soil volume and watering requirements. • A column for preferred maintenance approaches to be used for maintenance handover to establish consistency across contractors. • Guidance on species which present certain characteristics to contribute to particular outcomes sought i.e. seasonal, CBD – shade, foliage colour, suitability for constrained environment.
New Council policy		
<i>Landscape Guidelines</i>	The preparation of a landscape guidelines document is a mechanism to provide accountability to development proponents to deliver on urban forest targets and best-practice planting methods. This future document would seek to provide clear guidance to architects, designers and contractors of Council to deliver on urban forest targets through the preparation of landscape plans for new developments.	<p>Require the proponent to outline how they are delivering on urban forest targets by demonstrating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The master plan is supporting the achievement of urban forest strategy targets (distribution, canopy coverage, ULE and diversity). • The master plan includes best practice planting and watering methods. <p>The guidelines should include preferred landscape considerations and outcomes such as materiality, infrastructure requirements and drainage.</p>

Table 5. Recommended updates to Council policy and strategy

GREENING IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF DECISION MAKING.

STRATEGY 4

Optimise collaboration within Council to achieve urban forest outcomes.

The responsibility for the success of the urban forest interacts across a range of Council departments including parks and gardens, open space, planning and engineering. Ensuring these departments are collaborating on the implementation of the Strategy is key to seeing an ever-expanding urban forest.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COUNCIL COLLABORATION INCLUDE:

- Delivering potential pathways to improve tree canopy outcome in privately owned spaces such as residential blocks and commercial areas including car parks.
- Monitoring and reviewing the implementation of actions within this strategy.
- Partnering on specific targeted projects to deliver an expanded urban forest.
- Ensuring cross Council collaboration on planning permit applications to ensure tree planting requirements form part of an approved landscape plan and are a standard condition on all planning permits issued for residential, industrial and commercial development.



OBJECTIVE 2

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

The use of place-based planting and watering methods is key to ensuring tree health and achieving a sustainable urban forest. Decisions regarding species selection, soil type and volume, watering, and maintenance practice should be site-specific and climate responsive.

Council and development proponents must strive for best practice planting, maintenance and watering approaches to support tree health and the achievement of urban forest strategy targets.

STRATEGY 5

Adapt planting methods to respond to site conditions.

The approach to planting new trees should ensure tree health is prioritised for urban forest targets to be met. The aim is to maximise the ULE of the tree so it remains in the landscape and contributes to the other urban forest targets related to diversity, distribution and canopy coverage.

Table 6 and Figure 15 outline techniques that can be applied to future tree planting in Mildura in order to create the conditions in which the tree will thrive.

Conditions	Purpose	Opportunity
Planting Trench	Tree canopy is limited by the space it has to grow. Ensuring sufficient soil volume will allow enough space for the tree to grow to its full potential.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soil volume requirements will vary from tree to tree. General guidance related to soil volume suggests the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small trees require between 11-19m³• Medium trees require between 19-43m³• Large trees require greater than 43m³• Tarmac should be minimised and grassed or mulched trenches implemented to maximise water and nutrients to the soil and roots.
Soil Type and Quality	Soil type and quality promote healthy tree growth. Soil type must be site specific and is a key consideration for species selection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement soil testing to provide an in-depth understanding of existing conditions.• Use soil cells to promote better chances for healthy root growth.• Use structural soil to allow tree roots to grow in hard stand areas. Ensure no soil compaction has occurred prior to tree installation.
Servicing infrastructure	Above ground and below ground servicing infrastructure impacts the health and size of a tree.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerial bundling of above ground power lines.• Undergrounding of power lines.• Consider the locations of below ground servicing infrastructure as part of decisions related to tree planting.• Utilise root barriers to guide tree roots away from underground utilities.

Table 6. Tree planting conditions opportunities

DID YOU KNOW?

ROOT BARRIER

A root barrier is an underground container for the root system of a tree, which guides the direction of tree roots to prevent it from impacting on underground utilities and services.

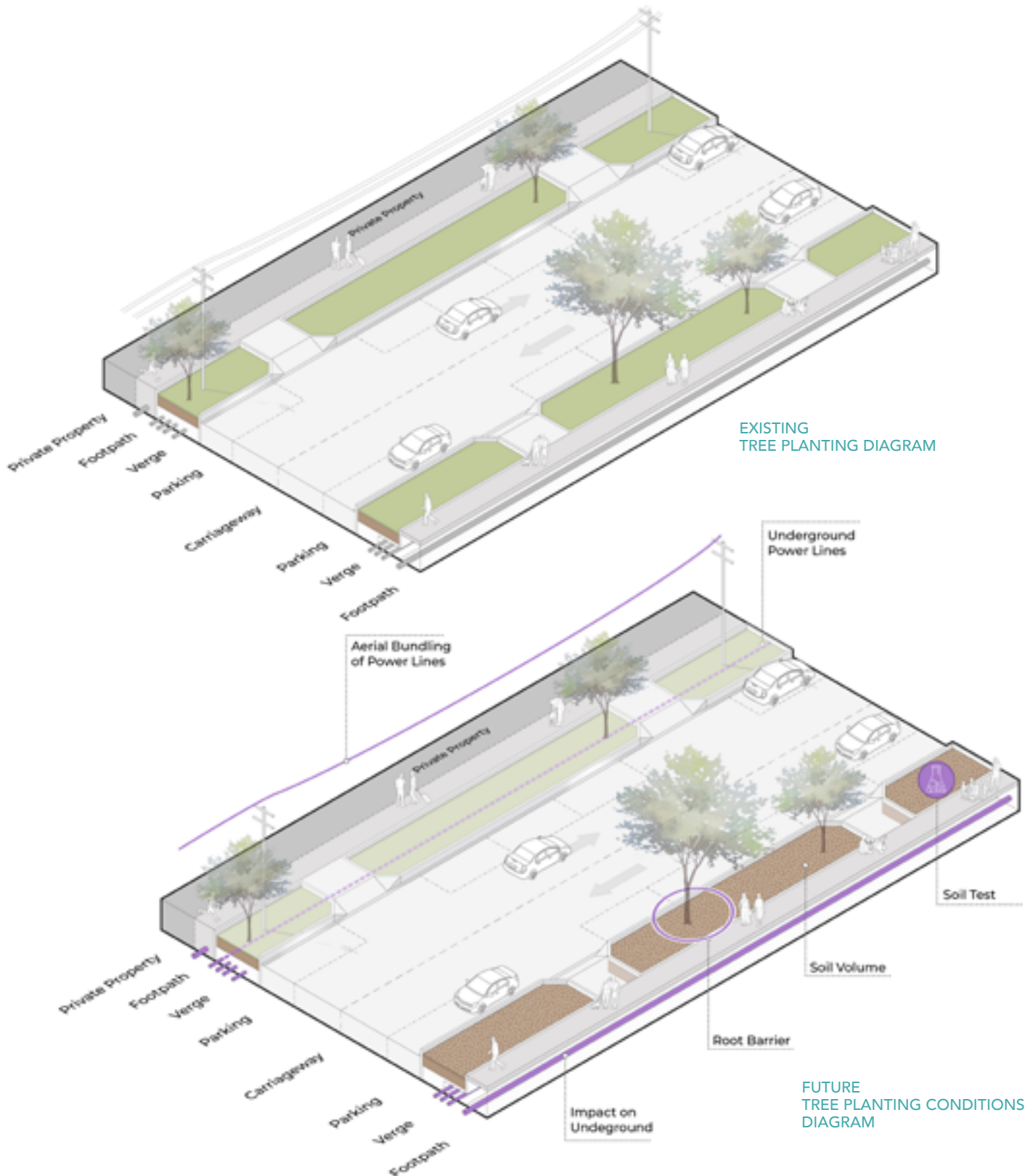


Figure 15. Existing and future diagram - tree planting conditions

OBJECTIVE 2

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

STRATEGY 6

Direct new plantings to priority areas.

Across the four settlements of Mildura, Irymple, Merbein and Red Cliffs, there are key locations where future tree planting should be directed and prioritised. These priority areas (see Figure 16) enable Council to focus resources on the areas with the most need. The following criteria was used to determine priority areas:

- A location where Homewood identified a potential planting site (Refer to Figure 16).
- A location that underperformed against the urban forest targets as identified by the existing conditions analysis (Part 3)
- A location that experiences extreme surface temperatures as identified in the heat mapping results (Part 2).
- A location that is a key community activity area (retail, hospitality, car parking, banks, post office, health facilities, gathering areas, etc.).
- A location that comprises a key pedestrian route or township gateway
- A location where new residential development is planned.

The priority area mapping provides an opportunity to focus resourcing in the areas of the most need.



Image of a new subdivision

POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES

Within the priority areas, tree planting decisions must consider the locations of cross overs, servicing infrastructure and proximity to other existing or future trees. Homewood Consulting have assessed these contextual conditions and identified potential planting sites across Irymple, Merbein, Mildura and Red Cliffs (Figure 16).

These potential planting sites have been identified based on the following criteria:

- Planting areas in established and recently developed nature strips
- Spacing is aimed to achieve 1 tree per dwelling in a residential area but where long runs of planning sites are recorded, spacing is approximately 15 metres.
- Potential planting sites are not identified where the nature strip is less than one metre in width.
- Potential planting sites are identified based on the following minimum distances:
 - 3.5 metres from cross overs / driveways.
 - 3 metres from power / lighting poles or fire hydrants.
 - 1 metre from water meters and storm water pipes.
 - 9 metres from property boundaries on a corner block.

Across the four townships there are the following potential planting sites:

MILDURA	5,180
IRYMPLE	835
RED CLIFFS	680
MERBEIN	370

The potential planning sites provide Council the information they need to get trees in the ground quickly as preliminary investigations have occurred by a qualified arborist in relation to suitability for tree planting.

It is recommended that Council aims to plant approximately 1,400 trees per year, focusing on these priority planting sites, in order to fill these identified planting sites within a 5-year period.

EXAMPLE PROJECT

ABOVE GROUND POWERLINES

The location of above ground powerlines is an important consideration for Mildura's expanding urban forest. As required by servicing operations, trees must be pruned around powerlines to ensure there is a substantial clearance between the tree and the powerlines. As such, the continuous pruning of trees near powerlines undermines the progress made in expanding street tree canopy coverage.

There is further opportunity to pursue negotiations with PowerCor to work towards a funded aerial bundling transition plan to alleviate the conflict between street trees and overhead power lines in older urban areas.

An example from NSW demonstrates a proactive solution to the conflict between powerlines and tree canopy coverage. Ausgrid (the equivalent of PowerCor in a Mildura context) has proposed a \$20 million jointly funded program to aerial bundle powerlines across several Sydney Council areas.

This process involves gathering exposed wires in a package to reduce the need for sever pruning to avoid this outcome:

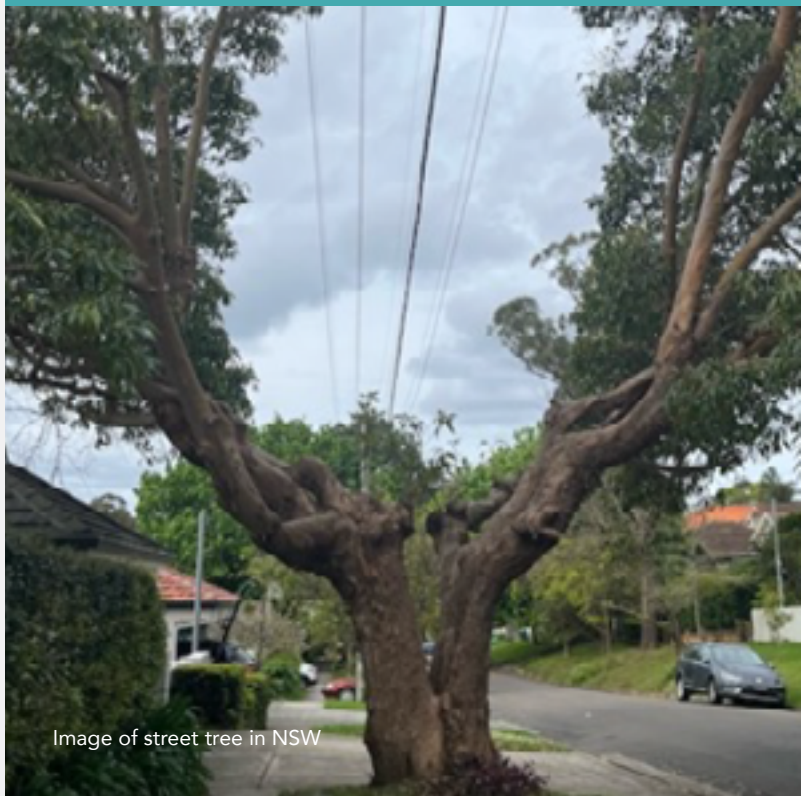
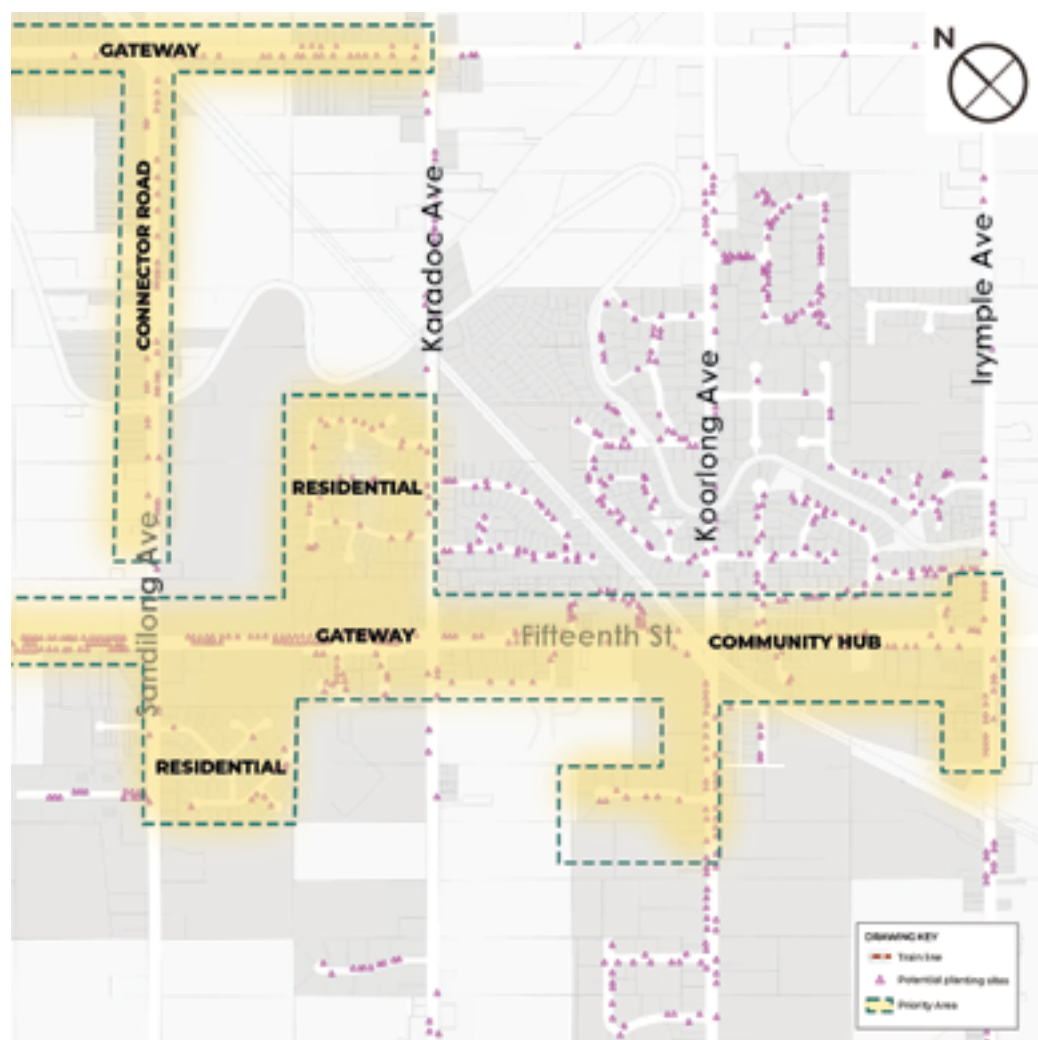


Image of street tree in NSW

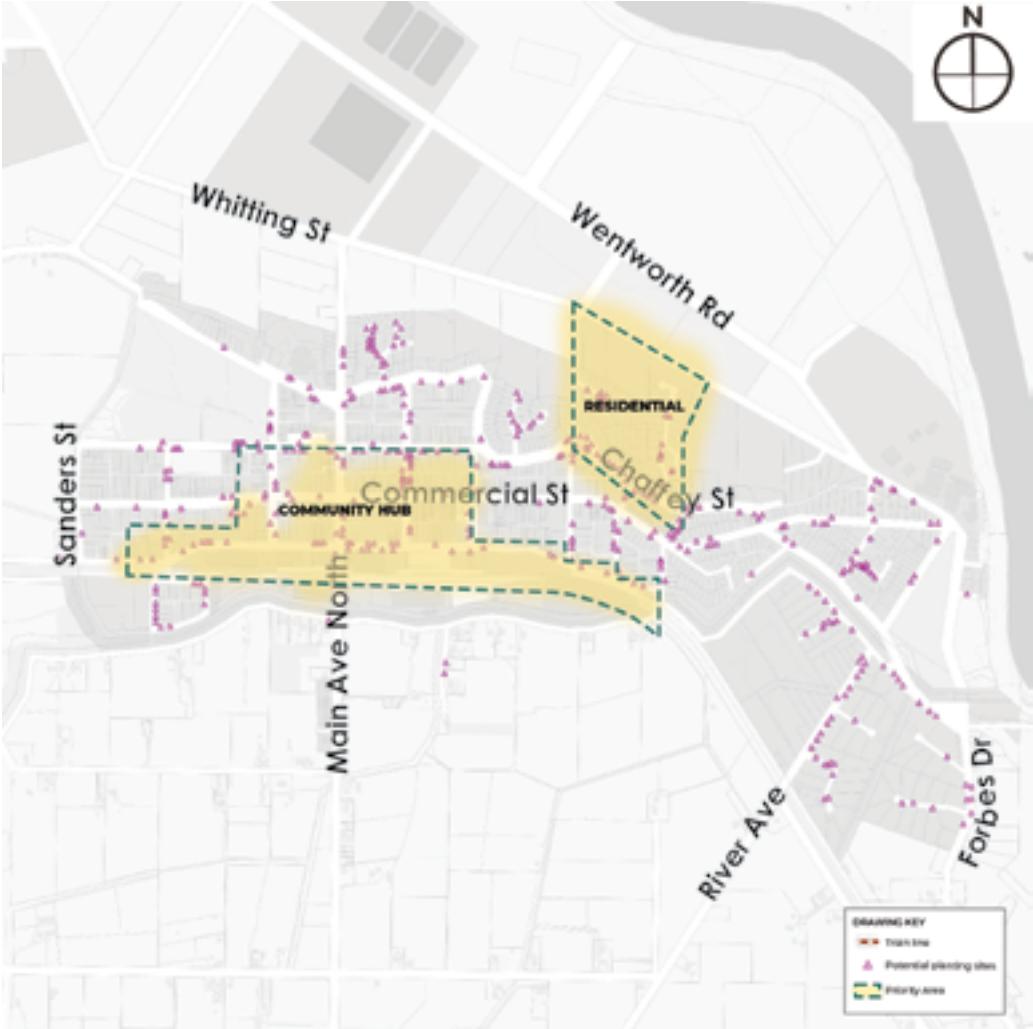


IRYMPLE

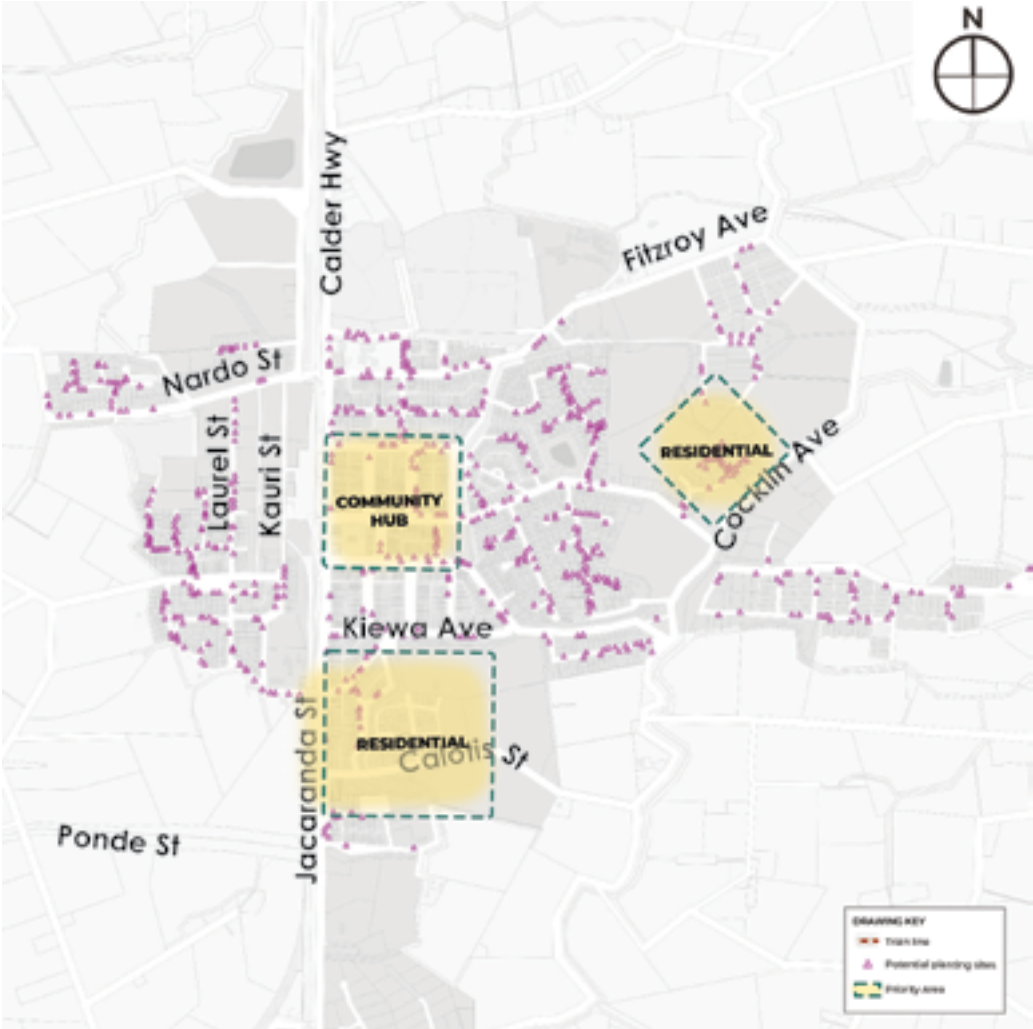


MILDURA

MERBEIN



RED CLIFFS



- PRIORITY AREAS
- TRAIN LINE
- POTENTIAL PLANTING SITES

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

STRATEGY 7

Determine areas for new tree planting sites.

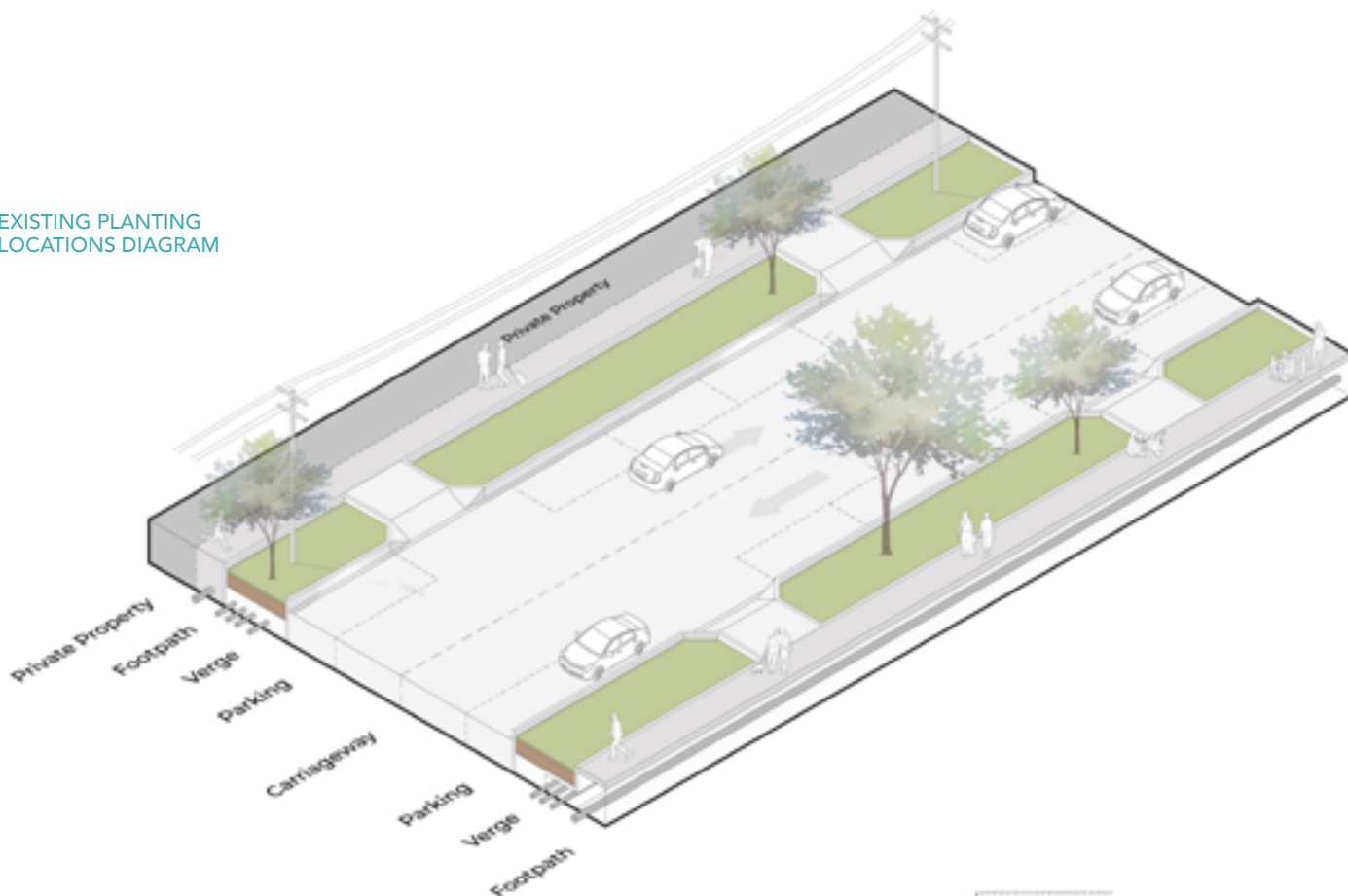
To deliver on urban forest targets, Council will need to identify new planting sites in existing and future road cross sections and other concreted areas such as car parks and spaces.

Across the municipality, wide roads facilitate opportunities for tree plantings in central medians and tree outstands (See Table 7 and Figure 17). Tree outstands are an important site in heavily concreted areas such as the Mildura CBD, where new planting sites need to be identified.

Tree Planting Sites	Purpose	Opportunity
Roads in new subdivisions	The selection of tree species and associated planting should be considered at a contextual scale to deliver distribution and species diversity targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A street tree masterplan should be prepared to deliver a cohesive and integrated approach to tree planting design. Consider the species of tree plantings within the surrounds of the vacant planting site to ensure minimisation of monocultures across large areas, therefore reducing risks of tree loss due to pest and disease outbreaks. Construct dual driveways to allow more area for tree planting in verges.
Wide existing roads	Wide cross sections provide space for additional planting, and will help to eliminate large areas of tarmac.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review existing road cross sections to introduce a central median strip that can accommodate large canopy trees given the lack of constraints otherwise imposed by overhead powerlines and underground services within verges. The trench size should respond to the guidance provided in Table 6. Bundle power lines together (where feasible) to increase area for large canopy tree planting below/ adjacent to overhead power lines.
Car parks / car spaces	Underutilised car parks and car space provide space for additional plantings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review on street car parking spaces to be replaced with tree outstands. This will allow for an additional row of trees along any streetscape. Engage Traffic Engineer to reconfigure off street car parks to provide space for trees.

Table 7. Tree planting location opportunities

EXISTING PLANTING LOCATIONS DIAGRAM



FUTURE PLANTING LOCATIONS CONSIDERATIONS DIAGRAM

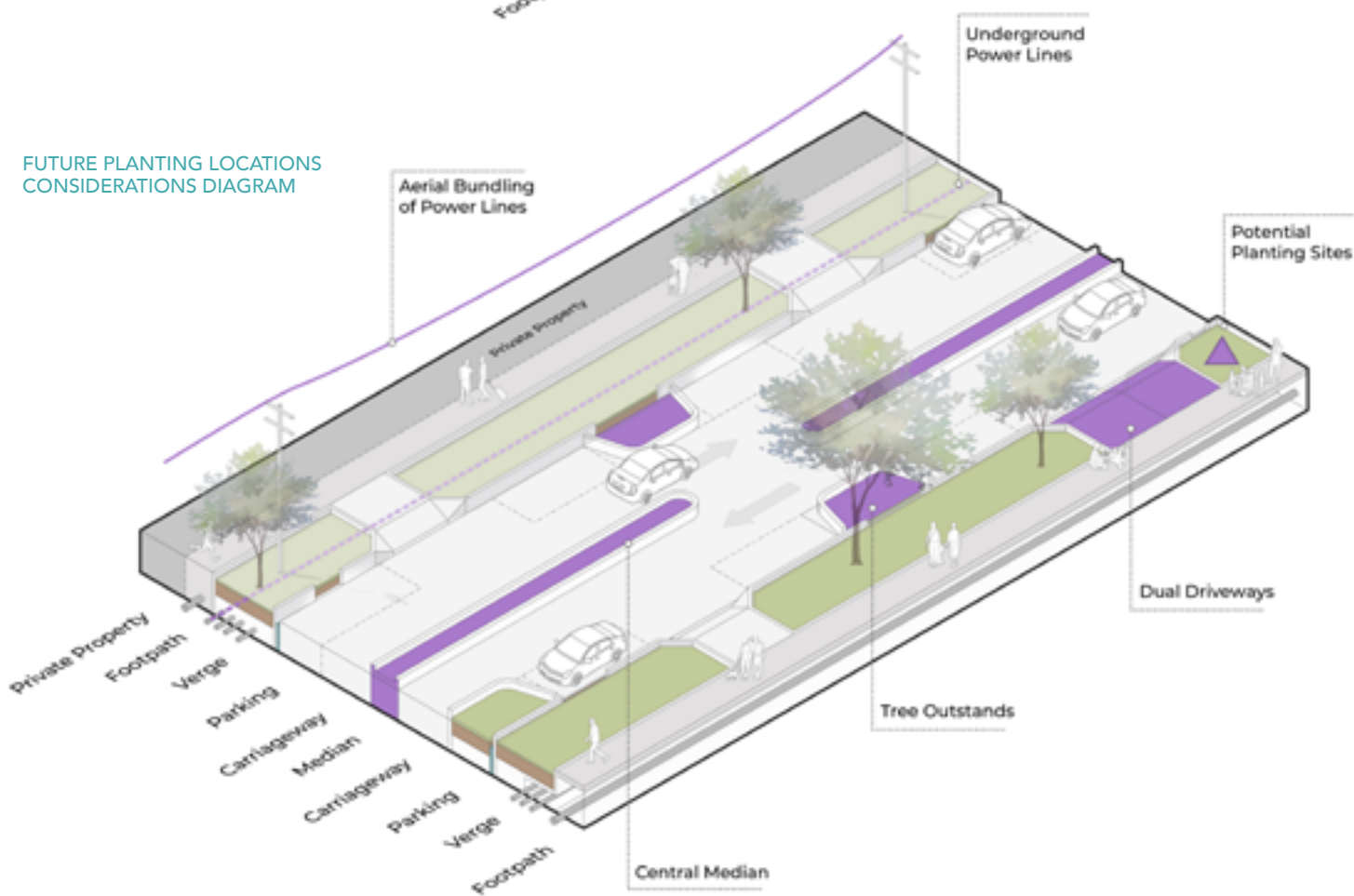


Figure 17. Existing and future diagrams - planting location considerations

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE
TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

STRATEGY 8

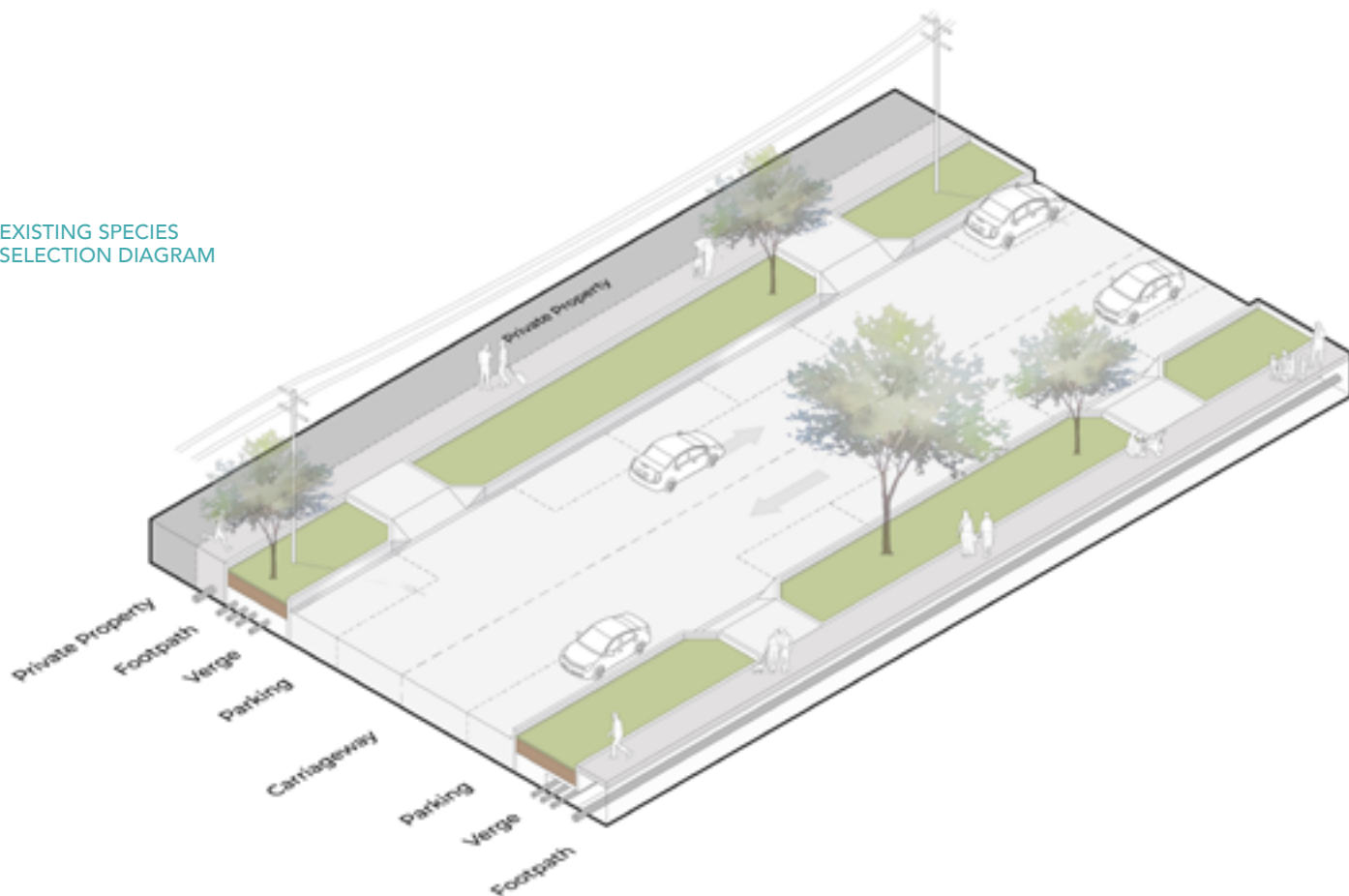
Select tree species in response to site context.

Council’s existing Tree Database (referenced in Table 4) guides the species selection process for the municipality and outlines the relevant technical considerations. It is important for Council’s Tree Database to be reviewed regularly, to ensure it is up to date with the appropriate information needed to guide tree selection. The tree selection process must consider elements of site context such as aesthetics (i.e. shade provision, seasonal colour), site constraints and local provenance (see Table 8 and Figure 18).

Tree Species Criteria	Purpose	Recommendation
Biological requirements	Factors such as soil conditions, water management, light requirements, growth rate, pest and disease resistance, etc. inform the selection process.	Utilise Councils list of preferred or acceptable tree species as described in the Tree Database.
Aesthetic Requirements	Species selection should consider overall design intent and desirable tree attributes.	Species selection should factor the purpose and desired use of the tree. Consider aesthetic qualities such as evergreen or deciduous, form, foliage, colours, size, multi-stemmed or singular trunk, shade, textures, etc.
Constraints	Site constraints help determine suitable species selection.	Adapt species selection to the site constraints. For example, medium trees should be planted below existing overhead power lines; larger canopy trees require larger soil volume; the location of services and other infrastructure may conflict with tree roots and ultimately impact tree growth rate.
Availability and Provenance	The availability of plant stock is a key consideration, particularly regarding species that are most adaptable to the local climate.	Ensure trees are of local provenance where possible. Trees that have been grown within the local climate are able to more effectively establish after being planted and experience faster growth rates.

Table 8. Tree species selection recommendations

EXISTING SPECIES
SELECTION DIAGRAM



FUTURE SPECIES
SELECTION DIAGRAM

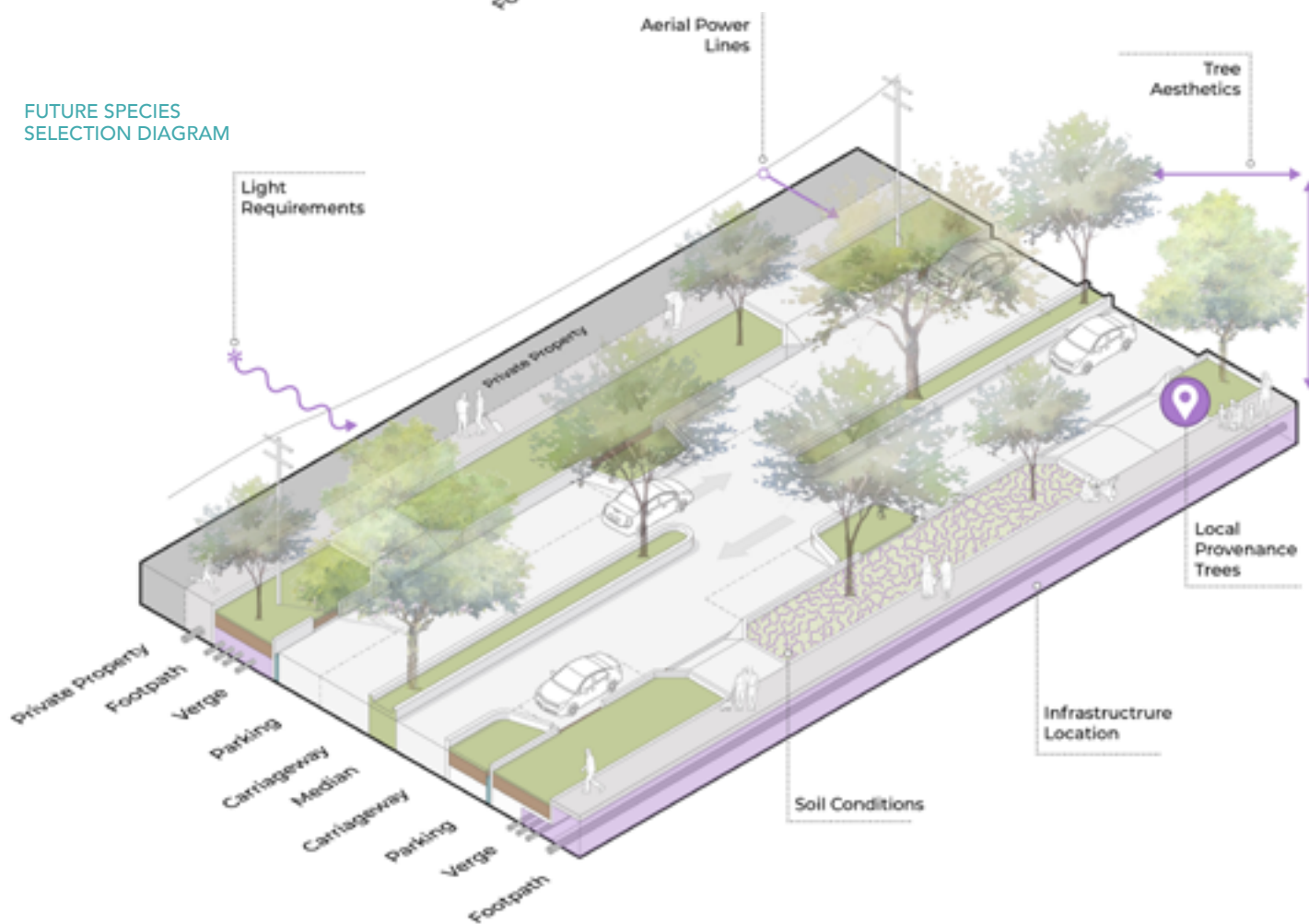


Figure 18. Existing and future diagram - species selection

DID YOU KNOW?

SPECIES SELECTION

Did you know that Council has a database of all plant species across the municipality?

This database helps Councils Parks and Gardens Team keep track of species that are suited to particular contexts. This database includes information such as height, flower colour, soil conditions and suitable planting conditions.

Some examples from Councils database are identified here. There are opportunities to strengthen the database aligned with the aspirations of the Strategy to broaden the information this database records.



Callistemon Kings Park Special

Features:

- Red flower
- Mounding habit
- Height: 3 – 5m

Tree planting conditions:

- Hardy – General Guide
- Street Tree – Native No Powerlines



Mallee Box

Features:

- Cream flower
- Upright habit
- Height: 5 – 10m

Tree planting conditions:

- Hardy – General Guide
- Semi Arid Landscaping Plants
- Loamy / sandy soil
- Limestone soil
- Plant for integrated drainage areas – surrounds
- Indigenous plants



Chinese Pistachio

Features:

- Upright habit
- Height: 7m

Tree planting conditions:

- Hardy – General Guide
- Street Tree – Exotic No Powerlines
- Street Tree – Exotic Under Powerlines

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

STRATEGY 9

Implement best practice integrated water management solutions.

At present, the health of Mildura's tree population is largely dependent on Council's watering program and the involvement of the community in helping to water the trees on their property.

Integrated Water Management (IWM) is a method of managing all elements of the water cycle. To facilitate increased canopy coverage, IWM practice is crucial in assisting the vitality and overall health of trees in the urban environment.

The adoption of IWM practices is largely dependent on the site to which the initiative is to be applied. Some examples of IWM initiatives based on different scales are as follows:

- Lot - Raingarden, passive tree irrigation, rain tanks, permeable driveway
- Street - Raingarden, passive tree irrigation, swale, permeable footpath, permeable parking
- Sub-catchment – Wetland, Stormwater harvesting and reuse for irrigation of open spaces.

All IWM assets require maintenance, and this should be considered during feasibility assessments. As part of future tree plantings, IWM opportunities (See Table 9 and Figure 19) will be standard practice in retrofitting existing streets (via central median planting or tree outstands – see Strategy 5) as well as through the delivery of new roads and associated planting sites.

DID YOU KNOW?

RAIN GARDENS

A rain garden is a landscaped areas that's planted and captures and temporarily holds and filters rain and stormwater into the ground.

Depending on how much water is collected, rain gardens range in size from 1 to over 100 square metres and are usually 1–2% of the catchment area.

PASSIVE IRRIGATION

Diverging stormwater into vegetated systems is referred to as passive irrigation.

Stormwater can be directed into the planting trench, filtering it through large rocks and filter media to be used for healthy tree irrigation. Additional runoff that is not taken by the individual street tree will flow past or will be removed from the subsoil via under drains connected back into the main stormwater network.

POROUS PAVEMENT

Permeable pavements are a stormwater capturing method generally adopted for established trees allowing infiltration of rainfall to the soil strata which recharges soil moisture and ground water and can improve tree health and canopy cover. Permeable pavements can also be used to assist infiltrate on driveways, in car parks and other paved areas.



EXAMPLE PROJECT

WATER EFFICIENCY INITIATIVES AT MILDURA AIRPORT

Mildura Airport provides a recent best practice example of local integrated water management practice. This project demonstrates how sustainable water collection and re-use can be applied to industrial, commercial and recreational sites. This infrastructure protects the airport runways and the surrounding areas from becoming water-logged by capturing water runoff.

Key water management initiatives on-site include:

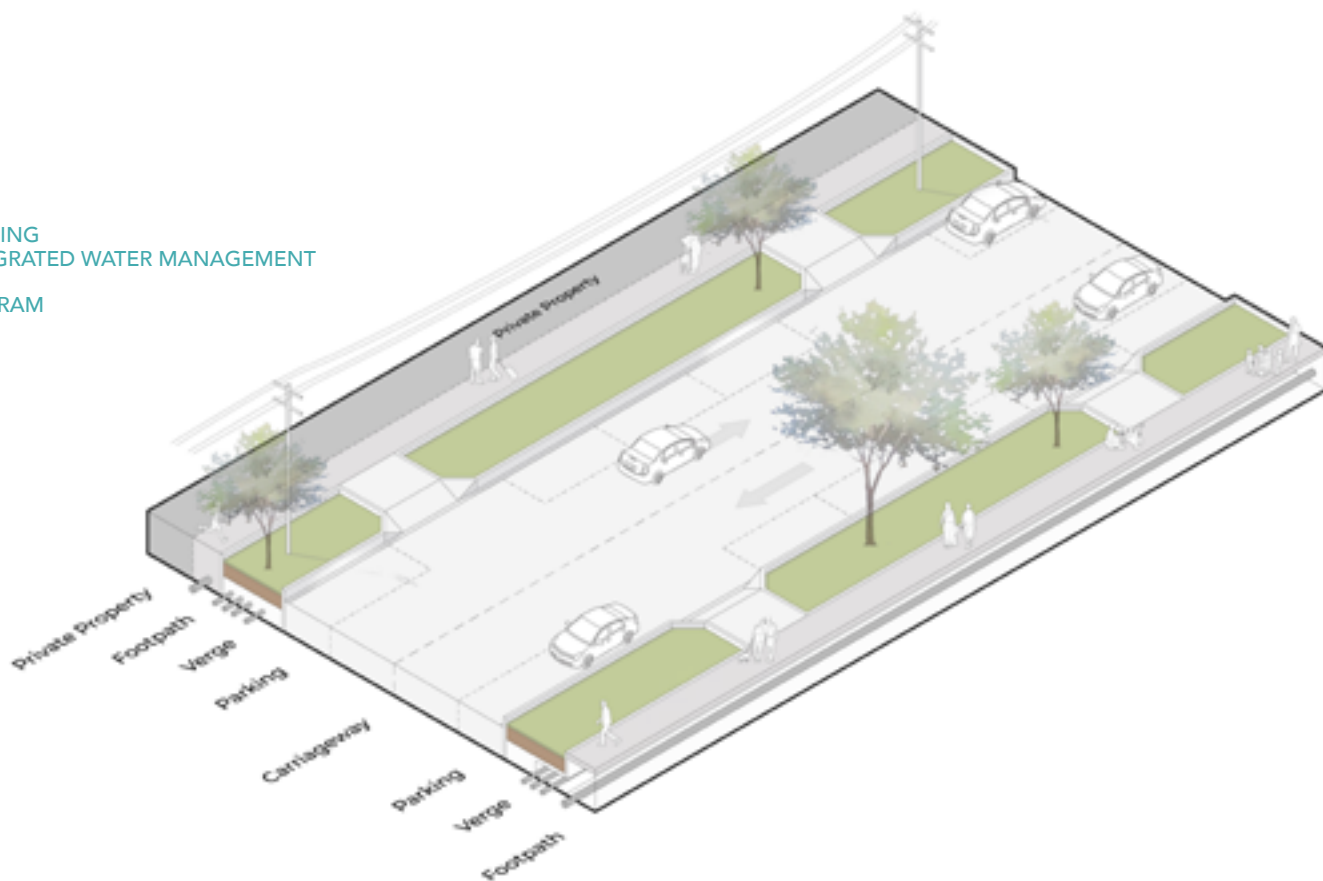
- Utilising the total surface area of the roof for rainwater harvesting
- Using dams to harvest rainwater for irrigation purposes, and capturing water runoff from hard and soft surfaces using drains which funnel to these dams
- Irrigating green spaces on-site with filtered recycled water collected in the dams
- Using recycled water for irrigation purposes from the Wastewater Treatment Plant

TREE PLANTING & MAINTENANCE IS RESPONSIVE TO CONTEXT & ADOPTS BEST PRACTICE.

Water Management	Purpose	Opportunity
Passive Street Tree Irrigation	Support a healthier and larger canopy cover, therefore providing urban cooling and hence enhancing liveability and resilience into the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate kerb and channel drainage designs to allow surface water runoff to inundate tree pits • Additional hand-watering will be required based on average rainfall and species watering requirements, particularly during the establishment phase.
Rain Gardens	Filters stormwater runoff from urban streetscapes to reduce nutrient and pollutant loads within the stormwater. Rain gardens provide additional benefits for biodiversity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture run off through kerb openings as a method of passive irrigation and natural water filtration systems.
Porous Pavements	Serves as a stormwater capturing method generally adopted for established trees. It allows infiltration of rainfall to the soil strata which recharges soil moisture and ground water and improves tree health and canopy cover.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use permeable pavements to assist infiltration on driveways, in car parks and other paved areas.
Automated moisture sensing watering systems	Ensures adequate water is supplied to plantings during times of drought.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate system into identified priority locations to maintain health of new and existing plantings.

Table 9. Integrated Water Management opportunities

EXISTING
INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT
DIAGRAM



FUTURE
INTEGRATED WATER MANAGEMENT
DIAGRAM

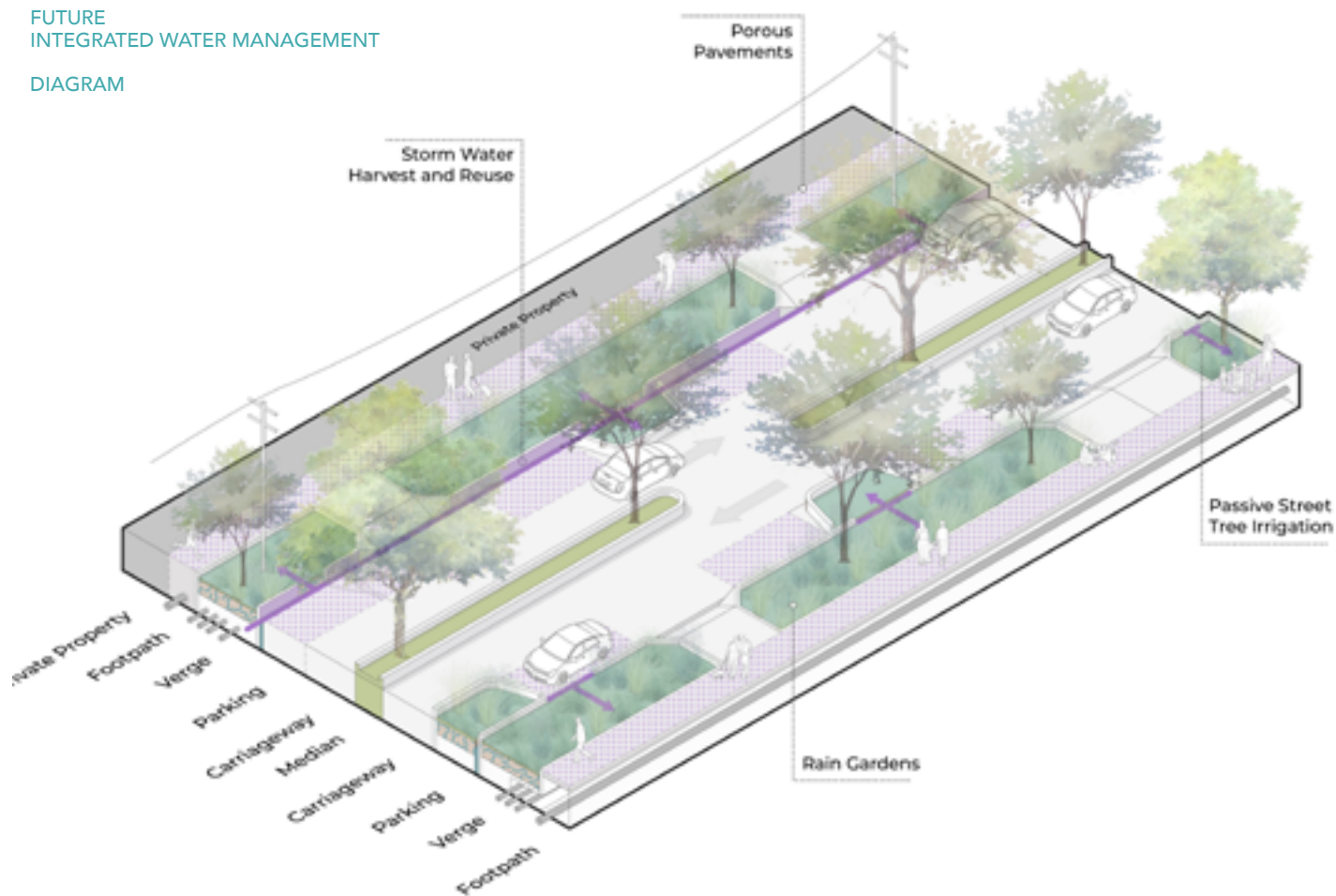


Figure 19. Existing and future diagram – Integrated water management

OBJECTIVE 3

PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN GREENING EFFORTS.

The successful implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy will require Council to partner with external organisations and community to drive outcomes. Partnering is a way to share the responsibility of urban forest initiatives to benefit the entire community.

The planting and maintenance of trees on nature strips and Council owned land is ultimately a Council responsibility, however, community engagement provides an opportunity to promote the benefits of this being a shared initiative. Community engagement can also focus on the role of the community in planting and caring for trees in the private realm, such as on land within their property boundary.

Community involvement can encourage improved urban forest outcomes. It's shown that by giving over the responsibility to plant a tree to a community member, the likelihood of that tree surviving, and thriving is greatly enhanced.

There are also partnership opportunities with other stakeholders. Private land holders of non-residential uses such as shopping centres, commercial areas and industrial locations manage land that presents opportunity to provide improved urban forest outcomes. As this land is often outside the responsibility of Council, partnerships are essential for achieving improved outcomes in these spaces.

STRATEGY 10

Promote tree education and awareness within the community.

Expanding community knowledge of the benefits of urban greening is an important step in encouraging an expanded urban forest.

To meet community needs and aspirations, there is further opportunity to circulate information and resources on tree updates, maintenance and care techniques across a variety of platforms (see Table 10).

Outreach method	Purpose	Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social media posts• Council newsletter• Street tree Tuesdays• Council's Urban Forest Strategy project webpage	Communicate the benefits of street trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver information to showcase benefits of trees and minimise damage to tree population.• Highlight importance of trees to the community to encourage individuals to care for trees.• Continue "Street Tree Tuesday" Facebook posts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information sessions• Community planting days• Community liaison officer	Circulate information on caring for trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide information to allow residents to maintain trees independently for improved tree health outcomes.• Knowledge sharing between Council and Community Groups.• Provide tips and tricks for caring for trees and best practice maintenance opportunities.• Develop a community engagement program to increase access to knowledge and information in partnership with Traditional Owners.• Explore the possibility of a Walking Trees tour developed by the community.• Develop and make available best practice guides and case studies for developers.

Table 10. Recommended Community Outreach methods

OBJECTIVE 3

PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN GREENING EFFORTS.

STRATEGY 11

Reinforce the City's character, culture and image and highlight the value placed on culturally and historically significant trees.

Many trees or groups of trees are important to the cultural or natural history of Mildura City or have recognised association with Aboriginal culture or heritage. Formal recognition of such heritage values is provided by inclusion on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and/or under the Heritage Overlay in the planning scheme. There are numerous significant trees across Mildura that are formally identified for heritage protection, however there is an array of potentially culturally significant trees that are not formally recognised.

There is currently insufficient information regarding their location, health status and the absence of a framework to adequately protect trees of significance.

OPPORTUNITIES RELEVANT TO ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MILDURA'S TREE POPULATION INCLUDE WORKING WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS TO CONFIRM:

- Trees within the urban area of Mildura that have been estimated to pre-date European settlement.
- Indigenous plants that form an important aspect of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Trees that form an important link with the past, are a visual representation of earlier landscapes and support native fauna.
- With sufficient justification, tools such as the Heritage Overlay (HO) and Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) can be used to protect trees of Aboriginal cultural significance.

PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN GREENING EFFORTS.

STRATEGY 12

Involve the community in urban forest decision-making.

Community involvement in decision-making and greening efforts is an important element of creating a thriving urban forest. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience across the community that can greatly enhance the overall outcomes of tree planting if the right opportunities are available.

Community involvement also generates an increase in civic pride, where community members can engage in stewardship, care for place and collective effort. This collective effort also helps to alleviate some of the resource constraints affecting Council, which pose limitations on tree care and maintenance.

THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Allow residents to choose which tree species is planted on their nature strip from a list of possible options.
- Empower residents to act as caretakers for their street tree, engaging in pruning and watering.
- Give residents the opportunity to plant their own nature strip tree.
- Organise community planting days to collectively planting trees public open spaces and nature strips (partnering with school groups and community groups).

There is also an opportunity to align existing community-led greening projects with Mildura's urban forest strategy targets and aspirations. The Cool It Street Program is a particularly effective initiative that engages both Council and Community groups to identify key streets for increased tree planting.

There is further opportunity to align this program with the aspirations set out in the Strategy such as:

- Consider nomination of streets for the program that have been identified as priority planting area.
- Use the four targets of tree distribution, canopy coverage, species diversity and ULE as key considerations to guide the planting strategy for nominated streets.

Council's significant tree register is another mechanism where community can be involved in decisions related to trees in their neighbourhoods. Expanding this register to include trees on private land, not just Council owned land, presents an opportunity for community to nominate trees that meet certain criteria for consideration on the list.

While increasing tree canopy on the private realm is not within the scope of this Strategy, there are opportunities to explore ways that privately owned spaces, such as backyards, can contribute to improved canopy cover. As outlined in the Existing Conditions section, in order for the tree canopy cover target to be met, there will need to be a contribution from private land owners.

PARTNERSHIPS CONTRIBUTE TO URBAN GREENING EFFORTS.

STRATEGY 13

Advocate to key government agencies and authorities to improve the urban forest.

Council's tree planting decisions overlap with the work of government agencies and external authorities, who have a key part in building a successful urban forest. These stakeholders include the Department of Transport and Planning, servicing and water authorities and electricity infrastructure companies. Encouraging these stakeholders to prioritise urban forest outcomes in their practices can provide a considerable contribution to urban forest outcomes.

Council should work in partnership with these organisations to ensure that tree planting and care practices are compatible with the operational requirements for service providers.

Table 11 identifies key partner agencies that Council will should with to advocate for urban forest outcomes including the key advocacy opportunities.

Organisation	Interest in urban forest	Partnering opportunity
<i>Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)</i>	The transport arm of DTP is responsible for the construction and maintenance of state roads (arterial roads, highways, freeways etc.)	Advocate to DTP to encourage tree planting and IWM outcomes (as discussed in Objective 2) to occur along key arterial roads.
<i>Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)</i>	DEECA is the State government agency responsible for liveable, inclusive and sustainable natural environments.	Partner with DEECA on opportunities for grants for improved urban forest outcomes. Understand best practice biodiversity and bushfire management.
<i>Mallee Catchment Management Authority (CMA)</i>	The Mallee CMA manage the waterways and floodplains in and around the municipality.	Advocate for tree planting on CMA owned and managed assets to contribute to the Urban Forest Strategy targets.
<i>Lower Murray Water</i>	Lower Murray Water is the service provider of water and wastewater services to the community. Includes maintenance of below ground servicing infrastructure.	Advocate and or / seek grants for water dispensations for tree care.
<i>CFA</i>	The CFA has an interest in mitigating bushfire risk and ensuring access for emergency vehicles.	Ensure tree planting does not result in increased bushfire risk.
<i>PowerCor</i>	Manages the network of above and below ground power line infrastructure.	<i>Partner with PowerCor to select species that contribute to the Urban Forest Strategy targets and ensure safe growth outcomes with above ground powerlines.</i>

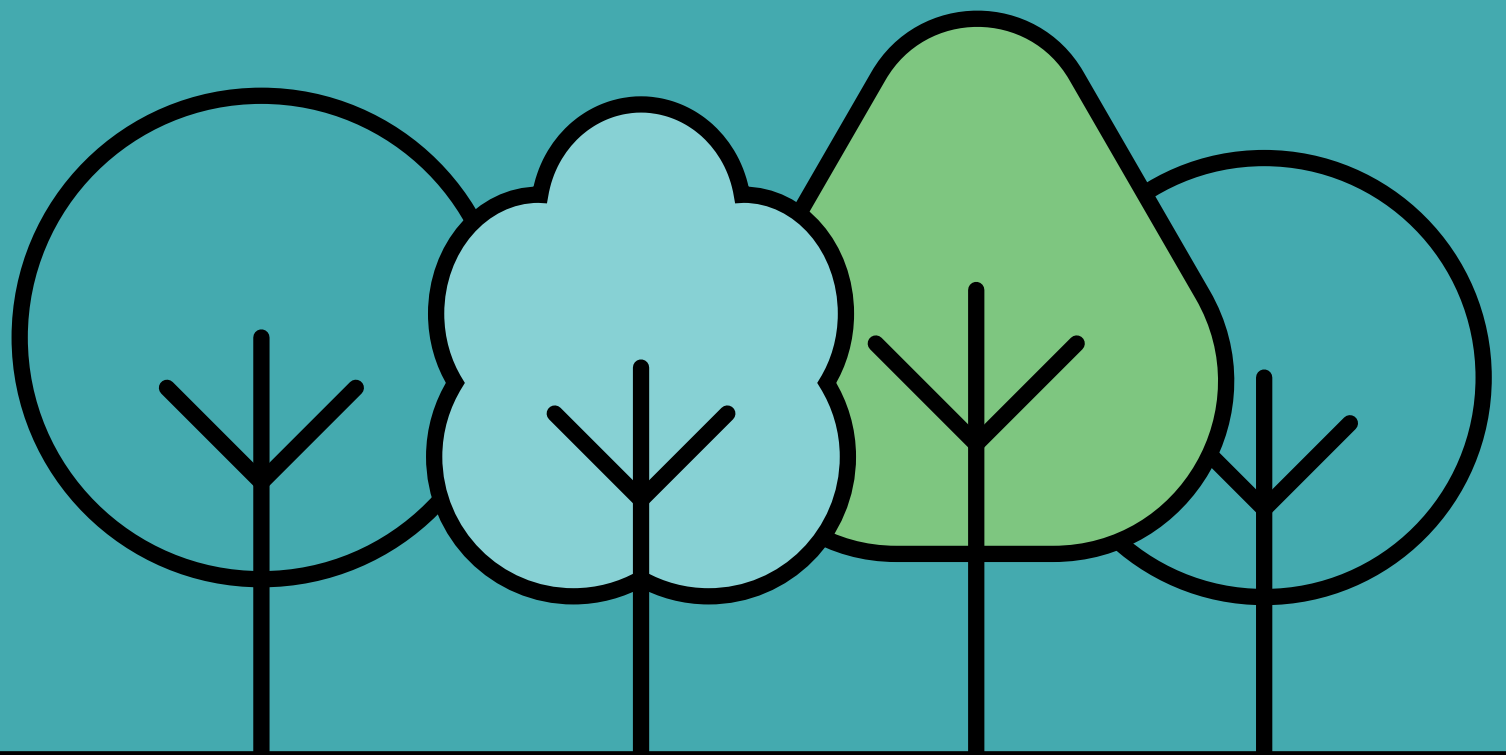
Table 11. Government agency and authority partnership opportunities

5. ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Achieving the Vision and Objectives of the Strategy requires clear and logical strategic actions. The implementation of planning tools, local policies, planting methods and community involvement initiatives are key components of the Strategy.

The actions deliver on various strategies as identified in Table 12. The implementation of the actions including timeframes and responsibility is outlined in Table 13.

This strategy proposes “quick wins” as those actions highlighted in Table 12. Quick wins are actions that have immediate and effective impact on urban forest outcomes and are less resource intensive.





5.1 ACTION PLAN

QUICK WIN

No	Action	Relevant Strategy
Planning Scheme		
A1	Deliver a planning scheme amendment to strengthen urban forest outcomes in the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and the Local Planning Provisions of the Mildura Rural City Council Planning Scheme as identified in Table 3.	S1
A2	Include urban forest requirements as part of the introduction of new residential zone schedules (see Table 3).	S1
A3	Include urban forest requirements in the introduction of new DPO and DDO overlays (see Table 3).	S1
Existing Policy & Strategy		
A4	Include urban forest targets and aspirations in the documents identified in Table 4, as part of updates to these documents or as part of the preparation of the next versions.	S2 & S4
A5	Update the <i>Urban Nature Strip Policy</i> (as identified in Table 4) to include reference to the role of nature strips in contributing to urban forest targets.	S2, S3, S4 & S8
A6	Update the <i>MRCC Urban Tree Strategy 2021 – 2026</i> (as identified in Table 4) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include reference to best practice planting and watering approaches (refer to Table 6, 7 and 9).• Include reference to education and partnership opportunities (refer to Table 10 and 9).• Include a review of the Tree Protection section to strengthen penalties for tree removal and or vandalism (refer to Table 4) and reflect these in new or revised local laws.	S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9 & S10
A7	Update and regularly review the Tree Database to include additional tree selection criteria and technical information (as identified in Table 4 and 8) to improve species selection.	S2 & S8
New Policy & Strategy		
A8	Require the preparation of Landscape Masterplan as part of all subdivision applications via permit conditions. Landscape Masterplans should be consistent with the Landscape Guidelines (proposed by Action 9) as outlined in Table 5.	S3, S4 S5, S7, S8 & S9
A9	Develop Landscape Guidelines that provide guidance for proponents in the preparation of landscape master plans to support subdivision application (as per Table 4). The Guidelines will include requirements for proponents to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design cross sections to respond to the planting conditions and location opportunities identified in Table 6 and 7.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstrate how the landscape master plan is supporting the delivery the urban forest targets related to distribution, canopy coverage, ULE and diversity.• Consider species selection consistent with the guidance in Table 8.• Incorporate best practice watering methods (as identified in Table 9).• Consider culturally and historically significant trees (Strategy 11).• Address considerations for establishment and maintenance. S3, S4, S5, S7, S8, S9 & S11
A10	Prepare a standard tree planting technical document that outlines planting detail for the following planting sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature strips• On street car spaces (tree outstands)• Off street car parks• Central median sites• Footpaths / hardscapes	This document will inform proponents delivery of trees and Council's capital works program. The technical standards will outline: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The technical requirements related to the tree planting approach in each location.• Reflect best practice planning conditions for the planning site (see Table 6)• Reflect best practice IWM for the planting site (See Table 9). S4, S5, S6, S7 & S9
A11	Prepare an integrated water management plan that investigates the IWM opportunities. This will be informed by, but limited to, the opportunities identified in Table 9. This IWM Plan will investigate different scales of IWM opportunities to be rolled out across the municipality.	S7, S8 & S9
A12	Prepare a strategy that investigates mechanisms to encourage the private realm to contribute to canopy cover targets. The strategy will be informed by the Council Working Group (Action 17) from across Council that review a range of mechanisms such as improved access to mapping and data, planning scheme, local laws, education campaigns, incentives and other potential programs.	S2, S4, S10 & S12

No	Action	Relevant Strategy
Planting program		
A13	Develop a priority planting strategy that sets a program of work to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant a tree in each potential planting site that is located within the priority areas (Figure 16). Plant a tree in the remaining potential planting site (Figure 16) Fill all potential planting sites within a 5 year period by planting at least 1400 new trees every year.	S6
A14	Develop a program and methodology to plan for the removal and replacement of trees consistent with the ULE findings in Part 3. This program will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a staged approach to the removal and replacement of trees in a 0 – 5, 5 – 10 and 10 – 20-year timeframe as per Figure 10. 	S6 & S7
A15	Conduct an audit of existing road cross sections within priority areas (Figure 16) to identify road cross section projects to upgrade as per Table 6. The audit will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include advice from a traffic engineer to ensure any changes to existing road cross sections comply with road safety and traffic movement requirements. The audit should identify new projects beyond the role out of planting within identify priority planting sites.	S7
A16	Develop an annual audit approach for new tree plantings and maintenance approaches to record survival rates, maintenance and watering approaches and findings related to these caring practices based on the yearly rainfall and climate.	S4, S6 & S7
Resourcing + Learning and Development		
A17	Develop an internal Council Working Group to ensure cross collaboration and monitoring of the implementation of Urban Forest Strategy actions.	S4, S7, S10 & S12
A18	Review internal resourcing to respond to the delivery of the priority planting sites as in Figure 13 (and to deliver Actions 13 – 16)	S6
A19	Review the internal learning and development program to include relevant training on new approaches to planting, watering and maintenance as per Table 6, 7, 8 and 9.	S5, S7, S8 & S9
Community Involvement		
A20	Develop a communications approach that implements the opportunities identified in Table 10 to communicate the benefits of trees.	S10
A21	Transfer responsibility for tree planting and watering to residents, as identified in Strategy 11. This will be implemented via the Nature Strip Policy (as per Action 5).	S12
A22	Develop a program of tree planting days by partnering with community interest groups and schools, as identified in Strategy 10.	S10 & S12
A23	Continue to champion the Cool It Street Program and review the program (as per Action 4) to ensure alignment with the Urban Forest Strategy targets.	S10 & S12
A24	Partner with Traditional Owners to identify culturally significant trees that require protection and where appropriate include these in the Significant Tree Register (as per Action 4).	S10, S11 & S12
A25	Expand the Significant Tree Register to include trees on public land, including allowance for community members to self nominate significant trees (as per Action 4).	S10 & S12
Advocacy		
A26	Advocate for the transport arm of DTP to deliver tree planting outcomes and IWM outcomes in new arterial roads as identified in Table 6 and 9.	S5, S7, S9 & S13
A27	Advocate to Lower Murray Water for greater access to free and recycled water as identified in Table 11.	S9 & S13
A28	Advocate to PowerCor to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underground or aerial bundle all powerlines in priority planting areas (Figure 16). Input into the Tree Database to ensure species selection is contributing to urban forest targets, without compromising above ground infrastructure. 	S6, S8 & S13

Table 12. Urban Forest Actions

5.2 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

NO.	ACTION	QUICK WIN	TIME FRAME	RELEVANT STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	ACTION TYPE	ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY VISION 2021-2040
	Key actions to achieve the preferred urban forest outcomes.						
	Priorities delivered are short (1 – 3 years), medium (3 – 5 years) or long (5 – 10 years)						
	Identifies the key stakeholder (s) responsible for driving the action i.e. Council, landowners or the community						
	Type of action such as policy change or advocacy						
	References alignment with the Community Vision 2021-2040						
A1	Deliver a planning scheme amendment to strengthen urban forest outcomes in the Municipal Planning Strategy (MPS) and the Local Planning Provisions of the Mildura Rural City Council Planning Scheme as identified in Table 3.	N	Short	S1	Council – Strategy & Growth department	Planning Scheme	Leadership
A2	Include urban forest requirements as part of the introduction of new residential zone schedules (see Table 3).	N	Ongoing	S1	Council – Strategy & Growth department	Planning Scheme	Leadership
A3	Include urban forest requirements in the introduction of new DPO and DDO overlays (see Table 3).	N	Ongoing	S1	Council – Strategy & Growth department Development proponents	Planning Scheme	Leadership
A4	Include urban forest targets and aspirations in the documents identified in Table 4, as part of updates to these documents or as part of the preparation of the next versions.	N	Short	S2 & S4	Council – Strategy & Growth department & Healthy Communities	Existing Policy & Strategy	Leadership
A5	Update the Urban Nature Strip Policy (as identified in Table 4) to include reference to the role of nature strips in contributing to urban forest targets.	Y	Short	S3, S4, S8	Council – Infrastructure & Assets	Existing Policy & Strategy	Leadership
A6	Update the MRCC Urban Tree Strategy 2021 – 2026 (as identified in Table 4) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include reference to best practice planting and watering approaches (refer to Table 6, 7 and 8). • Include reference to education and partnership opportunities (refer to Table 10 and 11). • Include a review of the Tree Protection section to strengthen penalties for tree removal and or vandalism (refer to Table 4) and reflect these in new or revised local laws. 	N	Short	S4, S5, S6, S7, S8, S9 & S10	Council – Healthy Communities	Existing Policy & Strategy	Leadership
A7	Update and regularly review the Tree Database to include additional tree selection criteria and technical information (as identified in Table 4 and 8) to improve species selection.	Y	Short, ongoing	S2 & S8	Council – Healthy Communities	Existing Policy & Strategy	Leadership

Table 13. Implementation Plan

NO.	ACTION	QUICK WIN	TIME FRAME	RELEVANT STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	ACTION TYPE	ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY VISION 2021-2040
A8	Require the preparation of Landscape Masterplan as part of all subdivision applications via permit conditions. Landscape Masterplans should be consistent with the Landscape Guidelines (proposed by Action 9) as outlined in Table 5.	Y	Short	S3, S4, S5, S7, S8 & S9	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities	New Policy	Leadership
A9	<p>Develop Landscape Guidelines that provide guidance for proponents in the preparation of landscape master plans to support subdivision application (as per Table 4). The Guidelines will include requirements for proponents to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design cross sections to respond to the planting conditions and location opportunities identified in Table 6 and 7. • Demonstrate how the landscape master plan is supporting the delivery the urban forest targets related to distribution, canopy coverage, ULE and diversity. • Consider species selection consistent with the guidance in Table 8. • Incorporate best practice watering methods (as identified in Table 9). • Consider culturally and historically significant trees (Strategy 11). • Address considerations for establishment and maintenance. 	N	Short	S3, S4, S5, S7, S8, S9 & S11	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities	New Policy	Leadership
A10	<p>Prepare a standard tree planting technical document that outlines planting detail for the following planting sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature strips • On street car spaces (tree outstands) • Off street car parks • Central median sites • Footpaths / hardscapes <p>This document will inform proponents delivery of trees and Council's capital works program. The technical standards will outline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The technical requirements related to the tree planting approach in each location. • Reflect best practice planning conditions for the planning site (see Table 6) • Reflect best practice IWM for the planting site (See Table 9). 	N	Medium	S4, S5, S6, S7 & S9	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities	New Policy	Leadership

NO.	ACTION	QUICK WIN	TIME FRAME	RELEVANT STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	ACTION TYPE	ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY VISION 2021-2040
A11	Prepare an integrated water management plan that investigates the IWM opportunities. This will be informed by, but limited to, the opportunities identified in Table 9. This IWM Plan will investigate different scales of IWM opportunities to be rolled out across the municipality.	N	Medium	S7, S8 & S9	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities & Infrastructure & Assets	New Policy	Leadership
A12	Prepare a strategy that investigates mechanisms to encourage the private realm to contribute to canopy cover targets. The strategy will be informed by the Council Working Group (Action 17) from across Council that review a range of mechanisms such as improved access to mapping and data, planning scheme, local laws, education campaigns, incentives and other potential programs.	N	Medium	S2, S4, S10 & S12	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities & Infrastructure & Assets, Community	New Policy	Environment, Place
A13	Develop a priority planting strategy that sets a program of work to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant a tree in each potential planting site that is located within the priority areas (Figure 16). Plant a tree in the remaining potential planting site (Figure 16) Fill all potential planting sites within a 5 year period by planting at least 1400 new trees every year. 	N	Short	S6	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities & Infrastructure & Assets	Planting Program	Environment, Place
A14	Develop a program and methodology to plan for the removal and replacement of trees consistent with the ULE findings in Part 3. This program will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a staged approach to the removal and replacement of trees in a 0 – 5, 5 – 10 and 10 – 20-year timeframe as per Figure 10. 	N	Medium - Long	S6 & S7	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities & Infrastructure & Assets	Planting Program	Environment, Place
A15	Conduct an audit of existing road cross sections within priority areas (Figure 16) to identify road cross section projects to upgrade as per Table 6. The audit will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include advice from a traffic engineer to ensure any changes to existing road cross sections comply with road safety and traffic movement requirements. The audit should identify new projects beyond the role out of planting within identify priority planting sites.	N	Short	S7	Council – Infrastructure & Assets	Planting Program	Environment, Place
A16	Develop an annual audit approach for new tree plantings and maintenance approaches to record survival rates, maintenance and watering approaches and findings related to these caring practices based on the yearly rainfall and climate.	N	Short	S4, S6 & S7	Council – Healthy Communities	Planting Program	Environment, Leadership
A17	Develop an internal Council Working Group to ensure cross collaboration and monitoring of the implementation of Urban Forest Strategy actions.	Y	Short	S4, S7, S10 & S12	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities & Infrastructure & Assets	Resourcing + Learning & Development	Leadership

NO.	ACTION	QUICK WIN	TIME FRAME	RELEVANT STRATEGY	RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	ACTION TYPE	ALIGNMENT WITH COMMUNITY VISION 2021-2040
A18	Review internal resourcing to respond to the delivery of the priority planting sites as in Figure 13 (and to deliver Actions 13 – 18).	Y	Short	S6	Council – Corporate Performance & Healthy Communities	Resourcing + Learning & Development	Leadership
A19	Review the internal learning and development program to include relevant training on new approaches to planting, watering and maintenance as per Table 6, 7, 8 and 9.	N	Medium	S5, S7, S8 & S9	Council – Corporate Performance & Healthy Communities	Resourcing + Learning & Development	Leadership
A20	Develop a communications approach that implements the opportunities identified in Table 10 to communicate the benefits of trees.	Y	Short	S10	Council – Corporate Performance & Healthy Communities	Community Involvement	Community
A21	Transfer responsibility for tree planting and watering to residents, as identified in Strategy 11. This will be implemented via the Nature Strip Policy (as per Action 5).	N	Medium	S12	Council – Healthy Communities	Community Involvement	Community, Place
A22	Develop a program of tree planting days by partnering with community interest groups and schools, as identified in Strategy 10.	Y	Short	S10 & S12	Council – Healthy Communities	Community Involvement	Community, Place
A23	Continue to champion the Cool It Street Program and review the program (as per Action 4) to ensure alignment with the Urban Forest Strategy targets.	Y	Short	S10 & S12	Council – Healthy Communities Community Interest Groups	Community Involvement	Community, Place
A24	Partner with Traditional Owners to identify culturally significant trees that require protection and where appropriate include these in the Significant Tree Register (as per Action 4).	N	Ongoing	S10, S11 & S12	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities Traditional Owners	Advocacy	Leadership
A25	Expand the Significant Tree Register to include trees on Private land, including allowance for community members to self nominate significant trees (as per Action 4).	N	Ongoing	S10 & S12	Council – Strategy & Growth & Healthy Communities	Advocacy	Leadership
A26	Advocate for the transport arm of DTP to deliver tree planting outcomes and IWM outcomes in new arterial roads as identified in Table 6 and 9.	N	Medium	S5, S7, S9 & S13	Council DTP	Advocacy	Leadership
A27	Advocate to Lower Murray Water for greater access to free and recycled water as identified in Table 11	N	Medium	S9 & S13	Council Lower Murray Water	Advocacy	Leadership
A28	Advocate to PowerCor to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underground or aerial bundle all powerlines in priority planting areas (Figure 16). • Input into the Tree Database to ensure species selection is contributing to urban forest targets, without compromising above ground infrastructure. 	N	Medium	S6, S8 & S13	Council PowerCor	Advocacy	Leadership

5.3 MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Strategy will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that targets are being addressed and the actions are on track to being achieved within the identified timeframes.

As such, the following tasks should be undertaken by Council to monitor and review the Strategy to ensure that its priorities are being achieved.

EVERY 12 MONTHS:

- Review progress of actions as per the implementation plan
- Promote progress against actions on urban forest project web page

AFTER 5 YEARS:

- Seek feedback from key stakeholders and the wider community on the objectives and vision to ensure the Mildura's urban forest still meets community expectations
- Review the Strategy to ensure it aligns with the latest trends and information available about the environment and the community's social and economic needs

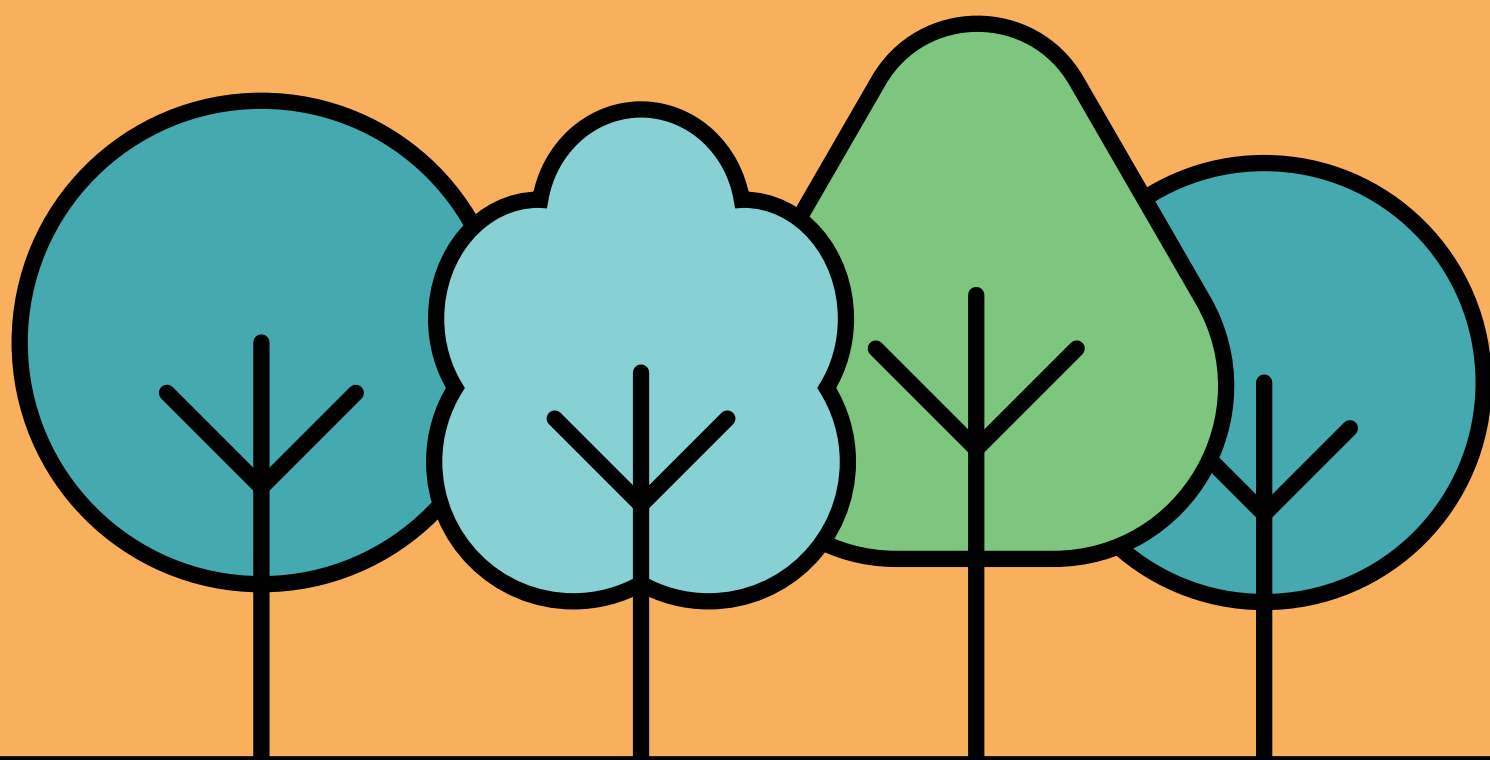
EVERY 5 YEARS:

- Undertake a tree audit to measure the performance of Mildura's tree population against the four targets, canopy coverage, distribution, ULE and species diversity
- Promote progress against targets on the urban forest project web page





6. STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED





6.1 STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Groups	Organisations
Government and Infrastructure agencies	<p>CDC Victoria - Mildura CFA DELWP - Biodiversity - spare Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance DELWP - Planning Services DELWP - Integrated Water Mgt Power Cor DELWP Loddon Mallee Forest, Fire & Regions Dept of Transport & Planning Dept of Transport & Planning VPA EPA Fire Rescue Victoria LaTrobe University</p> <p>Lower Murray Water Mallee CMA Mildura Airport Mildura City Heart Mildura Regional Development First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation Regional Development Victoria SuniTAFE Tourism Board Victoria Police - Mildura Mildura Rural City Council staff</p>
General Community - Heat-vulnerable local residents	<p>All abilities access Council - DAC (Disability Access Committee) Sunraysia Residential Services Christie Centre Bupa Mildura First People of the Millewa Mallee Aboriginal Corporation Indigenous Mallee Family Care Mildura Accom Support Program Mallee Sports Assembly Trio Support Bendigo Health Haven Home Safe Jobs Victoria Employment Network (JVEN) Mallee Track Health and Community Services (MTHCS)</p> <p>Mildura Gardens Oasis Aged Care - Irymple Jacaranda Village at Red Cliffs Chaffey Aged Care at Merbein Princes Court Regis Ontario Regis Sunraysia Rural Farm workers Senior Citizens SMECC Youth Services</p>
Schools - secondary	<p>Indie School Mildura Merbein P-10 College Red Cliffs Secondary College Mildura Specialist School Trinity Lutheran College Mildura Christian College Henderson College - Irymple Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Merbein St Joseph's Secondary College Chaffey Secondary College Mildura Senior College</p>
Schools – primary	<p>Mildura Primary Mildura South Primary Mildura West Primary Ranfurly Primary School - Ontario Ave Sacred Heart Primary School - Olive grove, Mildura St Joseph's Junior College - Twelfth St, Mildura St Joseph's School - Fitzroy Ave Red Cliffs St Paul's Primary School - Fourteenth St, Mildura</p>
Key Community Groups	<p>Christie Centre - Grow Ability MRCC - fruit fly control Greening Mildura Mildura Road Safe Committee First People of MMAC Other Greening Mildura members Sunraysia Sustain Network Environmental Sust & Biodiversity Susan Whitely Climate Emergency Action Group MRCC planting functional areas</p>

6.2 REFERENCES

- ABC (2022). Pruning street trees around powerlines could be reduced under Ausgrid plan. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-18/pruning-street-trees-around-powerlines-ausgrid-compromise/101538168>
- AECOM (2017). Green Infrastructure, A vital step to Brilliant Australian Cities. <https://www.aecom.com/content/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Green-Infrastructure-vital-step-brilliant-Australian-cities.pdf>
- Blanch, S., & Morris, G. (2018). *Rain farming, drought assistance for tomorrow*. WWF-Australia. *Rain farming, drought assistance for tomorrow*. WWF Australia. <http://wwf.org.au/blogs/rain-farming-drought-assistance-for-tomorrow/>
- City of Melbourne, Blue Green Infrastructure Design Typologies for Streetscapes, viewed 14th June 2023. <https://urbanwater.melbourne.vic.gov.au/industry/blue-green-infrastructure-design-typologies-for-streetscapes/>
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (2023) Integrated Water Management Program. <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/liveable/integrated-water-management-program>
- Dunn, J. (2016) *Improved neighbourhoods generate higher property prices*. Australian Financial Review, 5 Feb. <http://www.afr.com/news/special-reports/202020-vision/generating-higher-property-prices-through-improved-neighbourhoods-20160204-gmlsxf>
- GHD (2011). Urban Heat Island Effect: Mitigation Strategies and Planning Policy Approaches, report for City of Melbourne
- Juno, E, Virsilas, T. (2019). *Learning Guide Urban Forests for Healthier Cities*. Cities4Forests. <https://cities4forests.com/lg-urban-forests-for-healthier-cities/>
- Konijnendijk, C. C. (2023). *Evidence-based guidelines for greener, healthier, more resilient neighbourhoods: Introducing the 3–30–300 rule*. *Journal of Forestry Research*, 34(3), 821–830. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-022-01523-z>
- Learning from Nature (2020, January 15). *How trees make rain*. Learning from Nature. <https://www.learningfromnature.com.au/drought-proof-increasing-rainfall/>
- Mallee Climate Projection (2019) Mallee-Climate-Projections -2019_20200219.pdf climatechange.vic.gov.au
- Melbourne Water (2022). Raingardens, viewed 15th June 2023 <https://www.melbournewater.com.au/building-and-works/stormwater-management/options-treating-stormwater/raingardens>
- Nature Based Solutions Institute. (2020). *Introducing the Nature Based Solutions Institute*. <https://nbsi.eu>
- Norton, B., Bosomworth K, Coutts A, Williams N, Livesley S, Trundle A, Harris R, McEvoy D (2013). *Planning for a Cooler Future: Green Infrastructure to Reduce Urban Heat*, Victorian Centre for Climate Change Adaptation Research
- Simpson, J. R. and E. G. McPherson (1996). *Potential of tree shade for reducing residential energy use in California*. *Journal of Arboriculture* 22 (1): 10-1
- Urban Forest Consulting (2018). Cool It Addressing Heat Vulnerability in regional Victorian Towns. Local Government Victoria; Urban Forest Consulting. https://www.localgovernment.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0022/167107/Cool-It-CVGA-Regional-Summary-and-Recommendations-Final-Oct-18.pdf
- Wang, Y., Bakker, F., De Groot, R., & Wörtche, H. (2014). *Effect of ecosystem services provided by urban green infrastructure on indoor environment: A literature review*. *Building and Environment*, 77, 88–100
- Wolf, K.L. (2010). *Safe Streets – A Literature Review*. In: *Green Cities: Good Health* (www.greenhealth.washington.edu). College of the Environment, University of Washington.
- Wolf, K. L. (2005). *Trees in the small city retail business district: Comparing resident and visitor perceptions*. *Journal of Forestry*, 103, 390-395

