Urban Tree Strategy

2021 to 2026

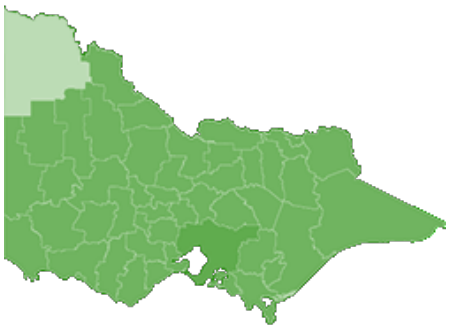
"The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources on the earth."

Frank Lloyd Wright

Mildura Rural City Council

Acknowledgement

Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land which now comprises the Mildura Rural City Council area, and to those of our neighbouring municipalities. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, we celebrate and respect their continuing culture and connection to the land.



Mildura Rural City Council covers almost 10% of Victoria

We have the ninth largest city in Victoria

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Vision

An integral part of Council's vision of 'making this the most liveable, people-friendly community in Australia' is ensuring that trees and the benefits they provide will be sustained and managed into the future

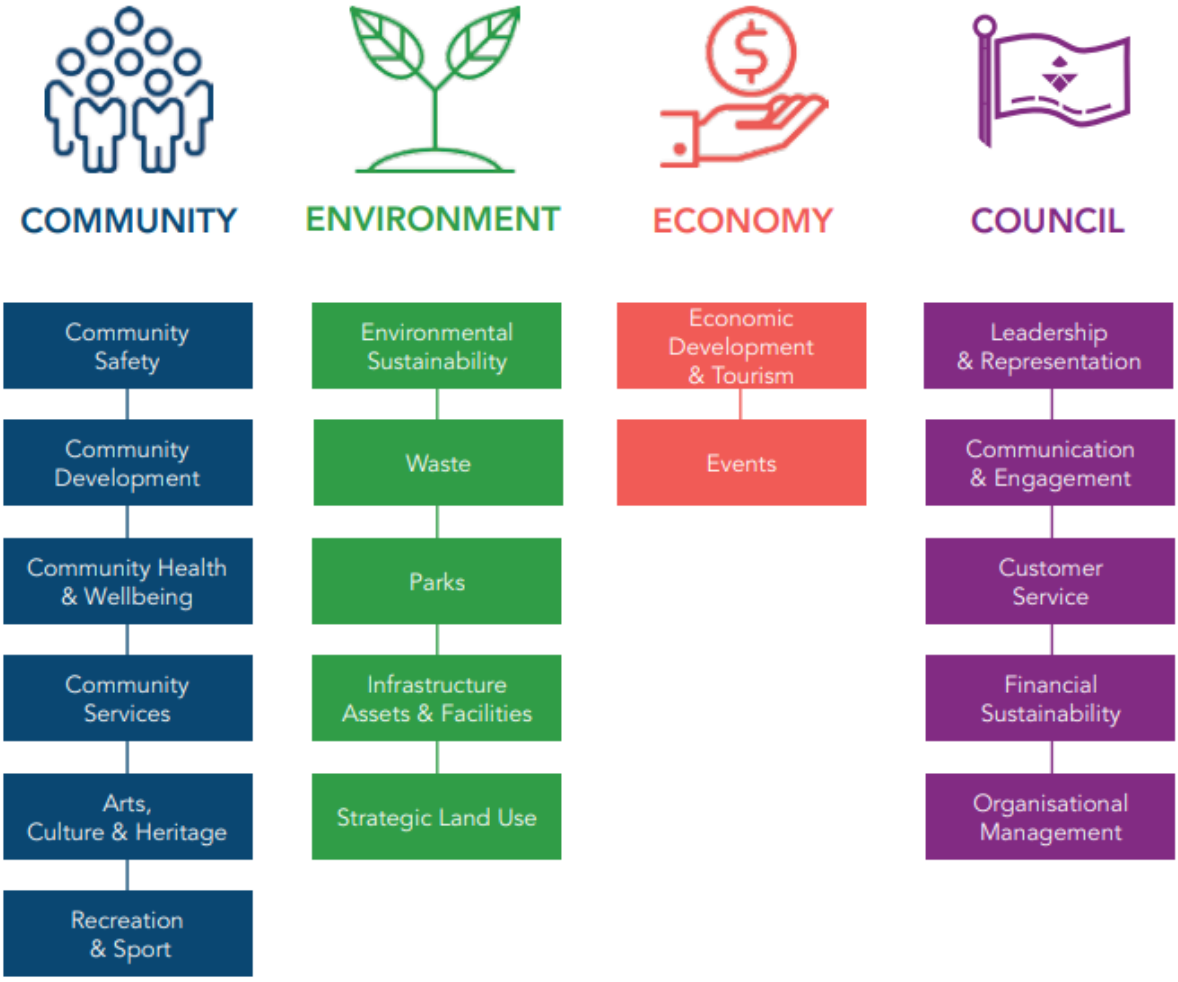


Figure 1: Community and Council Plan Strategic Areas

Executive Summary

This strategy will provide the framework and guidance to ensure that:

- Council continues to plant more trees to combat the effects of a changing climate
- Street trees are managed to best practice standards and that quality trees are sourced
- We undertake tree establishment in line with industry best practice
- There are increased numbers of trees within the townships to increase canopy cover
- Trees continue to form an important part of the urban landscape, providing shade and cooling effects, animal habitat and visual aesthetics.

By implementing this strategy Council is supporting the objectives of providing *the most liveable municipality in Australia* through enhancement of our urban environment. Trees need to be proactively managed to ensure that we maintain good tree health and mitigate public risks and hazards. Importantly there is a need for ongoing monitoring and management of our urban tree population to ensure that trees are protected and to limit any damage from other development activities.

This strategy outlines the current programs and initiatives undertaken by Council and details specific actions to enhance and protect trees in urban environments with a focus on the following areas:

1. Street tree planning and inventory
2. Tree protection
3. Establishment and maintenance
4. Risk Management
5. Education and awareness

Finally tree planting is one of the simplest and most effective ways of tackling climate change. As trees grow, they help stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the trees and soil, and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere. Trees provide many benefits to us, every day. They offer cooling shade, block cold winter winds, attract birds and wildlife, purify our air, prevent soil erosion, clean our water, and add beauty to our homes and communities.

Introduction

Mildura Rural City Council manages approximately 60,000 street trees in urban areas. Large urban trees can be a potential risk however the consequence of not having these as part of our street tree population is much higher.

Urban trees are an important part in the environment where people live, work and spend time. Every urban tree in Mildura forms part of an urban forest ecosystem that helps to provide shade, absorb air pollution, filter stormwater, provide habitat to animals and improve the character and atmosphere of Mildura's streetscapes. An important feature of urban trees is natural shade provided to streets and parks which help cool the landscape during summer and provides sun protection for the community during periods of increasingly hot weather.

Urban trees include those in streets, parks, along urban waterways, within front and backyards, in carparks and along transport corridors. This strategy will consider only those trees that are managed and maintained by Mildura Rural City Council.

Council is facing a series of future challenges such as climate change, increasing population and growing urban development. A well planned and managed urban tree population can help the region face these challenges by becoming healthier, more liveable and sustainable. Council's Urban Tree Strategy sets the direction for managing Council's street and park trees so that maximum benefits can be achieved whilst minimising risk. The strategy will ensure that Council receives a positive return on its investment by making the street and park tree program more strategic, targeted and cost effective.

Mildura Rural City Council already acknowledges the key role that urban trees play in the region's overall liveability and in contributing to community health and wellbeing. The Urban Tree Strategy now fills the gap in determining how Council will increase canopy cover to benefit those in most need.

Street trees improve the liveability of towns and cities in a number of ways including reducing stormwater runoff, increasing air quality, storing carbon, providing shade, and reducing urban heat-island effects. They can also enhance bio diversity by providing food, habitat and landscape connectivity for urban fauna.[1]

Climate change

Global climate change has already had observable effects on the environment. Glaciers have shrunk, ice on rivers and lakes is breaking up earlier, plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner. Whilst the effects of climate change are just becoming discernible, they will become increasingly prominent. The effects over coming decades will include warmer average temperatures, heat waves, more extreme storm events and lower average annual rainfall. We have already observed the damage caused by extreme heat and floods in Australia in recent years, and it is likely that these events will become more prevalent. The risks to cities of more severe weather conditions will increase, bringing with them high economic, social and environmental costs.

For the urban forest, the impacts of climate change will include:

- The susceptibility of vegetation to increasing and emerging pests and diseases will challenge the urban forest's ability to withstand and recover from these outbreaks. Recent observations in pine plantations in New South Wales have found that drought stressed trees are suffering increased incidence of attack from insect stem borers, bark beetles and fungi. Changes in climate can affect

[1] Burden2006; Rhodes etal., 2011

pests' life cycles. Warmer summers can increase insects' development rate and reproductive potential, while warmer winters can increase over-winter survival. Many pests and diseases may have extended geographical ranges as warmer temperatures affect flight behaviour and vector spread. Introduced pests may also find conditions more favourable for population growth. Forests not previously at risk could become vulnerable as pests and disease ranges change.

- Extreme weather events directly affect vegetation health, generally leading to a reduction in canopy cover and overall decline. Heat extremes can lead to foliage and trunk scorch and canopy desiccation. Storms can shred foliage, break branches and uproot trees.
- Lower rainfall will result in increasing frequency of tree death in many species and overall forest health decline in response to frequent and severe drought.
- Inundation can lead to soil erosion, salinity, tree instability, tree mortality and damage to infrastructure. More frequent extremes of wet and dry periods may also increase the incidence of the root rot pathogens. Trees weakened by this disease have a reduced capacity to survive drought.

Links to the Community & Council Plan 2017 - 2021

Community & Council Plan 2017 – 2021

KEY RESULT AREA – 2.3 Parks

Goals – Clean, attractive and sustainable parks, gardens, streetscapes, reserves and wetlands

Measures – Community satisfaction with beautification of streetscapes, Community satisfaction with tree planting, Community satisfaction with tree maintenance, Community satisfaction with the appearance of wetlands, Community satisfaction with public open space (including parks, gardens and reserves) and a net increase in trees.

Council has adopted a number of plans promoting the importance of tree planting, maintenance and renewal including the ‘’Native Vegetation Plan’, the ‘Riverfront Master Plan’ and the ‘Deakin Avenue Mildura Landscape Master Plan’. The benefits trees deliver support various Council roles and responsibilities as referenced below. Council is also in the early stages

‘Riverfront Master Plan’

The river bank itself has some riparian species and remnant tree species such as *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) that should be protected and enhanced.

Deakin Avenue Mildura Landscape Master Plan’

The Deakin Avenue landscape will showcase a rich variety of trees, landmark palms and colourful shrubs and groundcovers to provide a shady, pleasant and attractive public domain in a contemporary setting. The plant species selection is based on that signature tree species for median and verge avenue re-establishment that reinforce Mildura as a unique destination and ‘place’

Mildura Rural City Council - Profile

Knowing our population demographics and environment is key to understanding what direction our Urban Tree Strategy should take to provide the best outcomes for the future. Mildura Rural City Council municipality is located in the north west of Victoria and covers an area of 22,300 square kilometres, making it the largest local government area in the state. The Murray River runs along the northern border of the area. A map of the Council area can be seen in the following figure:

Figure 4: Boundary Map for the MRCC municipality

Development of the Urban Tree Strategy 2021 – 2026

The Mildura Rural City Council municipality is a motivated and resilient community, rich in its cultural diversity, local knowledge, expertise and enthused locals who want to be 'actively involved in their community'. Council is committed to participatory democracy through the implementation of a systematic approach to public participation in council's decision making processes, by recognising, facilitating and promoting with community the opportunities for community to be involved.

Engagement is at the core of our business and council recognises the value the local knowledge, and real life experience our community has to offer. We recognise the support this knowledge provides when making sustainable decisions for the benefit of the people, who live, work, study and visit within our municipality.

Council acknowledges that authentic engagement not only increases the credibility of our decisions but also strengthens our relationships and connections to our community. This strategy has been developed in conjunction with a number of key stakeholder groups and was placed on public exhibition for all of community input. Feedback from these processes have been included in the content of the engagement process.

Phase	Details
Community Feedback	The draft strategy was provided to the community in 2021 for feedback. This feedback was collated and recommendations discussed with the working group.
Data analysis	In depth analysis of Council data and benchmarking alongside other Councils strategies
Internal consultation	Project control group, relevant Council areas
External consultation	Stakeholder consultation results and results from community satisfaction surveys. Draft strategy provided to Greening Mildura for comment
Draft strategy	Internal review by all of Council. Approved by Council to go out for public comment
Final strategy	Approved by Council
Implementation	Implementation of the Urban Tree Strategy 2021-2026 priorities and actions
Monitoring and evaluation	Monitor and evaluate the delivery of the Urban Tree Strategy 2021-2026 action plan
	Reporting internally and to the community on progress

Table 1: Process for developing the Urban Tree Strategy 2021 – 2026

Policy Framework and Strategic Context

As part of the development of the Urban Tree Strategy national, state and Council policy and tree management frameworks have been considered. The following section outlines those relevant to the strategy

Legislation in relation to arboriculture works including:

- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1989
- Environment Protection Act 1970
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988
- Electrical Safety Act 1998
- Road Management Act 2004
- Road Safety Act 1986
- CALP Act – Catchment and Land Protection Act
- MRCC Community Local Law No.2

Regulations that have been considered include:

- Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 and Amendment Regulations 2016
- Electrical Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020
- Planning and Environment Regulations

Council Policies and Plans

- Risk Management Framework
- Environmental Sustainability Report 2019-2020
- Invasive Plants and Animals Plan 2020-2024
- Public Open Space Strategy
- Urban Tree Policy
- Significant Tree Register
- The Urban Forest Strategy (under development at the time of publication

Australian Standards referred to include:

- AS 4373-2007 Pruning of amenity trees
- AS4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites
- AS2303-2015 Tree stock for landscape use
- AS 4419-2003 Soils for landscaping and garden use

Other checks in relation to arboriculture practices may include reference to:

- Accepted Best Management Practices (BMP) via organizations such as VTIO and Arb Australia
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) methodology
- MRCC Tree Removal Authorization Form (TRAF) process

Vegetation in Victoria is most commonly managed under the states Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and at a local level through Vegetation Protection Overlays including the Environmental Significant Overlay, Significant Landscape Overlay, Heritage Overlays, Erosion Management Overlay and Salinity Overlay. The National Trust advocates for the use of Heritage Overlays in local government planning schemes to protect trees.

Research

The consultation and research undertaken to inform the priorities and action in this strategy for Mildura Rural City Council included review of:

- MRCC Urban Tree Policy
- MRCC Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Energy Safe Victoria guidelines
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning – DWELP
- Lower Murray Water
- TreeNet website
- Quantified Tree Risk Assessment

Priority Areas

The Council will continue to work with the community to provide ‘clean, attractive, sustainable parks, gardens, streetscapes, reserves and wetlands.’ The Urban Tree Strategy identifies the following priority areas:

Priority 1: Street Tree Planning and Inventory

Tree bays are often located within the centre of urban streets or within designated locations between parking bays in central business districts.

Tree bays are provided as additional locations for the establishment of trees in urban areas and are often used as a traffic calming device in residential streets. Trees are also planted in tree bays located within the CBD to provide additional shade for parked vehicles and pedestrians and to improve the aesthetics of these areas.

Targeted tree bay planting will be reviewed annually to ensure the most up to date best practice principles are applied.

A tree planting program will be established in advance to plant in areas that require infill planting, remove (and replant) trees that are at end of life, have reached a level of risk that is unacceptable and to satisfy resident requests. Council will plant the most appropriate tree species based on site suitability, aesthetics and functionality. An accepted species selection list will be developed for areas/zones within urban Mildura which will also specify tree stock standards. To trial potential street tree species, Council will develop a database of trial species that will allow for monitoring how trees react to growing in our local region and assist in selecting suitable species. The focus will be on planting “the right tree in the right place”.

Council’s tree database is being developed as a primary management tool and represents a snapshot of all existing urban trees. The tree database only records data essential to operate as a strategic management tool and is not intended to be used as a day to day maintenance record, as this only duplicates other record systems already implemented across the organisation. Maintenance works and/or resident correspondence are recorded against the property address in alternate digital record keeping systems. For this reason, the data collected is generalised so that it will remain relevant for a five year period. Information contained in the database includes:

- Tree location; street, house number, planting location,
- Tree species
- Tree dimensions (in metres), both current and mature
- Tree growth stage - immature, semi-mature, mature,
- Tree condition and life expectancy (0-5yrs, 5-10yrs, 10-15yrs & 20+yrs)
- Tree Risk rating
- Site details such as overhead wires, service pits and subsurface infrastructure

Using the database information, management decisions can be made readily and confidently. By using the database to identify all trees with a short life expectancy and a poor condition rating Council can prepare annual tree replacement or planting programs and identify streets to be added to the streetscape enhancement program.

Significant trees within the region on Council managed land will be captured on the significant tree database. These trees will be appropriately managed, protected and reviewed annually.

Where development is to occur adjacent to or on Council Land where vegetation exists, the requirements contained within Australian Standard “Protection of trees on development sites” AS 4970-2009 shall apply.

Our goal is to "*Ensure appropriate planning is undertaken in regard to street tree assets and information is recorded in the Street Tree Inventory*"

Council will achieve this goal by:

- Ensuring that there is a net increase in street and park trees per year as part of the annual planting program with the right tree in the right location and focus on canopy trees where possible.
- Updating the tree replacement program in line with best practice principles
- Identifying and filling gaps in urban street environments
- Reviewing and maintaining the street tree database
- Reviewing the significant tree register
- Researching and trialing new species

Priority 2: Tree Protection

Council will recognise trees that contribute to the environmental, cultural and social character of the region via the Significant Tree Register. To protect the significance of Heritage Trees, a Heritage Tree Management Plan will be developed. Priority tree care will be provided for trees recognised as significant.

Unauthorised activity

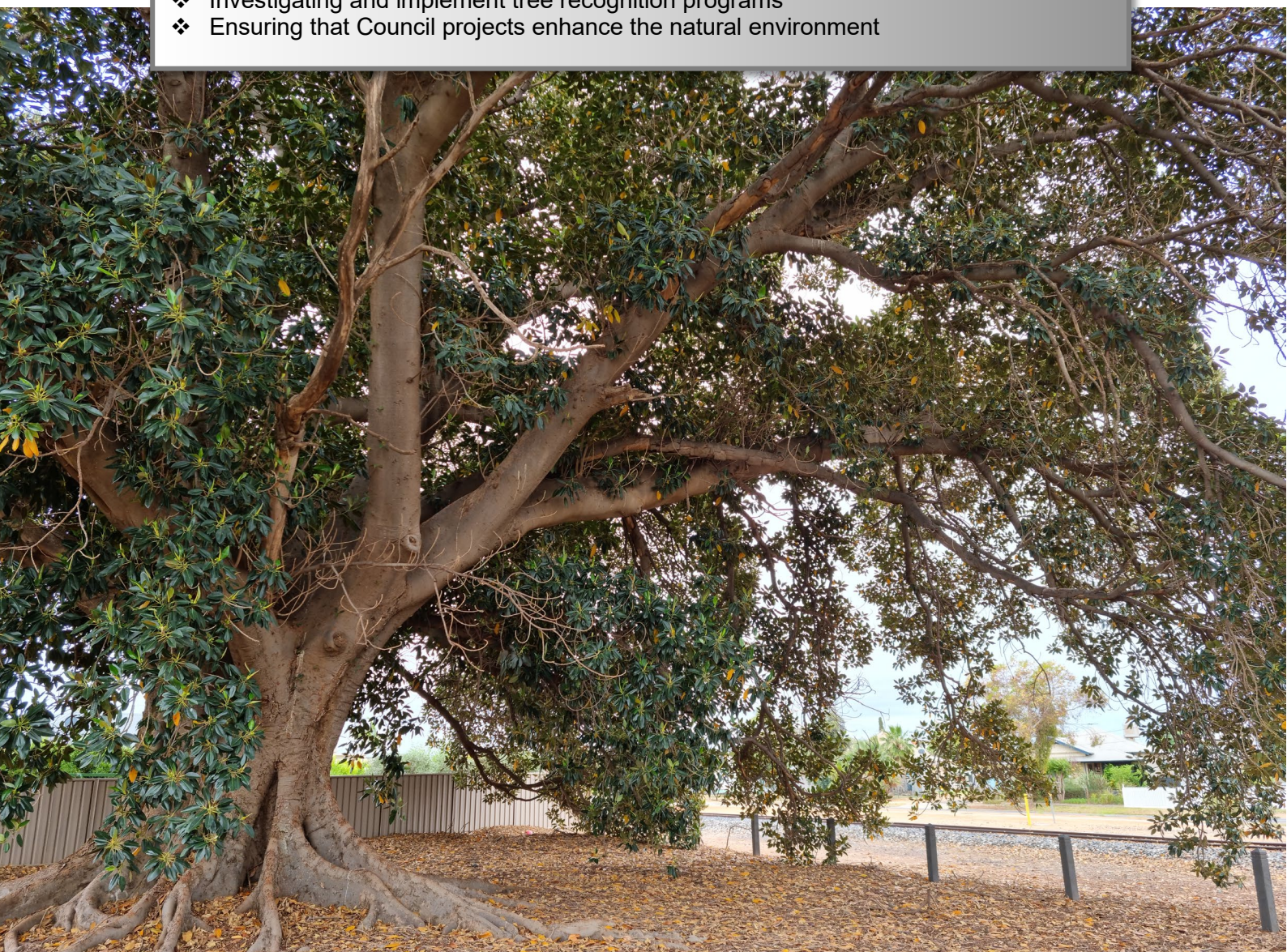
In order to protect the Council's tree assets, a zero tolerance approach will be assumed for any acts of wilful damage to trees and unauthorised removals. This may include the issuing of infringements and further enforcement action by Council Authorised Officers.

Tree removal

Trees will be inspected and recommended for removal if they have been identified as unsafe, if they have reached their useful life expectancy, and/or are seriously damaging existing infrastructure. All tree removals will be subject to approval through Council's Tree Removal Authorisation Form (TRAF) process. Any tree removed will be replaced with trees consistent with a neighbourhood planting scheme. Trees removed will inform an infill planting program, with the eventual goal of replacing trees removed within two seasons of removal.

Council will achieve this goal by:

- Investigating methods that will ensure the protection of significant trees
- Investigating and implement tree recognition programs
- Ensuring that Council projects enhance the natural environment



Priority 3: Establishment and Maintenance

All new developments will provide contributions towards tree planting as required in the approved landscape plan provided through the planning permit process. The developer is required to plant trees or as otherwise agreed to in writing.

Maintaining the health and condition of Council's mature large canopied trees is important to achieve the goals of this Urban Tree Strategy. Extended periods of drought conditions can have a negative impact on tree health. Tree health decline can result in a reduction in canopy coverage and even tree death. There are a number of methods to minimise water deficit stress experienced by urban trees. Mulching tree root zones reduces water loss due to evaporation and for trees growing in turfed areas lowers the competition for water between trees and the grass. Supplying supplementary water to the trees will also reduce water deficit stress. Recharging root zone soil moisture throughout the year is an important tool for maintaining tree health during drier periods and achieving transpiration cooling benefits.

Council adheres to the technical specifications and guidelines contained in *AS2303 – 2015: Tree Stock for Landscape Use.*

New tree planting includes a two year post planting maintenance program which includes irrigation, mulch top up, weed control and formative pruning. Formative pruning in the first few years after planting is often essential to achieve a well-structured tree and is an effective strategy in reducing long-term tree maintenance costs. This practice uses the selective removal of stems and branches early in a tree's life in order to create a safer, stronger structure. It is an effective risk reduction measure. Pruning should only remove enough living material so that a tree's growth can be directed and correct structure attained which is determined by the species. The result of formative pruning over the first 1-10 years of the tree's life (depending on speed of growth) should result in a well-structured tree, with few to no faults. Trees are generally not irrigated by Council after the post planting maintenance period (two years).

There are limitations on the number of trees that can be planted and maintained on an annual basis. This is linked to the availability of staff time and equipment such as water trucks necessary during the two year post planting period.

Council undertakes the pruning of street and park trees as part of its proactive, reactive and electrical line clearance programs.

All tree pruning will be in accordance with AS 4373 *Pruning of amenity trees*

Our goal is to *ensure street trees are established and maintained in accordance with best practice guidelines and standards.*

Council will achieve this goal by:

- Ensuring that landscape plans are and approved as part of planning process
- Investigating and developing new water conservation methods to reduce the need to water new or young street trees
- Undertaking a study to investigate the benefits of an additional water truck to increase the number of new plantings annually
- Monitoring tree installation techniques to ensure establishment of tree stock.
- Undertaking specialised young tree maintenance on all planted street and park trees, including formative pruning, for a minimum period of two years
- Capturing and reviewing watering data

Priority 4: Risk Management

To minimise the risk to the public associated with trees, Council conducts an annual hazardous tree inspection program. During this program all hazardous trees are inspected by a suitably qualified arborist. Trees that require works, whether risk related or for maintenance reasons, are given a risk rating and prioritised. Priority works are budgeted for and works are undertaken as per the arborist recommendations. Requests from the public concerning tree safety are investigated by Council staff; if the risk cannot be determined by Council staff an assessment and report will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arborist.

Council has adopted Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) as its risk assessment methodology.

QTRA quantifies the risk of significant harm from tree failure in a way that enables tree managers to balance safety with tree values and operate to predetermine limits of tolerance or acceptable risk.

By quantifying the risk from tree failure as a probability, QTRA enables a tree owner or manager to manage risk in accordance with widely applied and internationally recognized acceptable levels of risk. Risk assessments where QTRA is to be applied may only be completed by licensed and competent people.

Council will continue to maintain proactive tree management programs and provide adequate resources to minimise risk and ensure best practice is maintained.

We will systematically assess street and park trees, as far as practicable to mitigate tree risk for residents and visitors to the City.

Council will collect and maintain accurate and current data and documentation for the management of Council's tree assets

Annual Electric Line Inspections and Clearance

MRCC is required to maintain vegetation clearance from above ground electrical conductors within the 'Mildura Declared Areas' and 'Red Cliffs Declared Areas' under the *Electrical Safety Act 1998* and the *Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020*. MRCC will prepare and submit to Energy Safe Victoria an annual Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan prior to March 31 each year.

A copy of this plan will be made available on Councils website.

All trees with Councils declared area will be inspected and works programmed annually to be completed by April of each year.

Tree root risk assessment

The conflict between tree roots and infrastructure is pervasive in urban areas. The increase in urban consolidation along with the need and desire to have trees in our landscapes will invariably lead to conflicts.

All requests regarding possible tree root damage to property will be assessed by Council using the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) tree root assessment tool. An onsite inspection will be carried out and documented to determine whether the tree or other environmental or mechanical factors are contributing such as

- Nature of damage
- Surrounding infrastructure
- Width of nature strip
- Proximity to property

Our goal is to *ensure risks associated with trees are managed effectively*.

Council will achieve this goal by:

- Routinely assessing the condition of trees throughout urban areas and identify high risk trees and record the location of trees in Council's database
- Undertaking regular audits to ensure all works performed are in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards
- Annual completion and review of the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan
- Recording all maintenance activities into Council's centralised electronic tree database, to manage the asset most effectively whilst also managing any risks

Priority 5: Education and Awareness

Council is committed to working with local residents, businesses and community groups in all matters to improve Council services and facilities.

Council will provide information, regarding new street trees to the residents located adjacent to the planting. Council will increase community and stakeholder knowledge about the benefits of trees through council's web page, the local and social media and tree information leaflets.

The ways that residents will be encouraged be involved with Council's street trees are to:-

- Look out for opportunities in which to plant further street trees in your locality and report them to Council.
- Report any problems with, or damage to, existing trees that you notice.
- Assist Council with watering around the base of newly planted street trees and maintain the immediate tree surrounds in a neat and tidy condition.
- Report concerns regarding trees that may need pruning or are potentially causing clearance issues or damage to public or private infrastructure.
- Participate in supervised community planting days where particular areas and streets may be targeted for new street tree plantings. The community can participate in preparation, planting, staking and early establishment of the young trees.

Our goal is to *increase community awareness and support behavioural change within the community towards understanding the importance of protecting trees and establishing appropriate species suited to the local environment.*

Council will achieve this goal by:

- ❖ Engaging with the community in the establishment of urban trees
- ❖ Educating the community regarding the importance of notifying Council to discuss any tree related problems rather than undertaking unauthorised tree pruning or removal themselves.
- ❖ Distributing information to residents that outline how to care for street trees, providing advice on watering and reporting hazards or faults.
- ❖ Making information available to the public in regard to heritage and commemorative trees located throughout the municipality and provide street tree information sheets and make available on the internet.
- ❖ Provide information about suitable trees for our local climate

Monitoring and Reporting

The Urban Tree Strategy outlines a number of key areas which will work towards the overall goal of “Increasing the canopy cover across our region". Monitoring, reporting and constant evaluation is required to understand and measure the effectiveness of the strategy over the next five years.

Changes to climate, technologies, resource allocations and community expectations will all necessitate regular reviews of the way that Council manage its urban tree population.

The following review points will occur:

- Two years (2023): Strategy actions, progress towards targets and technical guidelines are to be reviewed.
- Five years (2026): The strategy itself will be reviewed and updated. At this five-year marker point, Council will also re-measure the canopy cover, re-audit its tree inventory and measure the achievement of its targets in readiness for an updated strategy.

Key Performance Indicators

- Community satisfaction with beautification of streetscapes
- Community satisfaction with tree planting
- Community satisfaction with tree maintenance
- Community satisfaction with public open space (including parks, garden and reserves)
- Net increase in trees
- Number of educational and awareness programs
- Participation in tree planting events
- Decrease in unauthorised tree activity

References

City of Monash	https://www.monash.vic.gov.au/.../Street-Tree-Strategy-for-Monash
City of Mitchell	https://www.mitchamcouncil.sa.gov.au/.../tree-strategy
City of Ryde	www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/.../public/publications/tree-management-plan.pdf
National Trust of Australia	https://trusttrees.org.au
QTRA	https://www.qtra.co.uk
Energy Safe Victoria	http://www.austlii.edu.au
DELWP	https://www.delwp.vic.gov.au
MRCC Council Plan	https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au/Council/About-Council/Council-Plans-Strategies
MRCC Significant Tree	https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au
Lower Murray Water	https://www.lmw.vic.gov.au/
MRCC website	https://www.mildura.vic.gov.au
TreeNet	https://treenet.org/
Arthur Rylah Institute	https://www.ari.vic.gov.au
Weeds Australia	https://www.environment.gov.au

Action Plan

Short term: 1 - 3 years

Medium term: 3 - 5 years

Long term: 5+ years

Priority 1: Street Tree Planning and Inventory

#	Description	Who	Timeframe	Resourcing
1.1	Ensuring that there is a net increase in street and park trees per year as part of the annual planting program with the right tree in the right location and focus on canopy trees where possible	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal
1.2	Updating the tree replacement program in line with best practice principles	Parks & Gardens	Medium Term	Internal
1.3	Identifying and filling gaps in urban street environments	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal
1.4	Reviewing and maintaining the street tree database	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal with consultation from external stakeholder groups
1.5	Reviewing the significant tree register on an annual basis	Community Futures	Medium Term	Internal / external
1.6	Researching and trialing new species	Parks & Gardens Environmental Sustainability	Short Term	Internal

Priority 2: Tree Protection

#	Description	Who	Timeframe	Resourcing
2.1	Investigating methods that will ensure the protection of significant trees	Parks & Gardens Community Futures	Short Term	External
2.2	Investigating and implement tree recognition programs	Parks & Gardens Community Futures	Short Term	Internal
2.3	Ensuring that Council projects enhance the natural environment	Council	Short Term	Internal

Priority 3: Establishment and Maintenance

#	Description	Who	Timeframe	Resourcing
3.1	Ensuring that landscape plans are and approved as part of planning process	Parks & Gardens Development Services	Annually	Internal
3.2	Investigating and developing new water conservation methods to reduce the need to water new or young street trees	Parks & Gardens Environmental Sustainability	Short Term	Internal
3.3	Undertaking a study to investigate the benefits of an additional water truck to increase the number of new plantings annually	Parks & Gardens	Short Term	External
3.4	Monitoring tree installation techniques to ensure establishment of tree stock	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal
3.5	Undertaking specialised young tree maintenance on all planted street and park trees, including formative pruning, for a minimum period of two years	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal
3.6	Capturing and reviewing watering data	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal / external

Priority 4: Risk Management

#	Description	Who	Timeframe	Resourcing
4.1	Routinely assessing the condition of trees throughout urban areas and identify high risk trees and record the location of trees in Council's database	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal / external
4.2	Undertaking regular audits to ensure all works performed are in accordance with the relevant Australian Standards	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal
4.3	Annual completion and review of the Electric Line Clearance Management Plan	Parks & Gardens	Annually	Internal / external
4.4	Recording all maintenance activities into Council's centralised electronic tree database, to manage the asset most effectively whilst also managing any risks	Parks & Gardens	Medium Term	Internal

Priority 5: Education and Awareness

#	Description	Who	Timeframe	Resourcing
5.1	Engaging with the community in the establishment of urban trees	Parks & Gardens Marketing & Communications Community Futures	Short Term	Internal
5.2	Educating the community regarding the importance of notifying Council to discuss any tree related problems rather than undertaking unauthorised tree pruning or removal themselves.	Parks & Gardens Marketing & Communications	Short Term	Internal
5.3	Distributing information to residents that outline how to care for street trees, providing advice on watering and reporting hazards or faults	Parks & Gardens Marketing & Communications Environmental Sustainbility	Short Term	Internal / external
5.4	Making information available to the public in regard to heritage and commemorative trees located throughout the municipality and provide street tree information sheets and make available on the internet	Community Futures Marketing & Communications	Short Term	Internal
5.5	Provide information about suitable trees for our local climate	Parks & Gardens Marketing & Communications Environmental Sustainbility	Short Term	Internal