

The Chief Executive Officer,  
City of Norwood, Payneham & St Peters,  
Town Hall,  
175, The Parade,  
Norwood, 5067.

The Secretary,  
Kensington Residents' Association Inc.,  
Mr A Dyson,  
42, Regent Street,  
Kensington, 5068.  
4<sup>th</sup> March, 2022.

**Re: 2022-2027 Draft Tree Strategy Community Consultation**

**Attention: Ms Nicole Rolfe, Strategic Planner,  
Economic Development & Strategic Projects**

Dear Sir,

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Tree Strategy. As mentioned in your letter, the Kensington Residents' Association has an interest in trees and their management in Kensington and throughout our city. Lobbying from our Association was a key factor in the extensive tree planting in High Street, Bridge Street and Wellington Street in the 1990s by the then City of Kensington & Norwood. These streets are now shady avenues.

In addition, our Association has been responsible for the revegetation of Borthwick and Pioneer Parks, Kensington's two major parks. In Borthwick Park we have planted some 6,000 plants since 2010.

Over the last decade, there has been an influx of new residents and a resulting increase in urban infill and high-rise apartments within the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters. Now is the ideal time for a tree strategy and to increase green space and tree canopy. Indeed, these are vital for community well-being and appropriate funding for this is seen as essential by our Association.

We offer the following comments on the draft strategy:

The development of the tree strategy is welcomed. We support initiatives such as the tree database; the targeted planting in areas identified as having low tree cover; the commitment to mitigating the impact of heat island effects; development of a street tree inventory; succession planning; development of long-term strategic goals; increased rollout of Treenet inlets; and a ten-year forward street planting program.

#### **Tree Planting Priority Criteria in Streets and Reserves**

We propose the criteria for replacement of Queensland Box should be amended so that Council prioritises their replacement in areas of highest risk, such as high-density residential living for the elderly, for example along Thornton Street, Kensington.

We recommend that Council develop criteria for planting in parks in addition to streets. We believe that Council has not planted any trees in Pioneer Park, Kensington for at least twenty years. Such criteria should support Council's Strategic & Policy framework in City Plan 2030 under Environmental Sustainability in particular 4.2 & 4.3 and include a program of regular

planting, including appropriate local understorey species to nurture tree health and improve habitat quality.

We encourage Council to make strategic land purchases to create a network of wildlife corridors. Burnside Council has created an almost continuous wildlife corridor along Second Creek from Glynburn Road heading east to Michael Perry Reserve. Any opportunities to continue wildlife corridors along First, Second, Third and Fourth Creeks should be prioritised by Council. We suggest that Council conduct a survey of other southern and eastern suburban councils to benchmark the percentage of Council land ownership and we encourage Council to take all opportunities to increase green open space and meet the targeted increase to 29% Green Canopy cover by 2045.

Noting that Council's largest land ownership is in streets, we suggest the development of a strategic network of pocket parks by converting portions of suitable streets. The Phillips Street (Mary McKillop) Park and the Maesbury Street closure adjacent to Hill Street are two good examples in Kensington where streets have been reclaimed for green space.

In addition to the street tree audit, there should be an audit of gaps in street tree plantings where trees might have been vandalised or died. Replacement of these trees should be prioritised.

### **What kind of trees will we plant?**

We acknowledge that some native species are not appropriate in the suburbs, particularly in streets, however many are appropriate, and thrive in our soils and climate. They attract and support native animals and birds and their leaves do not damage our waterways like the leaves of many exotic species. We suggest that Council seeks some input from a Eucalypt expert such as Dr Dean Nicolle (<https://dn.com.au/dean-nicolle.html>) in order to gain up-to-date advice regarding the suitability of different Eucalypt and other native species to supplement the suggested plant list.

Trees providing food and habitat for native fauna have not been rated as high priority for street tree plantings (pages 43 & 44). We suggest that this should be changed from low to medium on the chart (page 44).

### ***Street Tree Palette***

We question the inclusion of English Oak as a suitable species. Those on William Street, Norwood between Edward Street and Osmond Terrace provide wonderful shade but at certain times of the year drop a large number of acorns that are a danger to both pedestrians and cyclists.

### ***Guidance for residents***

Given that the majority of land in our City is in private hands, we suggest Council actively assist residents with their tree choices.

The Unley Council website refers residents to fact sheets of appropriate small, medium and large trees <https://www.unley.sa.gov.au/Environmental-Sustainability/Trees#section-3>.

A similar tool on the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters website would assist community education and be a cost-effective way to increase canopy cover.

We further recommend implementing more incentives for private landholders to plant large trees on their properties.

Also note our comments about naming trees under *Inspire and Influence* below.

## **Treenet inlets**

We welcome the planned roll-out of Treenet inlets and also recommend grants to householders to install Treenet inlets to support regulated or significant trees on their property where an arborist assessment states that the tree health would benefit.

## **Verges**

With Council Land representing only 4% of the total land holding in the City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters, street verges are key to maximising the positive impacts of the Tree Strategy and meeting the three overarching objectives listed on page 32 of the draft: namely *Cooling, Sustainability and Liveability*.

To further encourage verge planting, Council could remove the remaining barriers to residents' plantings. An ongoing program of dolomite removal and replacement with soil covered by mulch would facilitate resident plantings. The requirement that residents' domestic public liability insurance be extended to cover third party damage or loss related to verge plantings is a real disincentive at present and should be removed.

## **Inspire and Influence**

We offer the following concrete suggestions which may augment the *Community Education and Incentive Program* notes on page 55 of the draft.

### ***Case study: Windsor Street Unley.***

In Windsor Street Unley an open concrete drain approximately 1km long has been transformed into a sustainable landscape in harmony with the surrounding environment using native plant species. Combined with an engineering solution the plantings provide a living example of what can be achieved when creative alternatives are explored. The end result manages stormwater, increases biodiversity and canopy cover, and provides a wildlife corridor.

The Windsor Street Trail project has been featured on Gardening Australia as an initiative that inspires and influences the community and visitors. More at <https://www.abc.net.au/gardening/factsheets/2007---ep-24/9428018>

There will be opportunities in our City for similar inspirational projects (for example Torrens Linear Park). We suggest involving the community to explore suitable locations.

### ***Naming of trees***

As part of a community education program, we suggest that some key street trees display a QR code that people can access to read information about that tree. Such information could comprise:

- Name of tree.
- Approximate age.
- Benefits of this species in this setting (e.g., streets) and why it was chosen (such as shade, biodiversity).
- Where the trees are of local provenance (e.g., in parks or reserves), Kurna name and traditional indigenous use.

## **Environmental Sustainability in City Plan 2030**

In City Plan 2030 our Association supports Environmental Sustainability statements under Objective 4. In order to deliver on what are largely aspirational goals it is important that

Council employ a biodiversity officer with skills in conservation and land management. Such a person could work with on-the-ground staff to deliver these strategic directions, in particular 4.2 & 4.3.

### **Understorey plantings**

Healthy understorey improves tree health, suppresses weed growth, attracts wildlife, and improves soil health as well as having a cooling effect. We recommend that future Council plantings of trees incorporate appropriate understorey plants to support the trees.

While parks and reserves are the obvious starting point, much can also be done on streets; for example, the low plantings down The Parade, Norwood contribute to tree health and cooling of the local environment and enhance amenity.

### **Risk Management**

We applaud Council's retention of trees such as Eucalyptus Camaldulensis in public spaces and recommend regular inspections by a qualified arborist with minimum pruning undertaken to mitigate the risk of falling limbs. Establishment of understorey planting zones below trees such as has occurred in Borthwick Park can also reduce risk. We note that in Borthwick Park there are a number of dead limbs on trees including some that have fallen into lower portions of the canopy which should be removed.

### **Tree Sub-Committee**

The former City of Kensington & Norwood had an Environmental Advisory Committee which included both Councillors and Community representatives and promoted street tree planting, a successful outcome being the tree planting along High, Bridge and Wellington Streets in Kensington. A member of the Kensington Residents Association was a community representative between 1989 - 1995. We support the establishment of a similar committee.

We suggest that Council consider holding a workshop to discuss and explore our ideas and the ideas from other groups and residents.

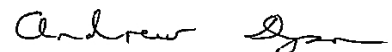
Yours faithfully,



**Jane Godsmark**  
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