

agenda

Streetscape Advisory Committee

A MEETING WILL BE HELD IN CONFERENCE ROOM 2
JOONDALUP CIVIC CENTRE, BOAS AVENUE, JOONDALUP

ON WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER 2009
COMMENCING AT 6.00 pm

GARRY HUNT
Chief Executive Officer
25 September 2009

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CITY OF JOONDALUP

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the **STREETSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will be held in Conference Room 2, Joondalup Civic Centre, Boas Avenue, Joondalup on **WEDNESDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2009** commencing at **6.00 pm**

GARRY HUNT
Chief Executive Officer
25 September 2009

Joondalup
Western Australia

AGENDA

Committee Members (12)

<i>Cr Trona Young</i>	<i>Presiding Person</i>
<i>Cr Mike Norman</i>	<i>Deputy Presiding Person</i>
<i>Cr Brian Corr</i>	
<i>Cr Kerry Hollywood</i>	
<i>Ms Christine Hamilton Prime</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Mr Des Lock</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Mr Jason Royal</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Ms Kathryn Muhlelsen</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Mr Kevin Burke</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Mr Mark McPherson</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Ms Yvonne McPherson</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>
<i>Ms Penny Gilpin</i>	<i>Community Representative</i>

Quorum for meetings (6):

The quorum for a meeting is to be at least 50% of the number of offices (whether vacant or not) of member of the committee.

Simple Majority:

A simple majority vote is to be more than 50% of those members present at the meeting.

Absolute majority (7):

An absolute majority vote is to be more than 50% of the number of offices (whether vacant or not) of the committee.

Casting vote:

In the event that the vote on a motion is tied, the presiding person must cast a second vote.

Terms of Reference

To:

- *provide advice to the Council on local streetscape amenity such as street trees, verges, public access ways and medians;*
- *assist the Council with the establishment of themed planting on road reserves to bolster the identity of our neighbourhoods.*

DECLARATION OF OPENING**APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE****CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****MINUTES OF THE STREETSCAPE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD 16 JULY 2009****RECOMMENDATION**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Streetscape Advisory Committee held on 16 July 2009 be confirmed as a true and correct record, subject to:

Correction

That Mr Kevin Burke be listed as an attendee at the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING PERSON WITHOUT DISCUSSION**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST****IDENTIFICATION OF MATTERS FOR WHICH THE MEETING MAY SIT BEHIND CLOSED DOORS****PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS****REPORTS**

ITEM 1 MAINTENANCE AND PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC ACCESS WAYS

WARD:	All
RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR:	Mr Martyn Glover Infrastructure Services
FILE NUMBER:	100232, 52591
ATTACHMENTS:	Nil.

PURPOSE

To review the City's current maintenance practices associated with Public Access Ways (PAWs), benchmark with industry standards, identify gaps within the service and provide any recommendations for service level improvement.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are 989 thoroughfares referred to as PAWs throughout the suburbs of the City of Joondalup.

This has recently been highlighted by the Streetscape Advisory Committee which requested that Council seek a report relating to the maintenance and presentation of PAWs throughout the City.

Maintenance and presentation of PAWs is currently limited to existing service levels that can be delivered by the resources available to the City. This currently consists of two work crews with a vehicle assigned to each crew.

Background information for the report includes benchmarking with similar local authorities.

It is recommended that the Streetscape Advisory Committee NOTES the report on Maintenance and Presentation of Public Access Ways.

BACKGROUND

It was resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of 18 August 2009 that Council:

“Supports the Streetscape Advisory Committee’s request for the Council to seek a report from the Chief Executive Officer relating to the maintenance and presentation of public access ways.”

There are 989 thoroughfares referred to as PAWs throughout the suburbs of the City of Joondalup. The PAWs are throughout the suburbs with the majority located in the older suburbs of the City as demonstrated in Figure 1 below:

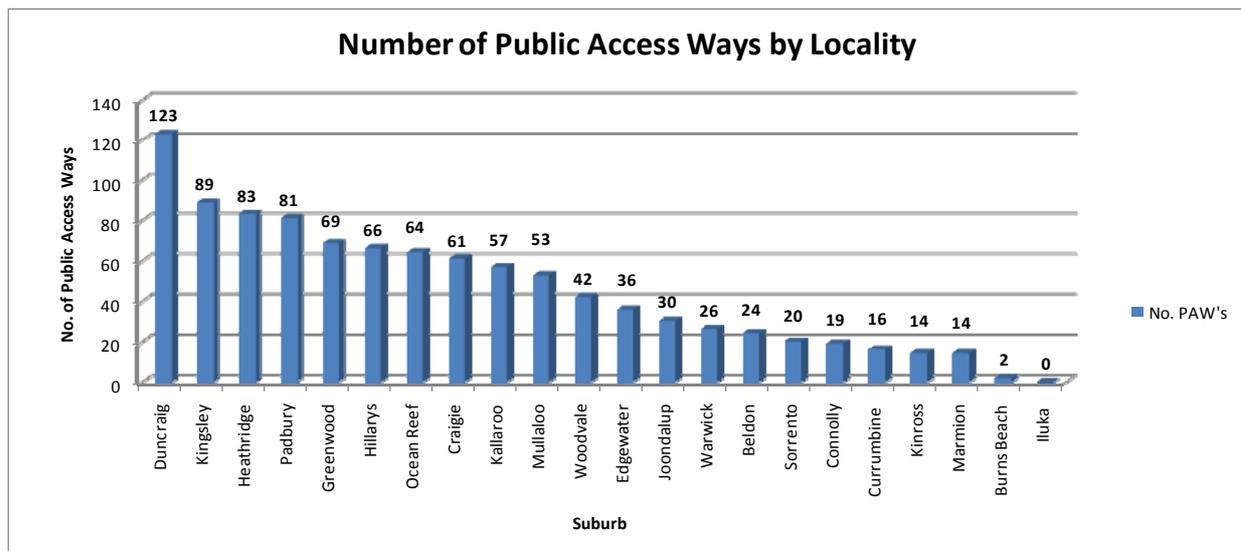


Figure 1

The highest numbers of PAWs are located in the suburbs of Duncraig (123), Kingsley (89), Heathridge (83), and Padbury (81). Suburbs with the lowest number of PAWs include Iluka (0), Burns Beach (2), Marmion (14) and Kinross (14).

PAWs are atypical of subdivision design during the 70s, 80s and 90s to provide pedestrian access connectivity through the development between culs-de-sac. In more recent years these reserve have been less popular due to their association with antisocial behaviour. This has been supported by the reintroduction of grid style subdivisions in accordance with the Liveable Neighbourhoods document.

PAWs are generally paved sections of pedestrian thoroughfares linking streets, running between properties. They are typically 3m wide, fence to fence, with a 1.2m wide, asphalt or concrete footpath running down the middle of the reserve. On either side of the footpath is a verge area which is generally vegetated with grass, native plants and / or weeds.

The maintenance service for PAWs is currently carried out by two crews with one crew responsible for scheduled maintenance and the other for reactive maintenance. Scheduled maintenance is planned work carried out on a suburb by suburb basis, whereas reactive work consists of unplanned requested works from various stakeholders including residents and Elected Members.

Records of work requests received between July 2008 and June 2009 indicate that the City receives 350 requests which equates to approximately seven requests per week. The types of requests are listed in Figure 2 below:

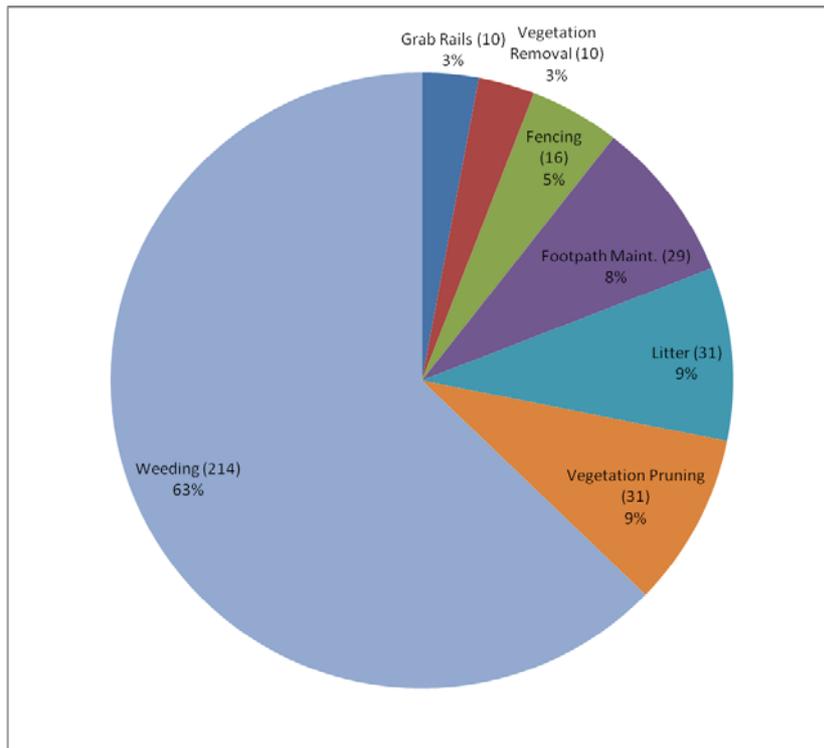


Figure 2

DETAILS

Current Works Practices

Maintenance crews are equipped with the necessary plant and equipment to carry out the following maintenance activities:

- Weed control

Weeds are evident in most PAWs. The current practice is to control weeds by brush cutting and mowing.

- Pruning of vegetation

Overhanging vegetation occurs in the majority of PAWs. The current practice is to trim or cut back vegetation to the boundary line with hedge trimmers, chain saws and pole saws.

- Verge maintenance (structural)

Stabilisation of verges is required where wash-a-ways are experienced during heavy rainfall. These occur on those PAWs that have steep grades or cross falls.

- Rubbish/vegetation removal

Rubbish removed from PAWs includes prunings, some of which is dumped, often over the fence from neighbouring properties.

- Weed spray

The City does not currently spray weeds in PAWs due to the cancellation of the contractor spraying service and the introduction of the new day labour service. It is envisaged that this new service could be introduced in the future, though subject to a review of service level requirements.

Comparison with other Local Authorities

Consideration was given to how the City’s maintenance practices compared to other similar local authorities. Local authorities contacted were the City of Stirling, City of Melville and City of Wanneroo.

The local governments contacted were regarded as being of a similar size, age of development and having similar operational practices. The method of comparison is staff per number of PAWs because this was the only common data available. The City of Joondalup has the largest number of PAWs as demonstrated in Figure 3 below:

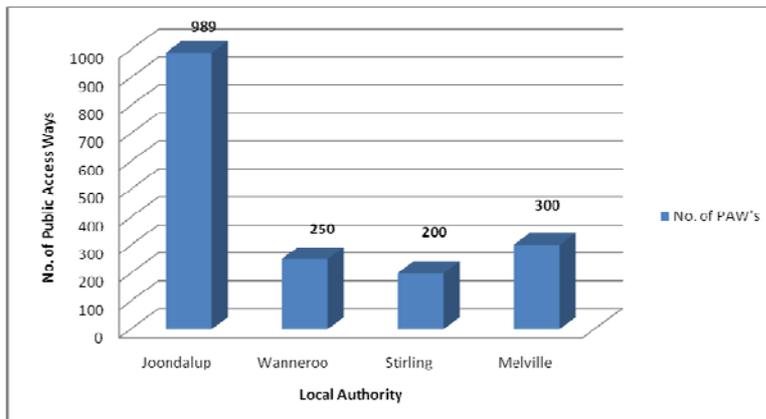


Figure 3

The City of Joondalup also has the largest dedicated work group for PAWs however in terms of full time equivalent staff per PAW, it has the second greatest number of PAWs. This is detailed in the table below:

Local Authority	No. of PAWs	Resources			Maintenance Type	
		FTE's (100% in PAW's)	PAW's per FTE	Vehicle Type	Reactive (%)	Scheduled (%)
Joondalup	989	4	247	2 x dual cab truck	75	25
Wanneroo	250	1	250	1 x dual cab truck	100	0
Stirling	200	1.1	182	1 x dual cab ute	100	0
Melville	300	1.75	171	utes & trucks	0	100

The City of Melville was the only local authority to have its maintenance program scheduled and its service level has inspections fortnightly, and scheduled maintenance twice a year and spraying twice a year.

The City of Joondalup in comparison prescribes to the following service level:

- Inspections on demand
- Scheduled maintenance once every 18 months

Issues and options considered

Status Quo

This option limits scheduled maintenance to once every 18 months as a minimum plus attendance to all community requests.

Mowing Service Increase

If the City continues with mowing only, it would be expected that between two and three visits would be required to manage the vegetation.

Metropolitan Perth Standard

This option, which is generally acceptable in the metropolitan area Councils, involves one visit per year including mowing and / or weed spray.

Preferred Joondalup Standard

The administration's suggested service level is a minimum of one visit per year using mowing and / or weeding techniques as required plus attendance to all community requests. It would be anticipated that the community requests would reduce over time as the schedules are refined.

Legislation/Strategic Plan/Policy Implications

Legislation:

Local Government Act 1995 (Part 3, Division 2, Section 3.52) – Refers to public access to be maintained and plans kept

Local Government and public property law 1999 (Part 8) – Activities in thoroughfares

Strategic Plan

Not applicable

Policy

Not applicable

Risk Management considerations:

PAWs serve as thoroughfares for a variety of traffic including pedestrians and bicycles, therefore to minimise the City's exposure to public liability, the pavements and verges within the boundaries should be maintained to an acceptable standard. The issue is whether the current service level is an acceptable standard.

Financial/Budget Implications:

The 2009/10 Budget and Year to Date expenditure are as shown below:

Budget Amount:	\$202,000
YTD Amount:	\$39,000

Regional Significance:

Not applicable

Sustainability implications:

Maintaining PAWs to the highest possible standard ensures future access sustainability for a variety of traffic including pedestrians and bicycles.

Consultation:

The City has consulted with the Cities of Stirling, Melville and Wanneroo.

COMMENT

The current service level for PAWs is similar to that of other local governments and could be considered as the acceptable minimum. The reintroduction of weedspraying to the service will reduce the number of visits required for each PAW. The City is currently considering the provisional weedspray equipment for the PAW vehicles so that the current mowing staff can apply the herbicide chemicals as part of their service. This service is one of many provided to the community and consequently is subject to the same budgetary pressure and prioritisation process each year.

It is intended that this service, like all maintenance services, be reviewed by the Council as part of the annual budgetary process in 2010/11.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Streetscape Advisory Committee NOTES the report on Maintenance and Presentation of Public Access Ways.

ITEM 2 CITY OF JOONDALUP STREET TREES

WARD: All

RESPONSIBLE DIRECTOR: Mr Martyn Glover
Infrastructure Services

FILE NUMBER: 02767

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment 1 Species Lists from other local governments.
Attachment 2 City of Joondalup current preferred street tree planting list.
Attachment 3 Recommended additional tree species

PURPOSE

To report on additional tree species suitable for median island and verge planting in the City of Joondalup that can be included in the City's preferred street tree species list.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to identify additional tree species that may be suitable for planting on the City's verge and median islands and can be included on the current preferred street tree species list.

There are many considerations when selecting an appropriate tree to be used in the urban environment. All tree planting should be conducted with consideration as to how the tree will fit into its environment once established. It requires a planned approach with a clear outcome of the desired effect the tree is to have once it has reached maturity. This could involve a feature tree within a roundabout, a 'boulevard' setting, a themed streetscape, residential verges and precinct plantings. Unplanned planting of trees in areas which are not suited to the chosen species may lead to future costs and maintenance issues.

In considering future street tree plantings and appropriate species the City must plan with forethought and direction.

Although local species would be preferred for future plantings many are not suitable for residential or commercial verges and would struggle in the urban environment. However there is a place for natives, introduced evergreen and deciduous tree species. When planting trees within road reserves solar access must be considered and in some situations a deciduous species may be the preferable option as it allows winter sun into homes and offers protection from the hot summer sun.

Street tree trials are predominantly carried out in Eastern Australia which can provide misleading information about the trees as the climatic conditions vary greatly to those in the Perth region. What thrives in Eastern Australia will not necessarily thrive here in the West. By conducting trials within the Joondalup area, the City will be able to monitor a particular species performance in the local area and therefore obtain accurate information on species performance and suitability. This will also develop an urban forest unique to the City of Joondalup.

In researching alternative street tree species for the City of Joondalup, reference was made to the preferred planting lists from the City of Belmont, City of Subiaco, City of South Perth, City of Wanneroo and the City of Fremantle. (See attachment 1). Several other local governments were also contacted but did not use a formalised species list.

It is recommended that the Streetscape Advisory Committee:

- 1 *ENDORSES the current and recommended preferred street tree species;*
- 2 *NOTES that there is a planned approach to tree planting and species selection within the City of Joondalup;*
- 3 *NOTES that the City is developing an over arching methodology for how existing trees are cared for, maintained and dealt with in development applications;*
- 4 *CONSIDERS carrying out street tree trials to investigate alternative street tree species.*

BACKGROUND

The Streetscape Advisory Committee was established to provide advice to the Council on local streetscape amenity such as street trees, verges, public access ways and medians. Its role also includes assisting the Council with the establishment of themed planting on road reserves to bolster the amenity of the City's neighbourhoods.

The Committee membership comprises four Elected Members and eight Community Representatives.

Council at its Ordinary Meeting of 18 August 2009 resolved the following:

“That Council supports the Streetscape Advisory Committee’s request for the Council to seek a report from the Chief Executive Officer on the street tree species available for planting in the City of Joondalup, including both exotic and native species.”

DETAILS

Street trees provide a range of benefits within the urban environment and are crucial for the shaping of the City's landscape. One of the key objectives in planting trees is selecting a species of tree that is appropriate to local environmental conditions and the constraints of the planting location. This selection process aims to ensure that trees make positive contributions to environmental amenity and any negative features are minimised.

When planting trees a planned approach with a clear outcome of the desired effect the tree is to have must be considered. This could be a feature tree within a roundabout, the 'boulevard' or avenue effect of canopies joining over the road reserve or a simple themed streetscape.

When careful planning of street tree selection occurs and the tree is allowed to mature the benefit to the local environment is substantial as highlighted below:

- Trees assist in reducing household heating and cooling costs
- Trees assist in reducing reduce heat emanating from roads, paving and houses
- Trees intercept storm water run off reducing the possibility of flooding
- Air quality is improved by trees as they absorb carbon dioxide and many air born pollutants
- Create valuable habitat for fauna

Issues to be considered:

With all future street tree plantings appropriate species must be selected with forethought and direction. The City needs to anticipate what the desired effect of the future plantings are to achieve. Situations such as; are the trees to be planted on small residential verges, large tree lined avenues and amenity planting need to be considered. All tree plantings need to be looked at as a long term asset and investment, for the resident, visitor and for future generations.

Although local species would be the preferred choice for future plantings many are not suitable for residential or commercial verges and do not thrive in the urban environment, therefore exotic species need to be considered. Many streets in Joondalup and across Australia are planted with exotics and have proven to be very successful.

When selecting tree species that will be located near infrastructure such as footpaths and roads, trees with invasive root system or trees that are prone to limb failure are to be avoided. The benefit of an expanded tree selection list allows the City to avoid planting species which are not suitable for a particular area and therefore minimise the possibility of future maintenance problems.

When planting trees within road reserves solar access must be considered. In many situations a deciduous species may be preferable as it allows sunlight into homes during the winter and filters sunlight during the summer.

There is no perfect street tree, however if the City selects the appropriate tree for the appropriate location and ensures all necessary measures both above and below ground are taken into account at the planting stage, there is every chance that the tree will develop successfully.

Availability

An important factor when selecting street trees is the availability and quality of the required species from local nurseries. Lack of quality stock is an ongoing issue and one the City has contended with on many landscaping projects and ongoing maintenance.

Trials

To ensure the City is looking at all available options with regard to tree species selection it is recommended that the City carry out trials to investigate alternative street tree species. If successful these trees are then added to the preferred species list. Street tree trials in Australia have been predominantly carried out in Eastern Australia which can provide misleading information about the trees as the climatic conditions vary greatly to those in the Perth region. Perth has unique environmental conditions such as extremely poor soils, strong winds, changing weather patterns and decreasing rainfall which all impact the ability of tree species performance. By conducting trials within the Joondalup area, the City will be able to monitor a particular species performance in the local area and therefore obtain accurate

information on species performance and suitability. This will also develop an urban forest unique to the City of Joondalup

Current Species List

The City of Joondalup's current street tree species list has been utilised for a number of years and is similar to tree species planting throughout Perth's local governments. All of the species on the City's current list feature on the lists obtained from the City of Belmont, City of Subiaco, City of South Perth, City of Wanneroo and the City of Fremantle.

The City of Joondalup's current preferred species list is as seen in the below table, see Attachment 2 for descriptions and photographs:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height range (m)	Suitable for under power lines	Suitable for Coastal Areas	Not Suitable for Near Bush Land Areas	Australian Native	Western Australian Native	Deciduous	Only for large verges and in consultation with the City
<i>Agonis flexuosa</i>	WA Peppermint / Willow Myrtle	6-10		√	√		√		
<i>Angophora costata</i>	Smooth Bark Apple Myrtle	15-20				√			
<i>Callistemon 'Kings Park Special'</i>	Bottle Brush	4	√	√		√			
<i>Corymbia ficifolia</i>	WA Red Flowering Gum	10-15					√		
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Poinciana	8-15						√	
<i>Eucalyptus gomphocephala*</i>	Tuart	20-40		√			√		√
<i>Eucalyptus nicholii</i>	Narrow Leaved Black Peppermint	10-20				√			
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon rosea</i>	Pink Flowering Ironbark	10-15				√			
<i>Eucalyptus torquata</i>	Coral Gum	3-7	√				√		
<i>Gleditsia tricanthos 'Shade Master'</i>	Honey Locust	10-15			√			√	
<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda	10-15			√			√	
<i>Melaleuca cuticularis</i>	Salt Paper Bark / White Paper Bark	3-7	√	√	√		√		
<i>Melaleuca lanceolata</i>	Rottnest Tea Tree	3-8	√	√	√		√		
<i>Sapium sebiferum</i>	Chinese Tallow	5-7	√					√	

Alternative Species List

In researching alternative street trees for the City of Joondalup, species lists from the City of Belmont, City of Subiaco, City of South Perth, City of Wanneroo and the City of Fremantle were investigated (See attachment 1). Street trees from these authorities that were not on the City's current species list were examined to determine if they could be added as suitable alternatives. After examining these lists, consulting with local arboriculturalists and taking into consideration the unique local conditions in Joondalup, additional tree species have been recommended to be included in the City's preferred tree species planting list.

The following table lists recommended species that are not currently featured on the City's current species list, but are recommended for addition the City of Joondalup's preferred tree species planting list. Please also see attachment 3 for descriptions and photographs:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height range	Suitable for under power lines	Suitable for Coastal Areas	Not Suitable for Near Bush Land Areas	Australian Native	Western Australian Native	Deciduous	Only for large verges and in consultation with the City
<i>Allocasuarina fraseriana</i>	Fraser's or western sheoak	10-13		√			√		
<i>Angophora hispida</i>	Dwarf apple-myrtle	8-10		√		√			
<i>Araucaria colunaris</i>	Cook Island pine	20-30		√					√
<i>Brachychiton acerifolius</i>	Illawarra flame tree	15-25						√	√
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i>	Weeping bottlebrush	7-9				√			
<i>Celtis australis</i>	Nettle tree	15-20			√			√	
<i>Corymbia citriodora</i>	Lemon scented gum	20-40				√			√
<i>Corymbia eximia</i>	Yellow bloodwood	10-12							
<i>Corymbia eximia 'nana'</i>	Dwarf yellow bloodwood	6-8				√			
<i>Eucalyptus polyanthemos</i>	Red box	15-18				√			
<i>Eucalyptus rudis</i>	Flooded gum	15-20					√		√
<i>Eucalyptus scoparia</i>	Wallangara white gum	8-12				√			
<i>Eucalyptus spathulata</i>	Swamp mallet	10-12				√			
<i>Eucalyptus tottiana</i>	Prickly bark	10-15					√		
<i>Geijera parviflora</i>	Wilga	10-12				√			
<i>Magnolia grandaflora 'little gem'</i>	Laurel magnolia	4-6	√					√	
<i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i>	Broad leaf paperbark	12-15			√	√			√
<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	Chinese pistachio	10-12						√	
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i>	London plane	20-30			√				√
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane	15-20			√				√
<i>Pyrus ussuriensis</i>	Manchurian pear	10-15						√	
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	Chinese elm	10-15			√			√	√

Legislation/Strategic Plan/Policy Implications

Legislation ELECTRICITY REGULATIONS 1947 - REG 316A Code of Practice for Personnel Electrical Safety for Vegetation Control Work Near Live Power Lines
Australian Standard 4373 2007 Pruning of Amenity trees

Strategic Plan

Key Focus Area: The Natural Environment:

Objective: To ensure that the City's natural environmental assets are preserved, rehabilitated and maintained.

To engage proactively within the community and other relevant organisations in the preservation of the City's natural environmental assets

Key Focus Area: The Built Environment

Objective: To ensure high quality urban development within the City

To progress a range of innovative and high quality urban development within the City

Risk Management considerations:

Not applicable

Financial/Budget Implications:

Not applicable

Policy Implications

Not applicable

Regional Significance:

Not applicable.

Sustainability implications:

Trees have many positive impacts which contribute to environmental sustainability and the community with their primary benefits seen below:

- Mitigate Global Warming by reducing Green House Gases (GHG)
- Carbon Dioxide Storage and Sequestration
- Reduces the City carbon footprint
- Improve Air Quality
- Pollution Removal
- Increase Energy Savings (shade & windbreaks)
- Trees also reduce energy use in buildings when located to produce shade and windbreaks
- Reduce Urban Heat Island Effect
- Reduce Asphalt Temperature
- Rain Fall Interception

Consultation:

While investigating the additional street tree species the City contacted the City of Belmont, City of Wanneroo, City of Stirling and City of Subiaco to discuss the overall success or failure of both native and exotic species.

In addition the City consulted local arboriculturalists to gain their perspective on the current plantings within the Perth metropolitan area and any potential species which could be utilised.

COMMENT

To ensure that the City continues to protect and develop its natural street tree assets a diverse species list is essential and will contribute to the City's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Although local species would be the preferred choice for future plantings many are not suitable for residential or commercial verges and do not thrive in the urban environment and therefore the use of exotic species needs to be considered. With the implementation of appropriate maintenance practices there is a place for both natives and exotic tree species in the streetscapes throughout the City of Joondalup.

A number of Metropolitan local governments have developed street tree strategies, which involve allocating one to two species of trees to any given street. This process demonstrates a clear plan for developing a themed future urban forest. It also goes towards replacing the established but aging street tree population present in many streets within the City.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Streetscape Advisory Committee RECOMMENDS that Council:

- 1 ENDORSES the current and recommended preferred street tree species;**
- 2 NOTES that there is a planned approach to tree planting and species within the City of Joondalup;**
- 3 NOTES that the City is developing an over arching methodology for how existing trees are cared for, maintained and dealt with in development applications;**
- 4 CONSIDERS carrying out street tree trials to investigate alternative street tree species.**

Appendix 1 refers

To access this attachment on electronic document, click here: [Attach1agn071009.pdf](#)

MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

REQUESTS FOR REPORTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

CLOSURE



APPENDICES

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