

# *Hume City Council Street and Reserve Tree Strategy*



## **STREET AND RESERVE TREE STRATEGY**

**September 2004**



### INTRODUCTION

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*Approved By: Hume City Council*

*Author: Jason Summers – Open Space Coordinator*

*Adoption Date: 27 September 2004*

*Review Date: 27 September 2008*

# ***Hume City Council Street and Reserve Tree Strategy***

Hume is committed to improving the appearance of the City through the maintenance and enhancement of its street and reserve trees. Its vision is that:

***Hume will have a leafier City that is healthy, sustainable and is a place where people want to work, live and play.***

## **Issues**

Currently, Hume's urban forest consists of a diverse range of tree species, with a significant proportion in the advanced stages of maturity. Many trees have been inappropriately planted and require removal and replacement to reduce the higher cost of maintenance.

At present, the attitude of Hume's residents to trees and their management is variable and limited.

Developers who are establishing future communities have a responsibility in establishing Hume's urban forest, which is not always achieved.

Street and reserve trees contribute to the appearance of the City through their aesthetic value, by providing identity and character. In addition, trees positively contribute to the urban environments by absorbing heat, providing shade, reducing solar radiation, providing habitat to fauna and flora, utilising storm water run off and assisting in air purification.

For Council to sustain this contribution, it must manage all stages of a tree's life from planting through to maintenance and eventual removal and replacement.

## **Aim**

The aim of this strategy:

- For Hume to be seen as a leader in Urban forest management in Local government
- To improve the appearance of the City by creating a Leafier City.
- To encourage community involvement in the development of Humes Urban forest.
- To provide shady safe parks for visitors and residents to use.
- To create a healthy diverse and environmentally sustainable Urban Forest
- To improve Humes Urban Forest through excellence in tree management.
- To manage Councils tree assets to ensure the safety of public and property

## **Context**

# **Hume City Council Street and Reserve Tree Strategy**

The Street and Reserve Tree Strategy is guided by the Hume City Plan 2030.

Part of the 'Our Vision for Hume City' as articulated in the Hume City Plan 2030 includes ...'welcoming, leafy, picturesque and distinctive rural and urban living environments'...

The following is an extract from the Hume City Plan 2030 section entitled 'What will Hume City look like in 2030?': 'All of its avenues and streets will be tree-lined and display a profound sense of community care and pride'.

There are ten key lead indicators to measure the community's effectiveness in achieving the Hume City Plan 2030 vision. One of the key indicators is 'Number of street trees' with a target of 200,000 by 2030.

In the Hume City Plan 2030, 'Appearance of the City' theme with an expected outcome of 'An attractive and liveable City', the community actions include:

## **By 2008**

- Ensure that a street tree is planted in front of every house in new subdivisions and substantially increase the number and improve the quality of street trees throughout the established parts of the City by planting and sustaining an average of at least 5,000 new street trees per year in order to achieve a target of one street tree for every house by 2030.
- Undertake substantial education and community involvement programs to enhance a sense of community pride and the sustainability, cleanliness, maintenance and appearance of public land (including streets, parks, gardens, shopping precincts and schools) and private land (including residential, commercial and industrial properties).

## **By 2016**

- Undertake a consultative review of all key entrances to and transport corridors and boulevards within Hume City and undertake substantial enhancement works to evoke a sense of difference, community identity and pride.

## **By 2024**

Ensure that all neighbourhoods and activity centres display a unique and creative sense of pride and identity as a result of local consultation, urban renewal works and streetscape and public art improvement works.

## **SCOPE**

This strategy is to guide the Tree Management Team of the Parks and Open Spaces department of Hume City Council to implement its Street and Reserve Tree Policy.

## **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

# ***Hume City Council Street and Reserve Tree Strategy***

Hume City Council's Street and Reserve Tree Policy  
Hume City Council's Street and Reserve Tree Technical Notes  
Hume City Council's Leafier City Program

## **DEFINITIONS**

Urban Forest – private and publicly owned trees planted in an urban area.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. The Community values and respects the City's trees
2. The City will have a leafier environment
3. Hume is recognised as a leader in Urban Forest management in local government

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

All the costs for implementing this strategy will be covered by the recurrent funds in the Parks Department budget.

## **HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Parks Management team will complete the majority of the work. Some of the work such as data collection will be undertaken by external consultants that are budgeted for in the 04/05 parks budget.

## ***Hume City Council Street and Reserve Tree Strategy***

<b>OBJECTIVE 1: The Community values and respects the City's trees</b>			
<b>Sub objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Enhanced Community awareness.	Develop a communication plan.	Develop information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequently asked questions (naturestrip trees)</li> <li>• Caring for your new street tree.</li> <li>• Arbor Week</li> <li>• Significant trees</li> <li>• Landmark tree planting</li> </ul> Identify the appropriate medium for dissemination to the Community.	Jan 2005 Jan 2005 Sept 2004 Oct 2005 Ongoing
Effective Community consultation.	Develop Community consultation processes.	Develop a process for informing residents of a proposed change in a streetscape or major changes in local parkland.  Develop a brochure for residents with new plantings.  Provide opportunities for the Community to comment on the draft Street and Reserve Tree Policy.	April 2005  April 2005  Oct 2004

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<b>OBJECTIVE 2: The City will have a leafier environment</b>			
<b>Sub objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Establish more trees.	Implement the Leafier City Program annually.	To plant 5,000 trees throughout Hume in the 2004/05 financial year.	June 2005
		To plant 5,000 trees throughout Hume in the 2005/06 financial year.	June 2006
		To plant 5,000 trees throughout Hume in the 2006/07 financial year.	June 2007
		To provide all residents who receive a new tree a letter, brochure and a bucket advising them to give the tree a drink over the warmer months to help them establish.	Sept 2004
		To implement a post-care maintenance care program for all new plantings.	Sept 2004

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<b>OBJECTIVE 3: Hume is recognised as a leader in Urban Forest management in local government</b>			
<b>Sub objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Improve tree planting and maintenance standards	Develop specifications.	Develop and implement specifications for the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Material supply</li> <li>• Tree Planting</li> <li>• Tree Establishment Maintenance</li> </ul>	Oct 2004
		To produce a tender to engage contractors to undertake implementation of the specifications.	Oct 2004
Improve Developer tree management practices	Develop specific information for Developers.	To promote the Tree Planting and Maintenance Specification.	April 2005
		To incorporate the Tree policy and Technical Notes into the guidelines for Planning, Design and Construction of Open Space.	Jan 2005
		To develop guidelines on the protection of existing trees during development. To incorporate these into the Guidelines for Planning, Design and Construction of Open Space	Oct 2005

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Continued.

<b>OBJECTIVE 3: Hume is recognised as a leader in Urban Forest management in local government</b>			
<b>Sub objective</b>	<b>Strategies</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Protect significant trees in Public Open Space	Develop a significant tree register for Public Open Space.	Develop interim list of significant trees in Hume's Open space.	Oct 2005
		Promote the register to the wider community to nominate trees within Humes Open Space.	Dec 2005
Effectively manage risk	Develop a Tree maintenance database and inventory.	To collect data on the location and condition of existing trees.	Ongoing
		To transfer data onto Council's GIS system.	Sept 2004 - Ongoing
		To maintain tree maintenance information on the GIS system.	Ongoing
		To identify trees that pose a risk to the Community and ensure that a program of regular assessments is developed and undertaken.	June 2005
		To document and implement the Powerline Management Plan submitted annually to the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector (OCEI).	Jan 2005

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