

2022-Tree Planting FAQ's

Implementing the Urban Forest Strategy

The Urban Forest Strategy was developed by the City in response to community consultation and adopted by Council in November 2019. An aerial survey assessment undertaken in 2015 identified the City of Canning as having one of the lowest levels of tree canopy cover within the Perth and Peel area at less than 8% coverage across the total City land area. This placed the City of Canning as having the third lowest canopy cover of 29 Perth metropolitan Local Governments.

The strategy sets the target of increasing tree canopy cover across Public Open Spaces (POS) from 6.1% to 12.9% by 2039. This will be achieved by ensuring at least one tree is planted in every road verge. The City is planting trees in road verges throughout all suburbs within the City of Canning, this will help make The City of Canning a cooler, greener place to live and work.

As part of adopting a strategic approach to addressing the City's low canopy and high heat challenges, suburbs are being prioritised for planting based on data obtained from aerial heat mapping (heat island) undertaken in 2015. This survey identified areas of high surface temperature and low tree canopy. This approach ensures best value is achieved through highest efficiency of tree planting, establishment and maintenance.

We've prepared responses to Frequently Asked Questions below. If you have any other questions not included below, please contact the City on 1300 422 664

Who is responsible for maintaining the verge trees

The City is responsible for maintaining and establishing verge trees including watering, mulching, fertilizing and undertaking regular inspections. Seasonal watering is carried out by the City's tree watering contractor during a two year establishment period, after which the trees should be sufficiently established into native soils and are generally able to support themselves.

How do I care for my verge tree

The City is responsible for managing all verge trees including pruning. You can help by providing extra water during hot, dry periods which will help your new tree establish and become self-reliant.

I've just come home and there is a new tree on my road verge

The City's vision is to be a "welcoming and thriving City"

Tree canopies play a vital role in reducing the Urban Heat Island effect by providing shade and cooling as well as, improving air quality, storm water management and most importantly increasing the liveability of an area.

Feedback received during public engagement when developing the Urban Forest Strategy indicated that of those surveyed 90% of respondents indicated they “would like to see increased canopy cover”.

Increased levels of tree canopy are directly linked to improvements in mental and physical wellbeing for local residents, as well as providing cool shade during hooter periods and providing important habitat for native birds and wildlife.

Why is the City planting trees beneath power wires, won't this increase maintenance costs for pruning?

The newly planted tree on your road verge has been selected to suit its location, based on the verge characteristics, local environment and trees growth habit.

Tree species are allocated to planting locations by matching the characteristics of the planting location (verge width, powerlines present and, proximity to areas identified as Ecological Linkages) with an appropriate tree species from the list of available trees. This planting location information was collected during a site assessment undertaken by the Urban Forest Team prior to planting.

Trees chosen for planting under powerlines are smaller species which will not grow large enough to interfere with the wires, or are selected from the City's Street Tree Strategy and due to their morphology should require minimal ongoing maintenance to ensure appropriate clearances are maintained.

I have solar PV panels, the new trees will shade my panels in the future

The newly planted tree on you verge has been selected to suit its location, based on the verge characteristics, local environment and trees growth habit.

Due to the distance from the road verge to most homes and the planting of relatively lower growing trees, it is highly unlikely that newly planted trees will cause any interference with roof top solar panels.