



His Worship the Mayor
Councillors
City of Marion

Notice of Environment Committee

Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt

Tuesday, 4 April 2023 at 8.00 pm

The CEO hereby gives Notice pursuant to the provisions under Section 83 of the *Local Government Act 1999* that an Environment Committee will be held.

A copy of the Agenda for this meeting is attached in accordance with Section 83 of the Act.

Meetings of the Council are open to the public and interested members of this community are welcome to attend. Access to the Council Chamber is via the main entrance to the Administration Centre on Sturt Road, Sturt.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Harrison", is positioned above the printed name.

Tony Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

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1 Open Meeting

2 Kurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

4 Confirmation of Minutes

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2023

Report Reference	EC230404R4.1
Originating Officer	Business Support Officer – Governance and Council Support – Cassidy Mitchell
Corporate Manager	Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
General Manager	Chief Executive Officer – Tony Harrison

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2023 be taken as read and confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS

1. E C 230207 - Final Minutes [4.1.1 - 8 pages]



**Minutes of the Environment Committee
held on Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 8.00 pm
Council Chamber, Council Administration Centre
245 Sturt Road, Sturt**



**PRESENT**

Councillor Jason Veliskou (Chair)
His Worship the Mayor Kris Hanna
Councillor Raelene Telfer
Councillor Sarah Luscombe

In Attendance

Councillor Nathan Prior
Councillor Matt Taylor
Councillor Renuka Lama
Councillor Ian Crossland
Councillor Luke Naismith
Chief Executive Officer - Tony Harrison
General Manager City Services - Ben Keen
Chief Financial Officer – Ray Barnwell
Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services - Colleen Madsen
Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
Manager Office of the Chief Executive – Kate McKenzie
Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability – Rebecca Neumann

1 Open Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 8.00pm.

2 Kaurna Acknowledgement

We acknowledge the Kaurna people, the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present.

3 Elected Member Declaration of Interest (if any)

The Chair asked if any member wished to disclose an interest in relation to any item being considered at the meeting

The following interests were disclosed:

- Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes

Due to this being the inaugural meeting of the Environment Committee there were no minutes.

5 Business Arising**5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items**

Report Reference	
EC230207R5.1	

The Environment Committee noted as this is the first meeting of the Committee there was no business arising.



6 Confidential Items – Nil

7 Reports for Discussion – Nil

8 Reports for Noting - Nil

9 Workshop / Presentation Items

9.1 Workshop Agenda for 2023

Report Reference EC230207R9.1

The chair provided a list of suggested topics from Council Members for the Committee to consider.

The Committee Members and other Council Members present split into groups and placed the suggested topics under the following headings:

- Council Operations
- Beyond Council Area
- Within the Council Area
- Infrastructure Committee

The Chair noted and thanked the Committee for the work undertaken on rating those topics into the various sections.

9.2 Environmental Update

Report Reference EC230207R9.2

The Unit Manager Environmental Sustainability presented an Environmental update to the Committee on the activities and priorities for 2023 under the broad themes of Climate Action, Trees/Biodiversity/Green Space, Waste and Recycling and Community Engagement.

The Committee noted there was a comprehensive update provided at the January 2023 Elected Member Planning Day and this presentation reflects on that update and ensuing discussion.

Update provided on:

- Climate Action is a significant focus, and the Carbon Neutral Plan is guiding our mitigation activities.
- Renewable Energy Procurement Project.
- Fleet Transition, a report on this will be presented at the 14 March General Council meeting.
- Community renewables and Federal Funding pledge is a State Government led project with Council partnership.
- Climate Risk Governance Assessment.
- Resilient South and Resilient Asset Management Project (RAMP).



- There is a need to renew the sector agreement on Resilient South, which includes the partnership between the Cities of Marion, Onkaparinga, Holdfast Bay, Mitcham and the State Government. This will need to go to Council for endorsement.
- Trees, Biodiversity and Coastal Management.
- Major review of the Tree Management Framework - is being transferred to a Tree Asset Management Plan which guides the trees we have control over. This will go to Council mid-year and is a good opportunity for discussion with the Committee.
- Greening Strategy needs to be developed that not only looks at the trees we manage but broadly at what is happening on greening across the entire city.
- Biodiversity planning has a major review on what was the 5-year Remnant Vegetation Management Plan that guided our Biodiversity works. Aiming to bring this to Council towards the end of this year.
- Sturt River – pledge from the Federal Government to put \$700k towards the Sturt River biodiversity corridor. There will be a new initiative related to this.
- Marion Water Business.
- Coastal Management – ongoing coastal program.
- Waste & Recycling program with kitchen caddy rollout has been successful. Next stage is looking at changed services to the organic's collections i.e., FOGO (new initiative connected to this).
- Education and behaviour change.
- Soft Plastics Recycling.
- Broad sustainability engagement discussed on resources and events, gardens and food security, volunteering.

A slide was presented on the dates various projects are due and potential Environment Committee topics.

The Committee discussed the interface with Green Adelaide and how that body works with the City of Marion.

- Resilient South coordinator is funded by Green Adelaide
- In kind support is provided.
- Grant funding etc.

Question with Notice - Cr Prior

Embodied Carbon - what is our carbon footprint in that area, and can the Committee be provided with a sketch on how big the problem is?

Urban Heat Island and how is the Council looking at this?

The data capture process has just been completed. This is a state government led project and data should be coming out in the next month.



Field River officer is funded 100% by Green Adelaide, conducting woody weed control, supporting Friends Groups, physical clean up including removal of tyres etc.

Green Adelaide – possibility for someone from Green Adelaide to speak to the committee if it fits with one of the themes.

The Committee discussed the potential upcoming items from the presentation and whether any of those items would be best presented at a Forum or Committee prior to going to Council.

- Waste & Recycling should be presented for a broader discussion at either Forum or Committee prior to going to Council. More detailed analysis to what the considerations are including the experiences of other councils i.e., is there information around the country that staff can provide including the challenges and how we get the most out of them, and a way forward that can inform the Forums in relation to potential trials etc.

Grant opportunities

- How do we use Green Adelaide to leverage grant opportunities, how do we maximise what we are doing by leveraging other parties for grant opportunities.

ACTION

Green Adelaide has a grant round that has just opened and will close in approximately one month. Information on that grant opportunity to be circulated to Committee Members.

Committee looking for new ideas to discuss at this committee. Some of the topics in this listing may tie into the one proposed by Council Members.

Noted that some items may cross over both the Environment Committee and Infrastructure Committee.

ACTION

A very brief report on the rainwater tank trial's outcomes in Glengowrie to be emailed to the Committee Members.

The Committee discussed the agenda items for the April Environment Committee meeting and the following was agreed:

- Trees Asset Management and Greening Strategy
- Waste and Recycling
- Education within the broader community.

9.3 Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest

Report Reference EC230207R9.3

The Draft City of Marion Submission to the "Inquiry into the Urban Forest" by the Environment, Resources and Development Committee of the South Australian Parliament will be presented at the General Council meeting on 14 February 2023.

EC230207 - Environment Committee - 7 February 2023



The Chair had previously collated feedback from the Committee on the recommendations in the report presented in the agenda and provided the following list of recommendations for discussion:

A summary of key comments that required changes has been made in the table below along with revised recommendations where appropriate. Any amendments to recommendation have been highlighted in yellow.

Legend
All support no comments
All support but comments apply
Discussion requested/unsure
Some don't support

ID	Recommendation
1	<p>The ERDC should ensure the final report on this inquiry has recommendations that link to Adelaide's Urban Greening Strategy (being developed by Green Adelaide) and that Green Adelaide be formally tasked to take the lead in coordinating matters related to the urban forest.</p> <p>Summary of comments Needs more focus on loss of private trees. General concerns were raised around the need for better tree protection laws. We need to ensure Green Adelaide does not lose touch with councils. There is no single agency that currently takes an overarching view on Urban Greening and Urban Forestry matters. The Urban Greening Strategy that Green Adelaide is doing deals with the loss of tree canopy on private land particularly how they are taken through the Planning System. Focus on determining levers to improve tree canopy on private land.</p>
2	The State Government ensures a coordinated approach to a regular Adelaide Tree Census that allows establishment of a benchmarking model of Adelaide's urban forest.
3	The State Government funds ongoing tree canopy mapping of Adelaide with a focus on monitoring trees on private land with the next round of data collection to include an analysis of species diversity.
4	The State Government works with councils and other stakeholders to identify mechanisms to improve the species diversity of the Adelaide urban forest to bolster its resilience to direct and indirect climate impacts and reduce the overall impact should one or more species be disproportionately impacted.
5	The State Government works with councils, local tree nurseries and research institutions (e.g. TREENET, Waite Arboretum) on a Climate Resilient Trees Trial and Climate Resilient Trees Guideline for Adelaide.
6	<p>The State Government works with councils and the Local Government Association to investigate the development of a private tree planting and maintenance fund.</p> <p>Summary of comments Requires more detail on who would fund this.</p>
7	The State Government brings together the Office of the Technical Regulator, Green Adelaide the Local Government Association and utility providers to undertake a review of the regulation of trees on public land.

	<p>Summary of comments</p> <p>This is a big issue – there needs to be a more direct approach. The situation of trees under powerlines is complicated. Guidelines are that SAPN responds to issues and the regulator is like the police. The guidelines are not about urban greening priorities and don't take into consideration the heat and amenity of the trees, therefore there is a need for a more strategic direction from those agencies to bring those people together. The Urban Greening Strategy should help. City of Marion is currently negotiating with SAPN in relation to a high number of trees withing the CoM that could be forcibly removed should CoM not take responsibility for pruning them. Suggestion could be: The State Government removes the power of utilities providers to insist upon the removal of trees on public land.</p>
8	<p>The State Government reviews the PLEC funding model and strategic prioritisation process to better incorporate the benefits of urban greening.</p> <p>Summary of comments</p> <p>Noted a grand scale PLEC would be costly.</p>
9	The State Government reviews the list of declared weeds and considers including exemptions for species that may have a low threat in urban areas.
10	The State Government works with local government and industry leaders to standardise a tree valuation methodology in South Australia and ensure this valuation is linked to tree protection laws in the state planning system.
11	The recommendations of this inquiry are provided to the Minister for Planning and are incorporated into the final recommendations of the Planning System Implementation Review.
12	State planning laws must establish a clear definition on 'Reasonable Development' in relation to trees, e.g., if X amount of canopy cover is lost, the development is not reasonable.
13	State planning laws should enable Council to refuse development if the plans are inaccurate/misleading, forcing private certifiers to ensure all lodged documents are accurate and include impacts to all trees, including those on adjacent public land.
14	There should be no exemption allowing for the removal of Regulated trees within proximity to buildings or other structures unless it can be demonstrated that the tree is actually damaging that structure, and there should be a requirement for the proponent to demonstrate that the value of the structure outweighs the value of the tree.
15	The state government should provide further guidelines on suitable tree selection and long-term maintenance to complement the mandatory tree planting policy in the state planning system.
16	<p>Declared weeds (under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019) should not have a blanket exemption from planning approvals. Instead, applications could be made for defined areas (e.g., woody weed control along a creekline).</p> <p>Summary of comments</p> <p>Following discussion, the Committee supported the low need for removal of certain woody weeds in urbanised areas.</p>
17	Remove the exemptions of State Government departments from tree protection regulations (notably the Department of Infrastructure and Transport and Department for Education).
18	Seek opportunities for state-level tree protection planning priorities on Federal Government land (e.g. the Department of Defence).



19	State Government engages with the Local Government Association and councils around the implications of increasing tree regulation and opportunities to manage resource impacts e.g. through leveraging fees or state government provision of funds.
20	There should be no tree species exempt from planning approvals meaning proponents should be required to seek approval to remove/modify ANY TREE above a specific size threshold.
21	<p>The State Government delivers a community campaign on the benefits of trees through the Adelaide National Park City program. The campaign should focus on promoting the benefits of trees.</p> <p>Summary of comments There would not be much benefit from this sort of marketing campaign under the Adelaide National Park City program. The Committee suggested this item be deleted.</p>
22	<p>State Government supports further research and collection of evidence around the relationship between trees, bushfire risk and protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>Summary of comments Following discussion and questions on the varying ways of reducing bushfire risk and the relevance to the City of Marion, the Committee decided to support this recommendation. It was noted that managing fire risk should also consider impacts to biodiversity and urban heat particularly in planning for firebreaks.</p>
23	<p>The State Government works with industry leaders on a review of the arboriculture industry including professional training standards, accreditation and support for local industry development.</p> <p>Summary of comments Following discussion and questions from the Committee on the relevance to the City of Marion, it was noted that this recommendation is to ensure that we get good quality arborist reports during development applications and to protect residents from unscrupulous operators. It was noted that the arboriculture industry currently has no certification processes and no regulation or standards around it.</p>

10 Other Business - Nil

11 Meeting Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.

CONFIRMED THIS 4TH DAY OF APRIL 2023

CHAIRPERSON

5 Business Arising

5.1 Business Arising Statement - Action Items

Report Reference	EC230404R5.1
Originating Officer	Executive Officer to the General Manager City Services – Colleen Madsen
Corporate Manager	N/A
General Manager	General Manager City Services – Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this report is to review the business arising from previous meetings of the Environment Committee meetings, the meeting schedule and upcoming items.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

1. **Notes the business arising statement, meeting schedule and upcoming items.**

ATTACHMENTS

1. EC230304 - Business Arising as at 04 April 2023 [**5.1.1** - 1 page]
2. EC230404 - Schedule of Upcoming Items 2023 [**5.1.2** - 2 pages]
3. EC230404 - Draft Topic Suggestions [**5.1.3** - 5 pages]

**CITY OF MARION
BUSINESS ARISING ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

AS AT 04 APRIL 2023 

Meeting Date	Document	Item No.	Item	Action Required	Assignee/s	Action Taken	Status
7/02/2023	EC230207–Environment Committee 7 February 2023	9.2	Environmental Update	Green Adelaide has a grant round that has just opened and will close in approximately one month. Information on that grant opportunity to be circulated to Committee Members.	Rebecca Neumann	Information circulated to Committee Members via email on 14/2/23	Completed
7/02/2023	EC230207–Environment Committee 7 February 2023	9.2	Environmental Update	A very brief report on the rainwater tank trial's outcomes in Glengowrie to be emailed to the Committee Members.	Mathew Allen	Report circulated to Committee Members via email on 6/3/23	Completed
7/02/2023	EC230207–Environment Committee 7 February 2023	9.2	Environmental Update	Question with Notice – Cr Prior Embodied carbon - what is our carbon footprint in that area, and can the Committee be provided with a sketch on how big the problem is?	Mathew Allen	Information circulated to Members present at that meeting via email on 10/3/23	Completed

* Completed items to be removed are shaded

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 1 February	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Workshop Agenda for 2023	W				
Environmental Update	P			R Neumann	
Parliamentary Inquiry into the Urban Forest	W			R Neumann	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 4 April	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	
Trees Asset Management and Greening Strategy	R			R Neumann / I Seccafien	
Waste and Recycling	R			R Neumann / A Byrne	
Education within the broader community	R			R Neumann / B Jaggard	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 6 June	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	

Environment Committee – 2022 Schedule of upcoming items

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 5 September	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	

Environment Committee		Date: Tuesday, 7 November	Time: 8.00pm – 9.30pm	Venue: Chamber	
Topic	Type of Report	Description	External Attendees	Staff Responsible	
Business Arising		Business arising from previous meetings, the meeting schedule, and upcoming items		C Madsen	

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Council Operations		
Greening/nature management	Waste management with a FOGO focus	Energy
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Greenery and open spaces for residents to enjoy for generations to come.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 FOGO introduction	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 1 – better understanding of COM sustainability incentives scheme offers i.e., residential, business, and commercial solar PV's, energy monitoring, more electric vehicle charging stations, water saving devices, home energy assessments, battery storage programs.
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 What species of trees are being planted near them so they know how they can maintain them?	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Skip at City services and Adam's Rd, plus other location to receive soft plastics	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Could also be included in a topic on Carbon Neutral Waste and energy audits in council process and identify how reduce both with awareness of business impact.
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Overarching clear vision for council that we will prioritise tree canopy, biodiversity, etc., as our vision - so policy to fall back e.g., if road widening impacting established trees mooted - have consistency in approach.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Alterations to bin schedule and repercussions?	Carbon Neutral Embodied Carbon - measurement
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Trees planting and pruning	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Detailed analysis of FOGO at holdfast - do larger red bins reduce waste overall - what is opt out rate?	Carbon Neutral Solar on buildings
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Education program on biodiversity, tree planting and how to plant workshops.		Carbon Neutral Battery and solar storage on all major COM buildings.
Biodiversity Plan Utilise friends of Glenthorne		Carbon Neutral Integration of renewal energy sources as a part of our long term 'energy' strategy for COM, for generations to come.
Biodiversity Plan Looking at impact of council's chemical use on, soil (microbes), flora, fauna and human health		Charging business models? Can we have chargers at our infrastructure which are pay per use with solar to provide power?

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Biodiversity Plan Using steam Weed killing system rather than spraying of chemicals in the footpath to kill weeds, Holdfast Bay council has already been doing this		
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Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Influencing Behaviour Within the Council Area		
Education	Actions	Strategy
Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 An education piece in preparation for the huge greening project during and after the 'North/South' Corridors.	Trees and Urban Greening EC 4 April 2023 Greening/ and greening strategies along our motorways, roads, trams, trains, transport routes and how we can become 'leaders' in greening, in spaces that we did not think possible.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Waste & Recycling Promoting bulk buying or purchasing in your own containers etc. (at a less challenging time for households) to provide alternatives to people grabbing new bags at supermarkets. Everyone thinks that because they are still available (because technically they are not single use) then that means they are OK for the environment and use of reuse appears low through observations at supermarkets.
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Running regular education programs for our residents on how we dispose/manage our everyday waste, trees planting, by maintaining more greenery and vegetation.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Further work on energy saving/ generation looks at funding for innovations.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Organise external incentives (no or little council cost) for things like water-saving, power-saving, or waste reduction.
Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Broader Education on not only recycling but energy use and also water conservation behaviour.	Opt-in cradle to grave waste stewardship with local business.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Forum for residents for what they want for Climate Action Now.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Waste education and engagement needs to start at the ground level. How and what to recycle.	How to promote less waste production in business.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Build library of info for residents - Knowledge base.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Further education and advocacy to local/state bodies as well as residents on their behaviour around single use plastic bags.		Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Practical environmentalism.
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Waste education improved comms on recycling - have the stickers on their bins saying what can and can't go in each bin.		Climate Change Adaptation Resilience discussion groups per suburb.

Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

More education of the public (potentially more funding needed – for the staff in the environmental/education areas) as well as minimum and measurable metrics/KPI's on the comms and messaging and engagement from the public.		
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Environment Committee Suggested Topics Categorised on 7 February 2023 Meeting

Themes for Broader Outside Council Area		
Energy	Climate Change	Waste/Recycling with Soft Plastics Focus
Community Electricity and Renewables Big picture contribution either through local site or working with others or lobbying or supporting research for new energy storage methods - vanadium batteries or more readily available options to lithium batteries.	Enviro Engagement EC 4 April 2023 Sustainable planets focus or theme "A sustainable planet for all"	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Advocating to (and possibly participating with) other councils, state, and federal government for the establishment of a cross council/state/national soft plastic recycling facility.
Community Electricity and Renewables Looking at how we can align with other governments policy/vision such as: "Electrifying Boothby" www.rewiringaustralia.org/community/boothby	Carbon Neutral and/or Climate Change Adaptation Carbon Sequestration (timber plantation or something else?)	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Who is soft plastic recycling, and should we pursue?
Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Community Electricity and Renewables Hydrogen generation at SRWRA and Hydrogen powered dump trucks?	Climate Change Adaptation Climate change mitigation for flooding Sturt drain, storm damage, wind damage.	Waste and Recycling EC 4 April 2023 Advocating for a legislative change regarding our soft plastics recycling.
What part can we play in hydrogen economy?	Climate Change Adaptation Mitigation of climate change translated in building codes and standards.	How do we really accelerate the circular economy?
Hydrogen – possible along the announcement involving Edwardstown.	Biodiversity Plan Biodiversity loss of species- flora and fauna	
Solar for businesses?	Coastal Management Work on coastal mapping with sea level rises.	

6 Confidential Items - Nil

7 Reports for Discussion

7.1 Waste and recycling

Report Reference	EC230404R7.1
Originating Officer	Waste Education Officer – Allison Byrne
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

This report provides a summary of current waste and recycling services provided by City of Marion and seeks feedback on priorities for 2023.

Feedback is also sought on a proposed timeframe and high-level project plan for the roll-out of a weekly organics collection.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Marion currently offers a range of services associated with waste and recycling from the kerbside waste collection to education campaigns and services. With high levels of community interest and opportunities for improvement in recycling services this report highlights emerging trends and key upcoming opportunities (Attachment 1).

The move to weekly organics collection services by interstate councils, and more recently the City of Holdfast Bay in South Australia, has been shown to significantly reduce the volume of organic waste in the general waste stream.

A presentation from City of Holdfast Bay Environment Officer, Shani Wood, will highlight some of the considerations for City of Marion in the establishment of a weekly organics waste collection service. (Summary in Attachment 2.)

A high-level timeframe and project plan for a weekly organics collection service is presented in Attachment 3 for further discussion by the Environment Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

1. Provides feedback on the waste and recycling priorities for 2023 (refer Attachment 1).
2. Notes the presentation from City of Holdfast Bay Environment Officer Shani Wood on the weekly “FOGO” program and the written summary of the Holdfast Bay FOGO collection provided in Attachment 2.
3. Provides feedback on the proposed stages and timeframes for a weekly organics collection service presented in Attachment 3.

DISCUSSION

Waste and Recycling Priorities for 2023

A summary of potential current waste and recycling priorities for 2023 is provided in Attachment 1. It is recommended that the list of current services is discussed along with the list of priorities identified by the Environment Committee at EC230407 to help shape waste and recycling services and future reports to the Environment Committee and council during 2023.

Weekly Organics Collection

A key emerging priority for councils is the diversion of organic material out of the general waste stream and into the organics waste stream. The introduction of a weekly (instead of the more common fortnightly) organics collection service has proven to dramatically assist with this goal.

Currently councils are required to offer a weekly general waste collection service under the *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy 2010*. This means that even if councils move to a weekly organic waste collection, the option of retaining the weekly general waste collection service still needs to be provided. Note that in recognition of the challenges around this legislation, the Environment Protection Authority has developed reference group to review this policy and public consultation is expected to occur in late 2023.

The City of Holdfast Bay began investigating and introducing steps towards a weekly organics collection in 2020. A full-scale implementation of the scheme is now in place. A summary of the program will be provided by Holdfast Bay Environment Officer Shani Wood. Key information is also included in Attachment 2.

As a larger and more geographically diverse council area than the City of Holdfast Bay, the City of Marion would need to consider additional complexities in the roll out of a similar service. Most importantly, the unknown costs related to the required “opt-out” service need to be investigated.

To better understand the implications of a weekly organics collection service it is proposed that a business plan is brought to council for further consideration. Key considerations will include:

- Potential for cost recovery options for properties retaining the weekly waste collection service.
- Scale of the program including whether multi-unit dwellings and businesses are included.
- Whether upsize options are offered for waste and/or recycling bins.

It is recommended that the Environment Committee receives the presentation from Shani Wood (City of Holdfast Bay) and discusses the proposed stages and timeframes for a City of Marion weekly organics collection service presented in Attachment 3.

PRESENTERS

Shani Wood, Environment Officer, City of Holdfast Bay

Presentation time: 15 minutes.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment - 1 City of Marion waste and recycling overview [7.1.1 - 3 pages]
2. Attachment - 2 Summary of City of Holdfast Bay weekly fogo collections [7.1.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment - 3 City of Marion weekly organics proposal [7.1.3 - 1 page]

Key Trends and Influences

- **Southern Materials Recovery Facility (SMRF)** opened in July 2021 to process materials collected in the yellow kerbside bins across Marion, Holdfast Bay, and Onkaparinga Council areas.
- **Single-use plastics bans** have been introduced in South Australia.
 - In March 2021 single-use plastic straws, cutlery and stirrers were prohibited from being sold, supplied, and distributed in SA.
 - In March 2022, expanded polystyrene cups, bowls, plates, and clamshell containers were prohibited from sale, supply, or distribution in South Australia.
 - More single-use plastic items will be prohibited in stages during 2023, 2024 and 2025.
 - **Oxo-degradable plastic** products are also prohibited from production, manufacture, supply, and sale in the state.
- **Beverage container litter** currently represents only 2.8% of litter items in South Australia because of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS). It is proposed that the CDS is expanded to include wine bottles.
- **Soft plastics** recycling halted in November 2022 after stockpiling issues were found by the collector from supermarkets, Redcycle. The problem for this recycling program was the volumes of soft plastics being collected and supplied to recyclers had sharply outgrown the demand for the recycled plastic products. The Australian Government is working with industry partners to investigate further options for development of soft plastics recycling programs.
- **City of Holdfast Bay FOGO.** The FOGO (Food Organics Green Organics) service was introduced by City of Holdfast Bay in September 2022 following a trial of weekly green bin and fortnightly red bin collection, with the recycling collection remaining fortnightly. This is now their default waste collection service, and residents may opt out if they wish to continue having a weekly red and fortnightly green bin collection. This new service model has attracted community interest and expectation for other councils to adopt new service arrangements which maximise recycling outcomes.
- **Weekly organics collections** are soon to be trialled in the City of Charles Sturt to assess the opt-out rate among different demographics to those of the City of Holdfast Bay.

City of Marion Initiatives

- **Food Waste Recycling Program:**
 - Kitchen caddy distribution completed to 39,902 households in 2021.
 - Commissioned kerbside audit report informed the project evaluation report which was presented to General Council meeting on 9 August 2022 (GC220809R12.1).
 - Replacement rolls of bags for kitchen caddies available now for collection from council offices, libraries, and neighbourhood centres.
 - A community survey will be carried out by June 2023 to understand household behaviours and barriers with food waste recycling and provides an opportunity to seek community views on different bin collection service options.
- **Community Education:** Recycling presentations continue to be delivered in the community, as well as recycling facility tours.
- **Compostable dog poo bags** are now used in dispensers across the council area. Two 'Doggie Dunnyes' are currently being trialled at our two dog parks in Glengowrie and Trott Park to divert pet waste to commercial compost.
- **Compost Bin and Worm Farm Rebates:** rebates of 50% (up to \$40) on the purchase of a worm farm, compost bin or bokashi unit purchased are available to Marion ratepayers.

- **Council events:**

- Proactively working with organisers and **caterers** for Council-run events to ensure single-use plastics are not being used.
- Continue and expand the use of **volunteer bin buddies** at major Council-run events to assist in guiding attendees in the appropriate use of waste and recycling systems.
- **Valuing Marion's Waste:** Council's internal waste management systems have been reviewed following an independent waste assessment documenting waste management systems across all council facilities and identifying improvements for resource recovery. During 2023 improvements to waste and recycling infrastructure at Council operated sites will be implemented and awareness sessions around the use of the systems will be delivered.
- **Recycled material in road construction:** Since 2019 the City of Marion has been using Reconophalt in road construction, which consists of recycled plastic bags, printer cartridge toner and reclaimed asphalt pavement (RAP). It is estimated that approximately 2.5 million plastic bags per year since 2019 have been recycled within City of Marion's road bases and this figure will increase in coming years when the recycled content in City of Marion's roads is set to increase from 30% to 50%.

Environment Committee Priorities

At the 7 February Environment Committee meeting, council members identified a range of environmental priorities for consideration by the Environment Committee. The following priorities were identified as having a link to the waste and recycling theme of this current report (Table 1).

Table 1. Environment Committee Waste and Recycling Priorities EC230207

Council Operations	Proposed response
1. Skip at City services and Adam's Rd, plus other location to receive soft plastics	<p>Not pursued</p> <p>A suitable soft plastics reprocessing facility is not currently available in Adelaide. Options for soft plastic are better sought through the facility that processes councils kerbside waste (SRWRA).</p> <p>In addition, Council's City Services sites are unlikely to be able to cater for the potentially high levels of community visitation for such a service.</p>
2. Alterations to bin schedule and repercussions?	<p>✓ In progress</p> <p>See weekly organics collection (this report)</p>
3. Detailed analysis of FOGO at holdfast - do larger red bins reduce waste overall - what is opt out rate?	<p>✓ In progress</p> <p>See weekly organics collection (this report)</p>
4. FOGO introduction	<p>✓ In progress</p> <p>See weekly organics collection (this report)</p>
5. Waste and energy audits in council process and identify how reduce both with awareness of business impact.	<p>✓ Complete / ongoing</p> <p>An internal waste audit was completed as part of the Valuing Marion's Waste program (see above).</p>

Energy auditing is ongoing through the Carbon Neutral Plan.

Influencing Behaviour within the Council Area

1. Waste education and engagement needs to start at the ground level. How and what to recycle
2. Waste education improved comms on recycling - have the stickers on their bins saying what can and can't go in each bin.
3. More education of the public (potentially more funding needed – for the staff in the environmental/education areas) as well as minimum and measurable metrics/KPI's on the comms and messaging and engagement from the public
4. Further education and advocacy to local/state bodies as well as residents on their behaviour around single use plastic bags

✓ Ongoing / existing service

Council delivers an ongoing waste education service (see above).

✓ Ongoing / existing service

Council delivers an ongoing waste education service (see above).

✓ Ongoing / existing service

Council delivers an ongoing waste education service (see above).

Metrics on this service are provided in the Environmental Report Card.

✓ Ongoing / additional 2023 focus

Council delivers an ongoing waste education service (see above).

Messages around avoidance of single use plastic are regular used. Council also often supports campaigns such as Plastic Free July.

Themes for Broader Outside Council Area

1. Hydrogen generation at SRWRA and Hydrogen powered dump trucks?
2. Advocating to (and possibly participating with) other councils, state, and federal government for the establishment of a cross council/state/national soft plastic recycling facility
3. Who is soft plastic recycling, and should we pursue?
4. Advocating for a legislative change regarding our soft plastics recycling.

TBA

It is suggested that this question is raised directly with SRWRA through Council's SRWRA Board delegates.

Focus for 2023 (in collaboration with SRWRA)

Investigation of options to further support soft plastics recycling are being considered through SRWRA due to the need to link with the reprocessing industry.

Focus for 2023

Investigation of options to further support soft plastics recycling are being considered through SRWRA due to the need to link with the reprocessing industry.

Focus for 2023

Investigation of options to further support soft plastics recycling are being considered through SRWRA due to the need to link with the reprocessing industry.

SUMMARY: CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY WEEKLY FOGO COLLECTIONS

BACKGROUND

The City of Holdfast Bay's standard kerbside waste and recycling service comprises a weekly landfill (red bin), fortnightly green FOGO (green bin) and fortnightly recycling (yellow bin) service. During 2020 and 2021 a sustainable kerbside service model comprising a default weekly collected green FOGO bin, fortnightly landfill and fortnightly recycling bin service was trialled over two phases with 1,000 households.

- Phase 1 – September 2020 – June 2021; weekly organics collections introduced to trial households; the landfill bin continued to be collected weekly from participating households (no change from previous service).
- Phase 2 – from July 2021; weekly organics and fortnightly landfill collections to all trial households with an 'opt-out' option. 12% of trial households opted out meaning they reverted to the standard service and their landfill bin was collected weekly and organics bin fortnightly.

The recycling (yellow bin) collections remained fortnightly in both trial phases.

Trial results showed a huge increase in food waste diversion efficiency (total food waste produced by a household placed correctly in the green bin) from 22% (pre-trial) to 74% (post-trial) for participating households. Cost savings were not identified from the trial and the decision to introduce the new collection service was driven by the environmental benefits.

SERVICE DELIVERY

During July – September 2022 the City of Holdfast Bay used a staggered implementation approach to deliver the new bin collection service model (weekly green bin, and fortnightly recycling and waste bin collections) to all households.

Residents can request return to old service (weekly waste and fortnightly organics collection) after first trying the new service model, by filling in a request form on the council's website.

Larger multi-unit dwellings and businesses will stay on the old collection service (weekly waste and fortnightly organics if they have an organics service).

Further detail is available on the council website: <https://www.holdfast.sa.gov.au/services/waste-management/weekly-fogo>

Cost to Council:

The City of Holdfast Bay estimates the transition to the new service model is a once off cost of approx. \$315,000 for all households (approx. 20,000). Service cost predominantly depends on their waste collection contractor.

Community Benefit:

- Further increasing food recycling rates by reducing associated smell from green bins collected fortnightly.
- Reducing landfill greenhouse gas emissions.
- An extra 240L capacity for food and garden waste, especially useful for households with sizeable gardens and during springtime.
- Possible reduction in waste disposal cost in the future as the waste levy grows higher.
- Assisting the growth of the circular economy through the processing of compost and return of nutrients back into the soil.

Action	Cost / decision	Timeframe
Food waste recycling survey (final report June)	GISA grant from caddy roll-out	Apr – June 2023
Environment Committee	Feedback on timeframes Questions	4 April 2023
Funding for business case	Report to Council to confirm project and seek funding for business case.	May 2023
4-Year Business Plan Commitment to roll out weekly organics collection	Council commitment to rollout a weekly organics service	June 2023
GISA Guidelines for councils to implement weekly organics collection service	Nil	Released July 2023
Business Case Development Engage consultant for service and cost modelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment • Return on investment • Collection service cost negotiation • Confirm timeframes and delivery plan • Final recommendation – based on the information presented. 	\$30,000 (estimate tbc)	July – September 2023
Business case report to council seeking next steps and confirming budget	General Council funding decision for full service rollout for inclusion in 2024/2025 financial year	October 2023
Planning for new service Service logistics (e.g. Opt-out process, vehicle procurement) Determining service levels (e.g. Exemptions for large households, Christmas collections etc) Planning community engagement and education, develop resources Community engagement	Noting the funding available from July 2024	January – August 2024
Service commencement* Including communication and engagement campaign.	Noting the funding available from July 2024	September 2024*

*State Government and industry technical experts strongly advise commencing new bin services in autumn or spring times due to summer and winter peaks in waste generation.

7.2 Trees and Urban Greening

Report Reference	EC230404R7.2
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT HISTORY

Report Reference	Report Title
ASC220405R8.1	Green City Update

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To seek feedback from the Environment Committee on the current directions and priorities around trees and urban greening.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Trees and greening are a high priority for the community. This report highlights the current trends and the responses that council is taking (Attachment 1).

A proposed timeframe for the development of a Marion Greening Strategy is included in Attachment 2. This plan aims to address the overarching issues related to greening across the council area and identify strategic council priorities.

Council's Tree Management Framework is currently being reviewed and a summary of the draft Trees Asset Management Plan is presented in Attachment 3.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Provides feedback on priorities for trees and greening for 2023 (Attachment 1).**
- 2. Provides feedback on the proposal and timeframes for the Marion Greening Strategy (Attachment 2).**
- 3. Provides feedback on the Trees Asset Management Plan (Attachment 3).**

DISCUSSION

Trees and Urban Greening priorities for 2023

A summary of current trees and greening priorities for 2023 is provided in Attachment 1. It is recommended that the list of current services is discussed along with the list of priorities identified by the Environment Committee at EC230207.

Key questions:

- Are the Environment Committee priorities being addressed?
- Are there other initiatives / directions that should be a focus for 2023?

Marion Greening Strategy

A proposed scope and timeframes for the development of the Marion Greening Strategy has been presented in Attachment 2. It is recommended that the committee discuss this proposal. Some key questions for consideration:

- Does the scope cover the key greening priorities?
- Is there feedback on the proposed project stages?

Trees Asset Management Plan

The City of Marion Tree Management Framework is currently being reviewed and redeveloped into a Trees Asset Management Plan to support alignment with councils Asset Management Strategy.

A survey is currently open to the community to gauge key community priorities that will inform both the Marion Greening Strategy and Trees Asset Management Plan.

A summary of the draft Trees Asset Management Plan is presented in Attachment 3. Key components of this plan include:

- Objectives of the plan.
- Tree service levels defined by:
 - Tree management principles
 - Tree assessment criteria
 - Tree valuation criteria.
- Resource planning.
- Future impacts and risk planning (including climate change).
- Forecasting of future tree valuation.

It is recommended that the Environment Committee discusses the Trees Asset Management Plan and provides feedback on the proposed content.

Feedback is sought on:

- The objectives and tree management principles.
- Tree assessment considerations.
- Any other comments?

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - Trees and Greening Priorities [7.2.1 - 3 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Marion Greening Strategy Proposal [7.2.2 - 1 page]
3. Attachment 3 Trees Asset Management Plan Options Summary Revised [7.2.3 - 8 pages]

ATTACHMENT 1 - Trees and greening 2023 priorities

Trends and priorities

The following key trends and priorities have been identified in the trees and greening space.

- **Urban infill.** Residential infill developments continue to increase. It is likely that loss of canopy cover in residential areas might outweigh the increase in canopy from council planting.
- **Increased community awareness.** Ongoing community concern around the loss of urban green spaces and loss of large trees continues with articles regularly appearing around community concern in the media. Advocacy groups such as the Conservation Council of South Australia are running campaigns to raise awareness and call for action. 78% of respondents in the recent 'Shape Your Future' engagement stated that 'open space, the environment and waste' was their greatest hope for the City of Marion council area over the next four years.
- **Data on urban greening.** The State Government has coordinated mapping of the urban canopy cover across greater Adelaide using airborne LiDAR technology which maps all urban trees, as well as urban heat and landscape permeability.
- **Increased pressures in public green space.** With losses in private urban green spaces occurring with urban infill, there is increased pressure on public green spaces. Community demand to increase the quality of public green space in streetscape and reserves through additional tree planting and water sensitive urban design (WSUD) is increasing. Increased investment from councils in greening projects will also require ongoing maintenance. The urban space (particularly street verges) is becoming increasingly contested, particularly by utilities who are becoming increasingly assertive in requiring trees be removed from proximity to infrastructure.
- **State Government – Adelaide Urban Greening Strategy.** Current trends in urban infill suggest that the state government's target of a 20% increase in green cover by 2045 is unlikely to be met. Green Adelaide is leading the state government in the development of the Urban Greening Strategy for Adelaide that aims to increase tree canopy and reduce hard surfaces.
- **Parliamentary Inquiry into Urban Forest.** The State Government recently announced an Inquiry focused on "best practice and innovative measures to assist in the selection and maintenance of site-appropriate tree species to improve the resilience of the urban forest, with a focus on trees for urban infill developments" and "legislative and regulatory options to improve the resilience and longevity of trees comprising the urban forest".

Current Services

The list below covers the current services being offered by council in the trees and greening space.

- **Council awareness and engagement.** A "Green City Update" was provided to the Assets and Sustainability Committee in April 2022. The update included a detailed report and presentations from staff and a Green Adelaide representative on trends and responses around urban greening (ASC220405R8.1).
- **Urban heat and tree canopy mapping.** The City of Marion is contributing to the State Government's collection and analysis of improved spatial data for urban heat and greening (GC210727M14.3). Local results for City of Marion will be available mid-2023. Council staff are actively engaging with Green Adelaide on the new data and the proposed Urban Greening Strategy.

- Council has invested in **Forestry tree management software** which has improved workflow efficiency, allows open space staff to plan planting several years in advance, and created new capacity to share tree data with the public online through the **Green City Tree Interactive** ([A Green City - City of Marion](#)), a public-facing and searchable tool showing tree planting, watering, management (inspections, pruning, etc) across the council area. Information on individual trees including species and iconic trees along with estimated carbon storage is also provided.
- **Increased Tree Planting.** Council is aiming to plant 30,000 trees by 2028 with a focus on Plympton Park, Glengowrie, O'Halloran Hill, Ascot Park and Warradale. In 2022 there were 4,621 trees planted across Marion.
- **Tree Asset Management Plan.** The City of Marion Tree Management Framework is currently being reviewed. The updated document will be developed following council's Asset Management Framework and will formally recognise trees as a council asset – including the description of a valuation methodology.
- **Trees and utility providers.** SA Power Networks has requested the removal of approximately 600 immature street trees in the City of Marion that may not be compliant with the provisions of the *Electricity (Principles of Vegetation Clearance) Regulations 2021*. Similar non-compliant plantings have also been identified in neighbouring councils. Marion is working with our Resilient South partners to develop a negotiating position to retain as many trees as possible.
- Opportunities for residents to help green and cool the urban environment include:
 - **Urban Tree Warriors:** 41 volunteers help new plantings establish and develop into trees that will benefit their whole street as well as the wider community.
 - **Adopt-a-Tree Program:** free watering bucket and detailed tree care instructions for residents to help protect old and new plants across the city.
 - **Local Conservation Groups:** there are eight active Friends groups across Marion and six Bushcare groups volunteering time to protect and restore native vegetation. 284 volunteers planted 7,580 native seedlings in 2022.
 - **Regulated Tree Maintenance Fund:** financial assistance for property owners to take action that helps maintain regulated/significant trees on their property. An update on the 2021/22 trial was provided to Council in May (GC220510R11.3).
 - **Verge Incentive Fund:** trial commenced in April 2022; funds to assist residents with the costs of improving the landscaping on council-owned road verges outside their properties (GC220308R11.1). 117 verges have been improved and \$36,000 of funding distributed.
- Council is participating in the **Future Trees Project**, led by the University of Adelaide and Resilient South, to map the diversity of the urban forest across greater Adelaide, better understand the risk posed to heavily planted species, and identify tree varieties that should be prioritised in ongoing planting programs. Future stages of the project will focus on street tree trials and the development of new cultivars to cope with challenging climatic and planning environments.

Environment Committee Priorities

At the 7 February 2023 Environment Committee meeting, Council Members identified a range of environmental priorities for consideration by the Environment Committee. The following priorities were identified as having a link to the trees and greening theme of this current report (Table 1).

Table 1. Environment Committee Trees and Greening Priorities EC230207

Council Operations	Proposed response
1. Greenery and open spaces for residents to enjoy for generations to come	✓ Focus for 2023 A Greening Strategy will be developed in 2023. This focus will be included in the plan.
2. What species of trees are being planted near them so they know how they can maintain them?	✓ In progress Information on council trees is now publicly available through the Marion Tree Interactive www.trees.marion.sa.gov.au
3. Overarching clear vision for council that we will prioritise tree canopy, biodiversity, etc., as our vision - so policy to fall back e.g., if road widening impacting established trees mooted - have consistency in approach	✓ Focus for 2023 A Greening Strategy will be developed in 2023. This focus will be included in the plan.
4. Trees planting and pruning.	✓ In progress The update to council's Trees Asset Management Plan will include detailed cost scheduling around planting and maintenance to meet our targets. Information on council trees including planting and maintenance is also publicly available through the Marion Tree Interactive www.trees.marion.sa.gov.au
Influencing Behaviour within the Council Area	
5. An education piece in preparation for the huge greening project during and after the 'North/South' Corridors	✓ Focus for 2023 A Greening Strategy will be developed in 2023. This focus will be included in the plan.
6. Greening/ and greening strategies along our motorways, roads, trams, trains, transport routes and how we can become 'leaders' in greening, in spaces that we did not think possible	✓ Focus for 2023 A Greening Strategy will be developed in 2023. This focus will be included in the plan.

ATTACHMENT 2 - Marion Greening Strategy Proposal

A Greening Strategy is required to provide a clear simple framework that identifies how the City of Marion is meeting community and environmental priorities related to trees, nature, greening and urban heat.


The Greening Strategy will map out how our plans and services can deliver on these objectives and picks up community priorities across the whole council.

Marion Greening Strategy - Priorities

- Results of new **tree canopy** mapping for City of Marion and key priorities for council.
- Results of new **urban heat and impervious surfaces** mapping for City of Marion and key priorities for council
- Results of **biodiversity** mapping, linkages and strategic priorities for council
- Linking greening priorities and outcomes across our **existing services** including:
 - Open Space Plan
 - Trees Asset Management Plan (update in progress)
 - Biodiversity Plan (update in progress)
 - Streetscape framework
 - Walking and cycling strategy
 - Verge development guidelines.
- Key areas for **advocacy** and inclusion in external projects and strategies. In particular:
 - Tree protection laws
 - Impacts of residential infill impacts and loss of private tree canopy
 - Zoning and protection of green spaces
 - Climate resilient species and succession planning.
- **Targets and measures** for biodiversity, tree canopy and green cover on private and public land.

Marion Greening Strategy - Delivery Plan

Key Stage	Timing
High level scoping and mapping against existing plans and upcoming plan review.	In progress
Feedback from Environment Committee on high level priorities for inclusion in the strategy.	4 April 2023
Release of Adelaide Urban Greening Strategy and final report on Planning Review (Green Adelaide)	May / June 2023
Draft plan development	July - Dec 2023
Draft to General Council	December 2023
Public Consultation	January – Feb 2024
Develop Engagement Report	March 2024
Final Report – endorsement from General Council	May 2024

 We are here

Attachment 3 - Trees Asset Management Plan Options Summary

The City of Marion's Urban Tree assets provide many benefits to our community. Our vision is to have streets and parks which are lined with mature, healthy trees that are a habitat for birds and other wildlife. The community values and appreciates the city's trees for their shade, appearance, and the contribution they make to the environment.

In 2018 Marion council produced a foundation document (Tree Management Framework 2018) to strategically focus its tree management and drive an ambitious tree planting program to increase its existing tree canopy in line with State Government targets. The action plan generated by the document has been largely implemented and the planting program is on track to deliver on its commitments.

As this planting program is implemented, the focus of our urban forest management will move to a long-term maintenance phase and as such this plan defines how Urban Trees should be managed as assets, the service levels we provide, and the funding required to successfully manage them over a 10-year planning period.

Council managed trees are unlike any other council assets. The number of trees a City Arborist manages typically exceeds all other council assets combined, their value accumulates over time, their conditions change routinely based on variable environmental conditions, growing environment and cultural practices.

For a council, managing such a diverse asset class does not negate those basic principles of effective asset management, which includes maximising the asset performance or condition, managing its risk and through this understanding cost associated with performance.

There are currently 56,844 trees registered as assets in Forestree™

- 47,143 street trees
- 9,701 reserve trees
- 15,705 planting spaces available

	Quantity	Gross Replacement Cost (as at 30 June 2022)	Useful Life
Street trees	47,634	\$ 12,169,057	60 years average
Reserve trees	9,693	\$2,478,209	80 years average
TOTAL		\$14,647,266	

Assumes cost of replacement tree \$80 and cost of planting \$175.47=\$255.47

PLAN DEVELOPMENT / TIMEFRAMES

Deliverable	Timeframe	Status
Review Tree Management Framework	September 2022-October 2022	Completed
Asset Management Plan discussion paper draft	October 2022 – November 2022	Completed

1 st Draft Asset Management Plan	November 2022 – December 2022	Completed
Internal discussion/review/Unit rates loaded in Forestreet	November 2022 – December	Completed
2 nd Draft Asset Management Plan	December 2022 – January	Completed
Community Engagement survey Digitised plan development	March 2023 (survey closes 24 March)	In progress
Review Survey report/ Environment Committee discussion	April 2023	To be completed
Final internal stakeholder engagement/ Final draft & digitised plan completed	April – May 2023	To be completed
Presentation to Council for endorsement	June 2023	To be completed

PLAN OBJECTIVES

The objectives relevant to this Asset Management Plan are summarised below.

Objective	Strategy	How achieved
Increase Urban Tree Canopy by 20% from existing levels by 2045	Plant 4,300 street and reserve trees annually until all suburbs at capacity	Successful delivery of tree planting program
Prevent unnecessary decline of existing tree canopy	Council endorsed tree management principles and assessment criteria	Trees will only be removed if meeting our tree assessment criteria Suitably qualified staff to assess trees
Community safety through effective risk management of trees	Service level standards identified and met Trees managed in line with TRAQ risk assessment principles	Monitoring inspections, maintenance programs undertaken to meet service level standards, all trees mapped as individual assets with data updated regularly
Customer service	Manage customer service requests	Intergrade Salesforce and Forestreet Achieve turnaround times for CRM's Communicate outcomes to residents

LEVELS OF SERVICE

Despite their multitude of benefits, a variety of planning, social, public safety and legal issues are involved in the complex process of managing trees. Many issues revolve around the interaction of trees with people, and trees with the built environment.

Enhancing amenity, managing public safety, and minimising infrastructure damage requires intensive management.

To clearly reflect our communities' expectations to protect and grow our urban tree canopy we have developed the following to guide our decision making.

Tree Management Principles

Principle	Delivery
A Green City	The City of Marion recognises the economic, social and environmental value of trees and is committed to maintaining and where appropriate increasing the number of trees across the City of Marion in parks, reserves and streets to 'green' the city, contribute to healthy lifestyles and strengthen habitat and biodiversity.
Pre-European Landscape	An emphasis will be placed on strengthening the city's pre-European landscape in parks and reserves where this is consistent with the character and function of the park or reserve.
Tree Avenues	Aim to establish avenues of quality street trees in most streets across the city, to enhance the appeal and amenity of the streets and neighbourhoods.
Climate Change Adaptability	Commitment to climate change adaptation using drought tolerant and sturdy tree species and by adopting management practices that enhance tree sustainability, such as the use of mulch and climate sensitive watering.
Species Selection	An emphasis will be placed on tree species within streets, precincts and suburbs that are consistent and relevant to the character and climate of the area concerned.
Landscape Connections and Habitat	Trees will play a key role in achieving landscape connections and habitat provision across the city through corridor, boulevard and avenue tree planting, and the use of plant species that provide habitat for local wildlife.

Tree Assessment Criteria

Street and reserve trees are only removed if one or more of the City of Marion Tree Criteria are met:

- The tree is dead (indigenous species appropriately located in reserves are to be left as habitat)
- The tree is diseased, and its life expectancy (ULE) is short.
- The species of the tree is inappropriate or poorly located for the site or location and has been determined to be creating management, security or safety issues.
- The tree represents an unacceptable risk to public and private safety (Based on an internationally recognized tree risk rating or score).
- Where statutory vegetation power line clearance (SA Power Network pruning) has resulted in unsatisfactory visual amenity or compromised the structural integrity of the tree.

Tree Assessment considerations

Tree removal will not be permitted to facilitate views (including advertising signs), off-street parking, bin location and installation of solar panels or to reduce the extent of leaf / flower / fruit drop, or to

reduce the impact from any bird / other animal waste or noise unless the client/request is supported by medical or legal advice under Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1993.

- All trees on Council land are considered Council property and should not be removed without Council approval.
- A suitably qualified Officer/Council Arborist, or when deemed appropriate an independent Arborist will inspect the tree and make an assessment based on the removal criteria.
- All tree assessment will follow the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) methodology.
- Development Plan Approval is required for the removal of Regulated and Significant trees.
- All reasonable alternatives to retain a tree shall be considered before it is removed.

Tree Maintenance

It is recognised that professional tree management is essential to the sustainability of the urban forest. We use internationally recognised best arboriculture practices in all tree maintenance functions focusing on risk management, sustainable tree management and customer service principles.

Routine maintenance is the regular on-going work that is necessary to keep our trees in good health and condition and to minimise risk of failure. Planned maintenance work is currently a third of total maintenance expenditure and is focused on our suburb block pruning program undertaken with internal staff and equipment.

Reactive maintenance is unplanned work which is carried out in response to storm events, service requests and management/supervisory directions. Assessment and priority of reactive maintenance is undertaken by internal arborists.

There are three main challenges when managing the City's trees:

- Increasing tree canopy coverage while competing with growing urbanisation
- Managing urban forest resilience to emerging climate change influences
- Managing risk.

2017 Service Review

An open space operations service review was undertaken in 2017 to identify areas of opportunity for service level improvement. This review considered people, customer feedback, plant utilisation, asset condition, costs, and drivers, contracted services and risk. It assessed the services against a number of optimisation levers (demand reduction, process optimisation, productivity improvements, automation opportunities, sourcing and structural opportunities etc.) as another systematic way of identifying opportunities.

Key findings and recommendations of the review was to reduce 10 Open Space Operations FTE positions through natural attrition. This included reducing the tree team from 10 FTEs to 8 FTEs. The estimated tree population used to inform this decision making was 29,000 trees. This has since been found to be incomplete as all existing trees across the city hadn't been recorded at the time. Only a limited number of reserve trees had been captured and our tree planting program was focused on planting approximately 1400 trees per year.

When we purchased Forestree in 2020 and pulled the RAMMS data across we found the tree population had increased to over 36,000 trees. With the intensive data collection, we have done since and including our tree planting program (17,272 since 2017) we now have a Tree Population of 56,844 as of today. Note we still have many reserve trees still to capture.

The other key recommendation was to activate an urban tree maintenance program (Block Pruning) to ensure all trees are visited once every 3 years from inspection and pruning as required. As our tree population has increased from 29,000 trees to 57,000+ in 2023 this program is now extending to 3.5 years for completion due to insufficient resources to keep the program at 3 years.

FUTURE DEMAND

We anticipate by 2027/28 we will have approximately 80,000 trees. Newly planted trees require three years of watering for establishment, with two rounds of formative pruning within the first six years of life (depending on growth rates). Formative pruning is a critical maintenance function as this gives the trees its good form and structure thus reducing the need for heavier intervention pruning later in life which is costlier and can be detrimental to tree health.

ASSET CLIMATE RESILIENCE / SUSTAINABILITY

Council recognises that climate change is likely to affect asset life and functionality. The effects of Climate Change are already being seen right across the country and felt locally.

It is predicted that average maximum temperatures will increase by 1.1°C by 2030 and 1.8°C by 2050, with days over 40 increasing from a baseline of 2.4/year average to 4.3/year by 2030 and 6.2/year by 2050. Rainfall will reduce by 5.4% by 2030 and 8.4% by 2050.

Source: Green Adelaide, Guide to climate change projections for risk assessment and planning in South Australia.

We will continue to diversify our species selection to reduce monocultures and partner with nurseries and research organisations to ensure our urban trees are adaptable to the ongoing effects of climate change.

Climate Change Description	Projected Change	Potential Impact on Asset and Services	Mitigation measure
Increasing Temperatures and urban heat	Increasing average temperatures and localised heat	Increase water stress to trees as extreme temperatures cause embolisms in leaf structures. This may reduce the survivability of new tree plantings	Greater species diversity, ongoing watering for establishment, research and street tree trials
Rainfall/weather events	More Severe Storm events with periods of intense rainfall and drought periods	Frequency and intensive storms increase the likelihood of branch failures and whole tree failure	Regular inspection and maintenance programs
Pest and disease attack	Increase frequency and variety of pest and disease seen on trees. New infestations and infections resulting from interstate travel	Mature trees more susceptible to pest damage, species loss from disease	Monitoring programs developed; treatments undertaken when required

Valuation Forecasts

Trees are not currently valued from an accounting perspective hence why valuation data is not periodically updated. Unlike other infrastructure assets, trees typically appreciate in value as they age, meaning they are difficult to assess from an accounting viewpoint. Trees however have strong

community value and as tree benefits are better understood, and tools for deriving their value are improving, street trees can be valued at regular intervals. Knowledge of the value of street tree assets and the city wide and suburbs levels can assist Council to allocate appropriate budgets for their management.

Setting a Tree Valuation Method will greatly enhance our ability to value our trees, inform future operational budgets based on asset worth and set genuine community value in relation to managing trees as part of in-fill development. At this stage no Australian Standard for Amenity Tree Valuation has been adopted. The process to develop a standard first began some thirty years ago and at this stage no agreement by key stakeholders has been obtained.

However, the City of Melbourne Amenity Tree Valuation (ATV) Method has now been adopted by the Cities of Adelaide, Burnside, Port Adelaide Enfield, Mitcham, Prospect, Holdfast Bay and of course City of Melbourne is the recommended method that should be adopted by the City of Marion. This method is easy to use and to justify to the end user.

The essential elements of the of this ATV method are:

- Base tree value.
- Tree species attributes.
- Tree aesthetics.
- Tree location and tree condition.

The formula assigns a numerical value to each criterion that a tree has or makes to the environment and ultimately determines a monetary value to that tree. It is intended that the ATV can bring a tangible value to a tree should situations arise through development activity or where Council may propose activity that will influence the health of a tree.

It is usually undertaken on trees of cultural value however an example of where it may be applied includes the death of a public tree through negligence or illegal activity associated with adjacent development activity.

The formula relies on Council determining the “value” it assigns to individual criteria of the formula, and specific to the character of the locality.

For the purposes of the Urban Tree AMP the following application shall be used by Council to determine the Amenity Tree Valuation of publicly owned trees:

Value (\$\$) = Basic Value of a standard tree purchased (\$) x Species (S) x Aesthetics (A) x Locality (L) x Condition (C).

Example of the Urban Tree Valuation

A tree identified as a mature *Araucaria heterophylla* (Norfolk Island Pine) of 20m in height and with a DBH of 66 cm growing in a Council reserve near a resident's rear fence line and one of a few examples of the species within the locality. The tree portrays good health, with a structure and form that is typical of the species and considered to be good. The tree has been damaged by unknown persons with the potential cause thought to be herbicide poisoning.

Tree amenity value formula

Value (V) = Basic Value (\$) x Species (S) x Aesthetics (A) x Locality (L) x Condition (C)

Application of this formula to the subject is as follows:

Definition	Finding	Value Score
Basic Value* (\$)	DBH: 66 cm (rounded down 65cm)	\$36,372.74
Species (S)	trees of medium life span (50 - 150 years) slow growth rate	0.80
Aesthetics (A)	contributes little to the landscape, given the tree is located in the rear yard and views from surrounding streets are limited	0.5
Locality (L)	in outer suburb areas and residential streets	1.5
Total Tree Condition (C)	Good health Score - 21	0.80

Amenity Tree Valuation: \$17,458.91 (excluding GST)

Service and Risk Trade-Offs

The decisions made in adopting the Tree Asset Management Plan are based on the objective to achieve the optimum benefits from the available resources.

The Tree Asset Management Plan has been developed using various scenarios that consider existing or alternative resourcing approaches.

What we cannot do

There are some operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that are unable to be undertaken within the next 10 years.

These include:

- Without increasing resources tree planting cannot continue, trees identified for works as part of reserve audit may not be actioned.
- Block pruning program will need to be extended from 3-year program to 3.8 years

Service trade-off

Operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that cannot be undertaken will maintain or create service consequences for users.

These include:

- Tree clearance service levels will not be achieved, and this will result in reduced height clearances over footpaths and roads. Increasing customer complaints, waste truck damage to trees. Potential liability exposure.
- Large amounts of formative pruning may be missed resulting in poor tree form requiring more expensive intervention pruning in decades to come.

Risk trade-off

The operations and maintenance activities and capital projects that cannot be undertaken may maintain or create risk consequences. These include:

- Increasing risk of tree branch and whole tree failure particularly in reserves near playgrounds. Liability exposure for tree damage and possibility of personal or property damage and injury.

These actions and expenditures are considered in the projected expenditures.

7.3 Environmental Engagement

Report Reference	EC230404R7.3
Originating Officer	Senior Environmental Planner – Rebecca Neumann
Corporate Manager	Manager Engineering, Assets and Environment - Mathew Allen
General Manager	General Manager City Services - Ben Keen

REPORT OBJECTIVE

To provide the Environment Committee with an update on current environmental engagement initiatives and themes and to seek feedback on priorities for 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council currently provides a range of environmental engagement initiatives that have been summarised in Attachment 1.

This item is an opportunity for the Environment Committee to ask questions to key staff and raise ideas for priorities during 2023.

It is suggested that the discussion covers the following questions:

- Are there audiences / themes we could focus on more?
- Should we offer more sustainability rebates?
- Any other feedback / priorities for 2023?

RECOMMENDATION

That the Environment Committee:

- 1. Discusses the current range of environmental engagement initiatives (Attachment 1) and provides feedback on priorities for 2023.**

DISCUSSION

A summary of the current key environmental engagement trends and initiatives being delivered by the City of Marion has been included in Attachment 1.

At the 7 February 2023 Environment Committee meeting, Council Members identified a range of environmental priorities for consideration by the Environment Committee. The following priorities from this list were identified as having a link to the environmental engagement theme of this current report.

1. Council operations

- Education program on biodiversity, tree planting and 'how to plant' workshops.
- Better understanding of COM sustainability incentives scheme offers i.e., residential, business, and commercial solar PV's, energy monitoring, more electric vehicle charging stations, water saving devices, home energy assessments, battery storage programs.

2. Influencing behaviour within the council area

Education

- Broader education on not only recycling but energy use and water conservation behaviour.

- Running regular education programs for our residents on how we dispose/manage our everyday waste, tree planting and maintaining more greenery and vegetation.

Actions

- Further work on energy saving/ generation looks at funding for innovations.

Strategy

- Practical environmentalism.
- Organise external incentives (no or little council cost) for things like water-saving, power-saving, or waste reduction.
- Forum for residents for what they want for Climate Action Now.
- Build library of info for residents - knowledge base.
- Promoting bulk buying or purchasing in your own containers etc. (at a less challenging time for households) to provide alternatives to people grabbing new bags at supermarkets. Everyone thinks that because they are still available (because technically they are not single use) then that means they are OK for the environment and use of reuse appears low through observations at supermarkets.

3. Themes broader than the council area

- Sustainable planets focus or theme “A sustainable planet for all”.

Based on these suggestions provided at the 7 February 2023 Environment Committee meeting and the current list of council initiatives provided in Attachment 1, it is suggested that members discuss the range of environmental engagement services and provide feedback on the following.

- Are there audiences / themes we are missing?
- Should we offer more sustainability rebates?
- Any other feedback / priorities for 2023?

Feedback from this discussion will be used to shape environmental engagement priorities over the next 12 months within existing resources.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 Environmental Engagement Themes and Initiatives [7.3.1 - 2 pages]

Attachment 1 – Environmental Engagement Themes and Initiatives

Engagement themes and trends

- **Nature connection.** Increasing community interest in nature connection, including nature play, nature bathing (Shinrin Yuku), medically prescribed time in nature. COVID lockdowns over the past two years have been linked to people seeking great connection with nature
- **Health and nature.** Links between health and engagement with nature are becoming increasingly well recognised. Formalised programs exist where GPs can professionally prescribe time in nature.
- **Growing your own food:** More people are growing their own food/fruit and sales of herb and vegetable seedlings have significantly increased nationally.
- Increasing interest in **waste avoidance, recycling and composting.**
- **Wildlife-friendly** gardening.
- **Electrification of households** (moving away from gas) and use of renewable energy.

Communication themes

- Move away from print material
- Simple clear information on website to other resources
- Use of social media for updates
- Subscription newsletters
- Workshops and events with activities
- Online workshop and seminars
- Focussing events and communications on specific target audiences rather than general information.
- Regional collaboration in development of new resources and engagement programs (e.g. through Green Adelaide, Resilient South and community development networks).

Current City of Marion engagement initiatives

- **Environmental information** and updates are delivered monthly via Green Thymes e-newsletter to 1,496 people. The City of Marion website and social media regularly feature project outcomes and other good news sustainability stories. 420,00 people were reached by our environmental social media campaigns in 2022.
- **Council events.** 107 sustainability and recycling education sessions were delivered in 2022.
- **Valuing Marion's Nature** is an initiative to increase connection to nature through providing information and opportunities for our community to explore local parks, reserves and even their own backyard. Initiatives include:
 - 100 ways with Nature - brochure series about nature-based activities to do in our reserves.
 - Events and workshops to raise awareness and increase knowledge of local biodiversity
 - Natives for Nature – native plant giveaway
 - Gazania Free Gardens – program to raise awareness about this declared weed, encouraging residents to remove it and replace it with native species.
 - Tree Tags – raise awareness about the value of trees in our urban environment.
- **Climate resilient housing webinars** covering topics such as energy efficiency, all electric homes, electric cars, etc are scheduled for May 2023 – Jan 2024. This is Resilient South collaboration in conjunction with other Regional Climate Partnerships.
- **Green at Work** is a staff led initiative to embed a culture of sustainability in the workplace. Current projects include a second-hand uniform reuse and recycling program and a staff fruit/vegetable garden located at City Services.

- **Waste Education.** Council provides a comprehensive range of waste education services including community education sessions, online materials, delivery of kitchen caddies and rebates for worm farms and compost bins. (note further details are provided in the item on waste and recycling EC230404).
- **Community gardens.** We continue to support four community gardens at Glandore, Oaklands Park, Marino and Trott Park.
 - The Cove Community Garden Group has applied to develop a community garden at Perry Barr Farm and community consultation on their proposal will occur in early 2023.
 - A small, raised garden is being established at Kellett Reserve in Morphetville with support from a number of residents who live near to the reserve.
- **Small-scale community gardens.** A new initiative to explore and trial a new program to enable small scale community gardens in public spaces such as parks and verges has been included for consideration in the new 4-Year Business Plan
- **Grow It Local** with support from Green Adelaide, Marion participates in the national program with online resources to encourage people to grow, share and eat locally grown food.
- **Garden Showcase** annual competition showcasing a range of local gardens including categories for wildlife friendly gardens, verges and edibles. 498 people participated in the 2022 garden showcase.
- **Fruit Trees in Reserves** almost 100 fruit trees have been planted in Council reserves as part of open space upgrades in recent years. A maintenance plan is to be developed to ensure they are healthy and bear fruit.
- **Green Adelaide Education** council hosts a part-time Green Adelaide Education Officer who provides 22 nature education services to schools and the community across southern Adelaide in 2022. Funding is provided by Green Adelaide for this role.
- **Environment Report Card:** to be developed at the beginning of each calendar year to provide a public-facing update on key environmental initiatives being delivered by Council.

8 Reports for Noting - Nil**9 Workshop / Presentation Items - Nil****10 Other Business****11 Meeting Closure**

The meeting shall conclude on or before 9.30pm unless there is a specific motion adopted at the meeting to continue beyond that time.