

Draft

Urban Forest Strategy 2026-2040



Acknowledgement of Country

Randwick City Council pays respect to the Bidjigal and Gadigal people, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live, work and gather. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and culture.

The urban forest is part of Country. Trees, vegetation, soils and waterways form interconnected ecosystems that have sustained people for tens of thousands of years. Council recognises the importance of caring for Country and seeks to incorporate these principles into the planning, protection and management of Randwick's urban forest.



Contents



Introduction

Acknowledgement of Country	02
Executive Summary	04
Mayor’s Message	07
Urban Forests	08
Strategic Context	20
Challenges and Opportunities	24
Vision, Strategic Directions and Canopy Targets	30
Actions	34
Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting	40
Supporting documents	42



Executive Summary

Our urban forest is a living network of trees, vegetation, soils and water systems that extends across streets, parks, bushland, private gardens and other green spaces. It is a vital community asset that provides shade and cooling, supports biodiversity, improves environmental quality and contributes to the health, wellbeing and resilience of Randwick. As climate change and urban growth continue to shape the city, the role of the urban forest will become increasingly important.

Randwick’s urban forest reflects both its natural heritage and its urban development history. Tree canopy currently covers 16.19% of the Council area and includes around 43,000 street trees, extensive parkland, remnant bushland and vegetation on private land. However, canopy cover is unevenly distributed across the city and much of the urban forest grows on land outside Council’s direct control. Approximately 58% of the LGA is privately owned and a further 19% is owned or managed by other organisations. Other key challenges include limited planting space, an ageing tree population, tree growth rates, ongoing urban growth and the impacts of climate change.

This Strategy responds to these challenges, and was informed through detailed technical assessments and community and stakeholder engagement. The Strategy adopts a long-term, evidence-based approach focused on four strategic directions: Plan, Engage, Protect & Maintain, and Grow. Together, these directions guide how urban forest outcomes are integrated into planning and decision-making, supported through community partnerships, protected through effective management and expanded through targeted greening initiatives.

The Strategy establishes a vision for a resilient, diverse and thriving urban forest that provides shade, cooling, biodiversity and wellbeing benefits, creating a greener, healthier and more liveable Randwick for current and future generations.

It presents 39 strategic actions to guide Council towards its targets. Tree canopy coverage is the overarching indicator for measuring progress, with canopy targets informed by detailed modelling of current canopy, planting opportunities, land use and tree growth rates.

The detailed modelling identified that canopy growth in Randwick is influenced by several factors, including land ownership, tree growth timeframes and availability of planting space. As a result, the Strategy adopts:

- a **land-use-based approach** to canopy planning, recognising that streets, parks and private land each have different opportunities, constraints and levels of Council influence; and
- a **long-term planning horizon**, out to 2060, recognising the long-term nature of urban forest management and reflecting the time required for trees to mature and contribute meaningful canopy cover.

TARGET CITY WIDE TREE CANOPY COVERAGE OF 19% BY 2060			
INTERIM LAND-USE-BASED TARGETS			
YEAR	STREET	PARKS	PRIVATE
2040	23-24%	21-22%	15.6%
2050	27-29%	22-24%	15.6%
2060	37-38%	24-26%	15.6%

This approach ensures that canopy targets are both ambitious and achievable, grounded in local evidence, and aligned with Council’s capacity to deliver long term urban forest outcomes.

The canopy targets commence in 2040 and extend to 2060, recognising that newly planted trees take 10-20 years to make a meaningful contribution to canopy cover.

Achieving these targets will require the protection of mature trees, succession planting, increased canopy in priority locations, improved growing conditions and significant education, engagement and collaboration with residents, businesses, institutions and other land managers

Through the actions identified in this Strategy, Council will deliver a practical pathway for protecting, maintaining and growing the urban forest while creating a cooler, greener and more resilient Randwick for current and future generations. Council will be able to monitor our progress through measures including the tracking of tree canopy cover, tree establishment and tree health, drawing information from Council’s tree inventory and GIS systems, NSW Government canopy datasets, project reporting and other relevant environmental data sources. We will also track our biodiversity outcomes and the participation of our community.

Urban Forest Strategy: Strategic Directions

The Strategy adopts a long-term evidence based approach focused on four strategic directions

Plan

Outcome:

Urban forest outcomes are embedded across Council planning, decision-making, investment and governance processes.

Target:

- Incorporate urban forest outcomes into relevant Council strategies, plans and major capital works projects by 2036

Engage

Outcome:

Residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies actively contribute to growing, protecting and valuing the urban forest.

Target:

- Maintain community satisfaction rating for environmental awareness and education of $\geq 80\%$
- Increase the number of individuals participating in urban forest initiatives, on a 2025 baseline

Protect and Maintain

Outcome:

Existing trees and vegetation are protected, well-managed and supported to maximise their long-term benefits.

Target:

- Maintain a community satisfaction rating for protection of natural bushland of $\geq 80\%$
- Maintain a community satisfaction rating for tree preservation of $\geq 80\%$

Grow

Outcome:

Canopy cover, biodiversity and urban greening are expanded in locations where they provide the greatest community and environmental benefit.

Target:

- Tree canopy targets 19% city wide by 2060
- Plant 1,715 trees each year

Randwick's urban forest is one of our most valuable community assets. It shapes the character of our neighbourhoods, provides shade and cooling, supports biodiversity and contributes to the health and wellbeing of our community.

As our city continues to grow and evolve, the role of the urban forest becomes even more important. We are already seeing the impacts of climate change, with rising temperatures and more frequent heat events affecting our streets, homes and public spaces. Trees and other green infrastructure are one of the most effective ways we can respond, helping to cool our environment and improve the liveability of our city.

This Urban Forest Strategy sets out a clear and evidence based pathway for protecting and growing our urban forest over the long term. It recognises both the benefits of trees and the challenges we face in increasing canopy cover, protecting understorey and expanding green spaces in a highly urbanised area like Randwick. Importantly, it is based on detailed analysis and modelling and presents a sustained approach, focusing on where Council can have the greatest impact.

Delivering this Strategy will require a coordinated effort involving collaboration with residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies. Much of Randwick's tree canopy exists on private land, meaning that achieving meaningful change will depend on partnerships and shared responsibility across the community.

We are committed to protecting our existing urban forest, planting for the future and ensuring that all parts of our community benefit from a greener, cooler and more resilient city. This Strategy provides the framework to guide that work over the coming decades.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this Strategy, and we look forward to working together to grow Randwick's urban forest for future generations.



Urban Forests



The urban forest is more than just trees. Council's adopted definition is an urban forest comprises all trees and vegetation – and the soils and water that support them – in an urban area. These components are strategically planned, designed, and managed to support resilience and wellbeing.ⁱ

What is an urban forest?

Urban forestry aims to cultivate and manage urban natural areas for their existing and future contributions to the physical, social and economic wellbeing of people in urban environments. Natural features in an urban environment make living in that environment more tolerable and provide recreational and amenity value.

Urban forests take on a variety of forms, varying in nature dependent on the surrounding infrastructure. Regardless, Randwick's urban forest is diverse and dynamic ranging from gullies to parks and bushland to fig lined streets. This range of vegetation provides enormous benefits to our communities through shade and amenity as well as providing habitat for wildlife.

Heffron Park



Fred Hollows Reserve



Beach Street Fig Trees



Maroubra Junction Streetscape

The benefits of our urban forest

Urban forests form an essential part of our urban environment and play a fundamental role in shaping the environmental, social and economic health of cities. In Randwick, they provide a wide range of benefits that contribute directly to the liveability, resilience and sustainability of the local area.

Environmentally, urban forests modify local climate by providing shade for cooling and protection from wind. They help reduce the urban heat island effect and contribute to cooler, more comfortable neighbourhoods. Urban forests also act as natural air filters by absorbing gaseous pollutants through their leaves and capturing particulate matter such as soot and dust on their surfaces. They contribute to healthier waterways by intercepting rainfall, slowing stormwater runoff and improving water quality. Urban forests are increasingly recognised as critical green infrastructure that helps create cooler, greener and more resilient communities.

Urban forests also play a critical role in supporting biodiversity by providing habitat, food sources and movement corridors for native plants and animals. Diverse urban ecosystems are generally more resilient to environmental pressures and better able to adapt to changing conditions over time. Consequently, ecosystems with higher levels of biodiversity often have improved air and water quality and are more resistant to drought, pests and disease. Urban forests assist in protecting soils from erosion, reducing land degradation and strengthening resilience to climate change, extreme heat and other environmental stresses.

Socially, urban forests improve the quality and character of neighbourhoods, contributing to more attractive, walkable and enjoyable public spaces. Access to shaded streets, parks and green spaces supports physical activity, social connection and mental wellbeing, while creating opportunities for people to connect with nature and their local environment.

Urban forests also improve community resilience by helping people cope with increasing temperatures and

more frequent heatwaves. Trees provide shade and cooling in public spaces, making neighbourhoods more comfortable, safer and more accessible during periods of extreme heat. This is particularly important for vulnerable members of the community, including older people, young children and people with existing health conditions.

Access to urban forest benefits is not always distributed equally. Areas experiencing higher temperatures and lower canopy cover are often exposed to greater environmental and health risks. Increasing canopy in these locations can improve social equity by ensuring more residents have access to the health, environmental and wellbeing benefits provided by trees and green spaces. Within Randwick, canopy cover is unevenly distributed, with some of the lowest canopy levels occurring in the southern suburbs of the local government area. Addressing this imbalance is an important consideration for future urban forest planning.

Economically, urban forests contribute to property value, improve the attractiveness of local centres and help create vibrant and desirable neighbourhoods. Trees can reduce energy costs by providing shade and cooling to buildings, reducing reliance on air conditioning during warmer months.

Urban forests also provide important ecosystem services that reduce the need for costly built infrastructure solutions. By mitigating urban heat, managing stormwater, improving environmental quality and supporting public health outcomes, they contribute to the long-term resilience and productivity of cities. Investment in urban forests can therefore deliver economic benefits not only for individual property owners but also for the broader community through reduced infrastructure, environmental and health-related costs.

As climate change continues to increase the frequency and intensity of heat events, the value of urban forests as a form of green infrastructure will continue to grow. Trees and vegetation help create cooler, healthier and more resilient neighbourhoods, supporting both community wellbeing and long-term economic sustainability.

The Urban Forest Transforming Urbanity



Economic benefits

Developing and maintaining the urban forest leads to important savings and to the creation of a large number of jobs in a growing economic sector.



Biodiversity

Urban trees and shrubs are important biodiversity support systems for the fauna and flora.



Physical and psychological benefits

Trees limit the risk of contracting various pathologies and provide us with increased immune system protection.

In addition to reducing stress, green areas promote social interaction and physical activity.



Air pollution control

Urban trees naturally help improve air quality.

-20 to -50% of fine particles in the air



Attractiveness

Wooded areas greatly contribute to the diversity and quality of urban landscapes.

+20% increase in real estate value



Erosion control

Trees' root system helps to fixate the ground and thus protects cities from soil erosion, flooding, and landslides.



Urban cooling

Trees can lower the temperature in cities thanks to the shade they provide and the water vapor they produce.

From -2 to -8°C



Sustainable water management

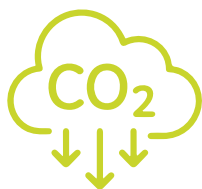
The urban forest is useful for combatting water runoff due to soil sealing.

A tree can absorb up to 150L of water per day



Noise reduction

Trees form a real barrier which, by absorbing acoustic energy, dissipates ambient noise.



Carbon storage

By storing carbon, urban forests are one of the strategic means for mitigating and adapting to climate change in cities.



Green network

The urban forest links different reservoirs of biodiversity together, enabling animals to ensure their biological cycles.



Living soil

The dead tree leaves decompose into humus and thereby strengthen the life of micro-organisms in the soil.

Origins of our natural bushland

Randwick Council is on the lands of the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who are the traditional custodians of the Sydney Coast. Aboriginal communities cared for and shaped the landscape over thousands of years, supporting a far richer diversity of plants and animals than persists in Randwick today. Through careful application of fire and other land management practices, they helped maintain a mosaic of vegetation communities that varied according to soils, topography and proximity to the coast ⁱⁱ.

Across much of the interior of Randwick, the dominant vegetation community was Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub (ESBS). This nationally endangered ecological community once covered approximately 5,300 hectares between North Head and Botany Bay. Today, less than 150 hectares remain, representing only a small fraction of its original extent. Remnant patches survive in parts of Randwick and other areas of Sydney's eastern suburbs.

Unlike the tall forests often associated with the term "tree canopy", Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub is primarily a dense heath and shrub community. It is characterised by species such as *Banksia aemula*, *Banksia serrata*,

Allocasuarina distyla and a wide range of flowering shrubs, grasses and groundcovers. While scattered trees were present, much of the original landscape was dominated by scrub and heath rather than extensive tree canopy.

Along the coastal fringe, heath on sandstone occurred as a related but distinct vegetation community. Low-lying areas contained swamps, creeklines, ephemeral wetlands and wet dune swales. These moist environments were largely characterised by sedgeland and rushlands, although woodland communities featuring *Casuarina glauca*, *Eucalyptus robusta* and *Melaleuca* species also occurred in suitable locations.

As a result, Randwick's original vegetation was diverse and highly adapted to local conditions. While increasing tree canopy is an important objective for today's urban environment, it is also important to recognise that the area's natural landscape historically included a mix of scrub, heath, wetlands, woodlands and forested areas. Protecting and enhancing this broader range of vegetation communities remains an important part of maintaining biodiversity and ecological resilience across the city.

Little Congwong Beach – La Perouse



Current day urban forest

Randwick's current urban forest reflects more than 200 years of landscape change. Following European settlement in the early 1800s, extensive clearing of native vegetation occurred across Sydney's eastern suburbs. Urban development progressively expanded across the municipality. Despite this long history of development, significant areas of native vegetation were cleared as recently as the 1960s and 1970s, only a small fraction of Randwick's original vegetation remains todayⁱⁱ.

The most biodiverse areas now occur as scattered remnants of native vegetation throughout the Council area. Approximately 240 hectares of remnant bushland remains, representing around 6.5% of Randwick's total land area. These remnants range from relatively large bushland reserves to isolated patches and individual plants. Together with private gardens, parks, street trees, coastline and foreshore habitats, they form an important ecological network that supports native biodiversity across the city.

Despite its highly urbanised character, Randwick continues to support a remarkable diversity of plants, animals and fungi. Remnant bushland, combined

with coastal and foreshore habitats, provides habitat for more than 510 indigenous plant species, 170 bird species, 140 fungi species, 29 reptile species, 16 frog species and 7 native mammal speciesⁱⁱ. These habitats also support a number of threatened species and endangered ecological communities.

Today, Randwick's urban forest extends well beyond its remnant bushland. It includes trees, private gardens, landscaped areas, coastal vegetation, bushland reserves and other green spaces that collectively contribute to canopy cover, biodiversity, cooling, amenity and community wellbeing. Our natural areas continue to play a vital role in supporting biodiversity and connecting the urban forest across the Council area.

Randwick's urban forest is shaped by both its natural heritage and its urban development history. Understanding this context is important for identifying opportunities to protect existing vegetation, increase tree canopy cover and enhance biodiversity outcomes into the future.

Approximately 240 hectares of remnant bushland remains, representing around 6.5% of Randwick's total land area.



510
indigenous
plant species



170
bird
species



510
fungi
species



29
reptile
species



170
frog
species



7
native mammal
species

Current canopy cover

Randwick’s urban forest is made up of a range of different features including bushland, wetlands, shrubs, groundcovers, trees and private gardens. However, tree canopy provides many of the cooling, shade, biodiversity and amenity benefits sought in urban environments and can be consistently measured over time. For this reason, canopy cover is used as the primary measure for tracking progress under this Strategy.

According to the NSW Government SEED Greater Sydney Region dataset, in 2019 Randwick City Council’s tree canopy cover was assessed through this method as being 14.28%, increasing to 16.08% in 2022. A release of the dataset in July 2026, shows a further increase

to 16.19%. Randwick remains one of the lower-canopy Council areas in Greater Sydney. This reflects the highly urbanised nature of the area, the dominance of medium and high-density development, and the limited space available for new tree planting, particularly on private land.

Canopy cover is not distributed evenly across the city. Higher levels of canopy generally occur within the northern part of the Council area while significantly lower levels are generally found in parts of the south of the Council area and in areas characterised by more intensive urban development. As seen in Figure 1, the uneven distribution across Randwick contributes to differences in shade, cooling and exposure to urban heat.

Figure 1: Alive trees by suburb – Randwick City Council^{iv}



Randwick’s existing canopy is supported by an extensive tree population, including approximately 43,000 street trees. While this network provides significant environmental and community benefits, it also presents challenges. Around 61% of street trees, therefore the majority of existing street tree canopy cover, are classified as mature or over-mature. Most of these trees remain healthy and have a long useful life expectancy, however their eventual replacement will need to be carefully managed to avoid declines in canopy over time. The existing species mix is also heavily concentrated within the Myrtaceae familyⁱⁱ, highlighting the need to improve species diversity and therefore resilience to climate change, pests and disease.

The distribution of canopy also varies between land uses:

- Streets: ~16.7% canopy cover**, with significant growth potential as existing young street trees mature and vacant sites are filled;
- Parks: ~19.2% canopy cover**, with mature tree stock and moderate capacity for additional large tree planting;
- Private land: ~15.6% canopy cover** (including non-Council managed land) comprising the largest share of the Council area total area but with limited Council-controlled growth capacity.

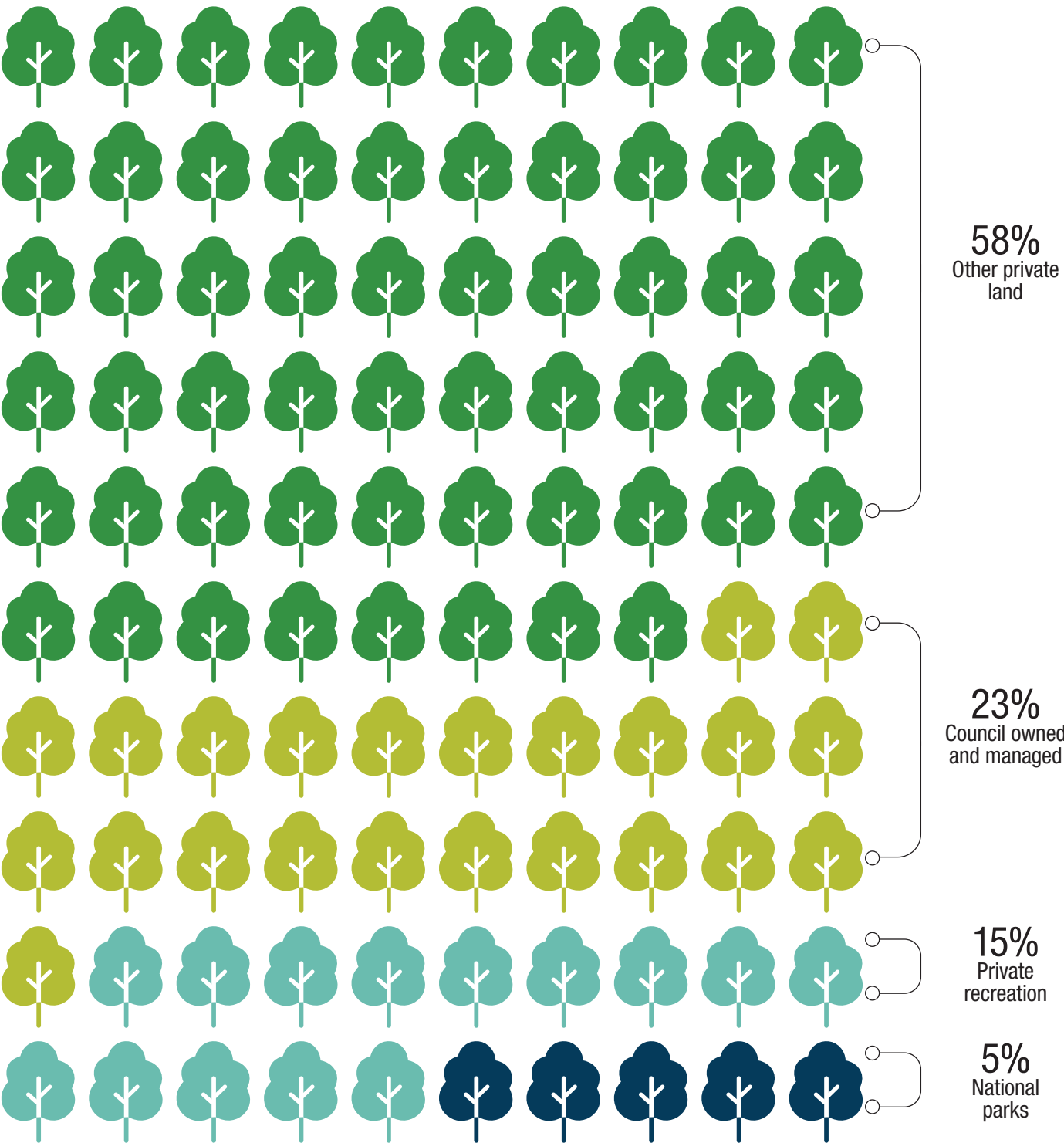
As more than half of the Council area is privately owned, canopy outcomes will depend not only on Council-led planting programs but also on decisions and actions by residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies.

Table 1 Canopy cover change by land use, Randwick Council area 2007 to 2022^{iv}

LAND USE	2007 CANOPY COVER	2022 CANOPY COVER	CHANGE (% POINTS)	ABSOLUTE CHANGE (HA)
Council roads	11.8%	16.4%	+4.6pp	+24.3 ha
State road reserves	14.6%	17.3%	+2.7pp	+1.9 ha
Council parks	10.8%	18.5%	+7.7pp	+20.6 ha
Private recreation land	15.9%	20.8%	+4.9pp	+24.1 ha
Private land	11.7%	13.9%	+2.2pp	+44.4 ha
National Parks	9.7%	20.9%	+11.2pp	+19.1 ha



Figure 2: The distribution of land area across Randwick Council area by land use type^{iv}



These characteristics demonstrate that increasing canopy cover is not simply a matter of planting more trees. Long-term success will depend on protecting existing mature trees, planning for the replacement of ageing trees, increasing canopy in areas with low tree cover, and working collaboratively with landowners across both public and private land. Understanding the current state of Randwick's canopy provides the foundation for setting realistic targets and identifying the most effective actions to grow and sustain the urban forest into the future.



To protect our trees on private land in Randwick, approval is required to remove or prune trees with:

- a height equal to or exceeding 5 metres
- a canopy width equal to or exceeding 4 metres
- a single trunk tree species: a trunk circumference equal to or exceeding 400 mm at a height of one (1) metre above ground level
- a multi-trunk tree species: a combined trunk circumference (measured around the outer girth of the group of trunks) equal to or exceeding 400 mm at a height of one (1) metre above ground level.

Identified tree species that have been determined to be a strong biosecurity risk are exempt from requiring approval.



Council successes

Over many years, Council has undertaken a range of initiatives to protect and enhance Randwick's urban forest. These efforts have included tree planting programs, bushland restoration, community engagement activities, strategic planning and the development of policies and guidelines to support urban greening.

While the challenges associated with increasing canopy cover in a highly urbanised area remain significant, these initiatives have helped establish a strong foundation for future action. They have improved Council's understanding of the urban forest, increased community participation in greening programs and contributed to gradual increases in canopy cover across parts of the LGA.

The following examples highlight some of the key initiatives and outcomes that have helped inform and support the development of this Strategy



Documents developed

- 2026 – Urban Forest Policy - setting city-wide and land use-based canopy targets
- 2026 – Updated Significant Tree Register and Street Tree Masterplan
- 5 Year Urban Street Garden Strategy developed



Plantings

- Since 2022, over 50,000 trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted with over 6,300 being trees.
- Over the last four years the Plant with Us program has planted more than 8,000 trees, shrubs and grasses with the help of around 2,400 community volunteers



Bushcare volunteers and contractors

- Restoring and enhancing 55 hectares of bushland and natural areas, with 17,600 hours of bush restoration completed across 32 parks and reserves in 2025/26.
- Bushcare volunteers planted 3,286 plants over more than 2,000 volunteer hours in 2025/26.





Strategic Context

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of green leaves, likely from a plant like Eucalyptus, with a soft, out-of-focus effect. The leaves are various shades of green, from light lime to deep forest green, and their veins are clearly visible. The lighting is bright and even, creating a fresh and natural feel.

Randwick's urban forest contributes significantly to the liveability, character and environmental performance of the city. Trees and vegetation provide shade, cooling, habitat, improved air quality, amenity and support community wellbeing. As Randwick continues to grow and urbanise, these benefits become increasingly important.

Why we need an urban forest strategy

The city faces several challenges including increasing urban density, climate change, community attitudes, competition for space within streets and parks, and the ageing of the existing tree population. These pressures highlight the need for a coordinated, long-term approach to protecting and growing the urban forest.

The Urban Forest Strategy provides that framework. It establishes a shared vision, targets and actions to guide decision-making across Council, the community and other land managers over the next decade, while supporting long-term canopy outcomes through to 2060.

Community expectations

Community expectations for Randwick's urban forest have been consistently identified through a range of Council engagement activities, including consultation on the Urban Forest Policy, Development Control Plan, Community Strategic Plan, Resilient Randwick Strategy, and the Urban Forest Strategy. Across these engagements, the community has expressed strong support for protecting and expanding the urban forest while recognising its role in creating a cooler, greener, healthier and more liveable city.

Key themes consistently identified by residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders include:

- Strong support for increasing tree canopy cover across the Council area through tree planting and retention programs.
- More trees in streets, parks, public spaces and urban centres to provide shade, cooling and amenity.
- Increased biodiversity outcomes through the protection and restoration of native vegetation, habitat and wildlife corridors.
- Planting the right tree in the right place, with consideration of species diversity, site suitability, climate resilience and long-term performance.
- Improved maintenance and management of existing trees and green spaces.
- Greater access to green space, shade and cooling, particularly in areas with lower canopy cover and higher exposure to urban heat.
- Stronger partnerships with residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies to support urban greening and canopy growth.

These community priorities align closely with the objectives of this Strategy and reinforce the importance of a coordinated, long-term approach to protecting, maintaining and growing Randwick's urban forest.

An evidence-based approach

This Strategy has been informed by extensive technical analysis, best-practice guidance and stakeholder engagement. In addition to community consultation and workshops with Council staff, stakeholders and community representatives, the Strategy draws on a range of technical inputs including the NSW Greener Neighbourhoods Guide, NSW Government SEED tree canopy and urban heat datasets, the Sydney Green Grid, Council's street tree inventory and asset data, biodiversity information, planning controls, demographic data and relevant State and local strategies. These sources provide a comprehensive understanding of Randwick's urban forest, canopy distribution, biodiversity values, urban heat exposure, growth opportunities and implementation constraints.

To better understand what canopy outcomes are realistically achievable, Council commissioned an expert consultant to undertake a Tree Canopy Feasibility Study. The study assessed current canopy cover, tree growth rates, planting opportunities, land ownership patterns, canopy distribution and the physical constraints affecting canopy expansion across Randwick. It also modelled a range of planting scenarios and tested the feasibility of previously adopted canopy targets. The study provided an evidence-based understanding of where future canopy growth is most likely to occur and how different levels of investment and planting effort may influence long-term outcomes.

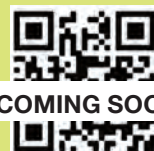
The findings demonstrated that canopy outcomes are strongly influenced by factors such as private land ownership, available planting space, infrastructure constraints and the time required for trees to mature. In response, this Strategy adopts a land-use-based canopy framework focused on streets, parks and private land, supported by a longer-term planning horizon to 2060. This approach provides more realistic, measurable and accountable canopy outcomes while focusing effort on the parts of the urban forest where Council can have the greatest influence.

Together, this evidence base has informed the vision, objectives, targets and actions contained within this Strategy, ensuring that they are practical, achievable and responsive to the unique opportunities and challenges of Randwick's urban forest.

Engagement and Collaboration:

The success of this Strategy depends on our community partnering with us to support and implement the actions, helping the vision become a reality.

In acknowledgment of the importance of community engagement, The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure have released a guide to assist Council's with encouraging street tree planting and protection initiatives. It offers practical tools and strategies for councils across NSW to engage communities and address barriers. Read the guide here:



Policy framework

The Urban Forest Strategy sits within a broader framework of State and local policies, strategies and plans that influence urban greening outcomes.

At the State level, key directions are provided through:

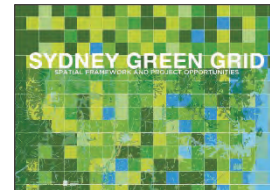
- Sydney Plan
- NSW Greener Neighbourhoods Guide
- Sydney Green Grid
- Resilient Sydney Strategy

These documents recognise urban greening and tree canopy as important elements of climate resilience, biodiversity, public health and urban liveability.

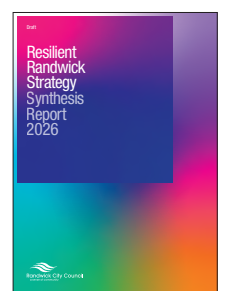
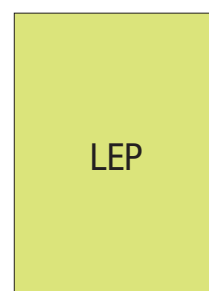
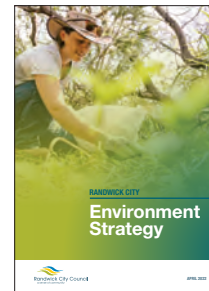
At the local level, the Urban Forest Strategy is supported by Council's:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Environment Strategy
- Open Space and Recreation Strategy
- LSPS
- LEP
- Urban Forest Policy
- Development Control Plan
- Plans of Management
- Resilience Strategy

State level



Local level



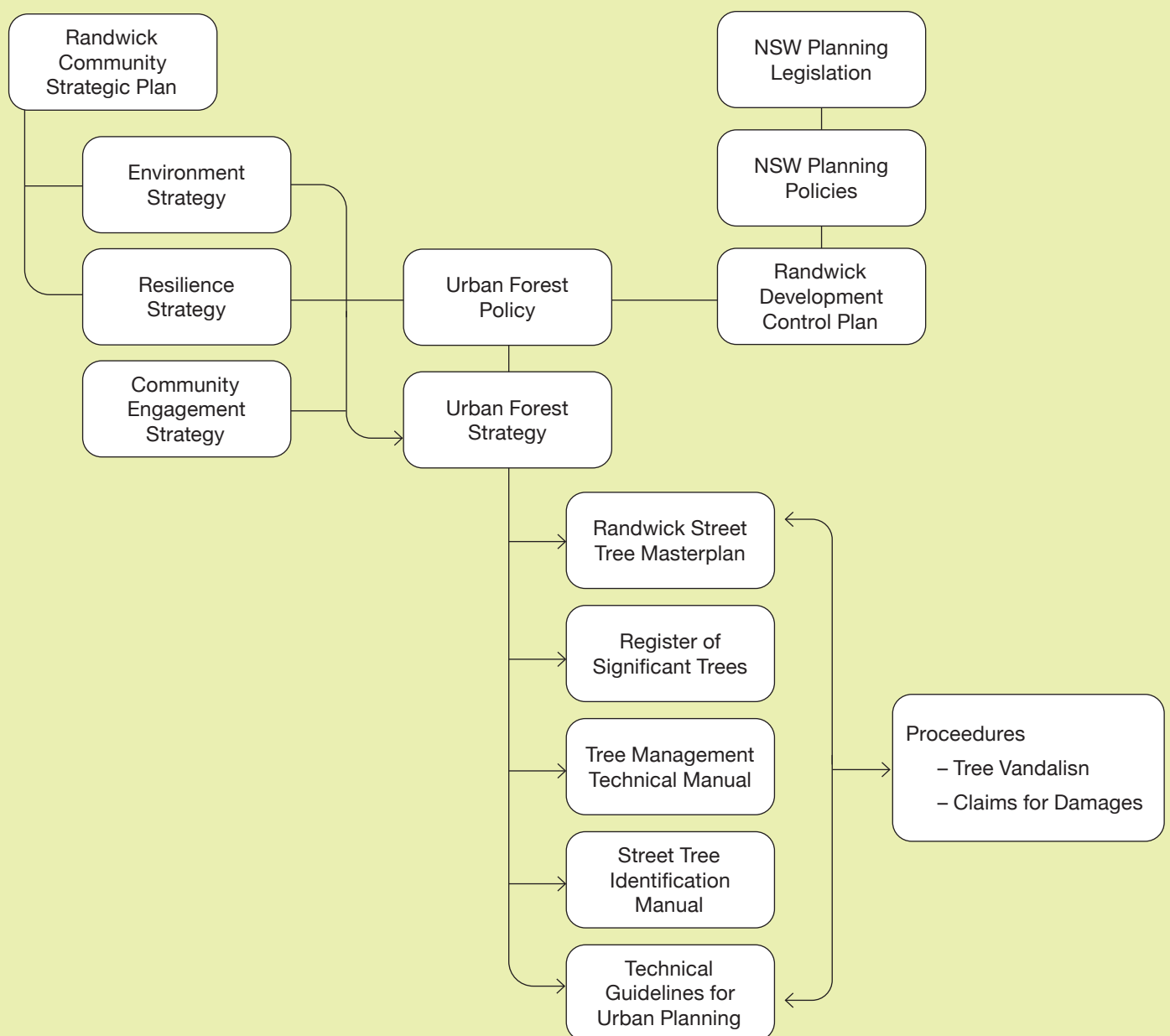
Urban forest management framework

The Urban Forest Strategy is the overarching strategic document guiding urban forest outcomes across Randwick. It provides the vision, targets and strategic directions that inform more detailed plans, technical guidelines and operational programs. These supporting documents establish how individual actions are implemented, monitored and reviewed over time.

Together, this framework enables Council to take a coordinated and consistent approach to protecting, maintaining and growing the urban forest across public and private land.

Together, these documents establish the planning and operational framework for protecting and expanding the urban forest across Randwick.

Figure 3: Randwick Council urban forest management framework



Challenges and Opportunities

Randwick's urban forest provides significant environmental, social and economic benefits, and its future is shaped by a range of challenges and opportunities. Understanding these factors is important in identifying realistic pathways for protecting and increasing canopy cover, improving biodiversity and delivering a cooler, more liveable city.

Challenges

Private land dominance

Private land presents the greatest challenge to increasing canopy cover across Randwick. Approximately 58% of the local government area is privately owned (including residential, commercial, and industrial properties) and a further 19% comprises open space that is owned or managed by other organisations. As a result, a significant proportion of the urban forest sits outside Council's direct control.

Private land currently has an estimated canopy cover of 15.6%, which is below the canopy cover achieved on streets and in parks. Council can influence canopy outcomes through planning controls, education, incentives and partnerships, however decisions relating to tree planting, retention and removal ultimately rest with individual landowners and organisations.

The areas outside Council's direct management are used for a wide range of purposes, including golf courses, ports, hospitals, headlands, national parks, cemeteries, correctional facilities, military land, racecourses, market gardens and utility infrastructure. While many of these land uses support significant vegetation and biodiversity outcomes, others have operational, safety or spatial constraints that can limit opportunities for additional canopy growth.

Canopy change on private and non-Council land generally occurs slowly, influenced by redevelopment, land management priorities, parking requirements, solar access, swimming pools, outdoor living spaces and other competing land uses. Considering this lack of influence, competing priorities and limited planning control the

modelling identifies that maintaining the current canopy coverage in private land will be a challenge to achieve. Consequently, increasing canopy cover across the whole Council area, considering the majority of land is in private ownership, will require strong partnerships with residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies, in addition to continued investment in streets and parks.

Limited space for new trees

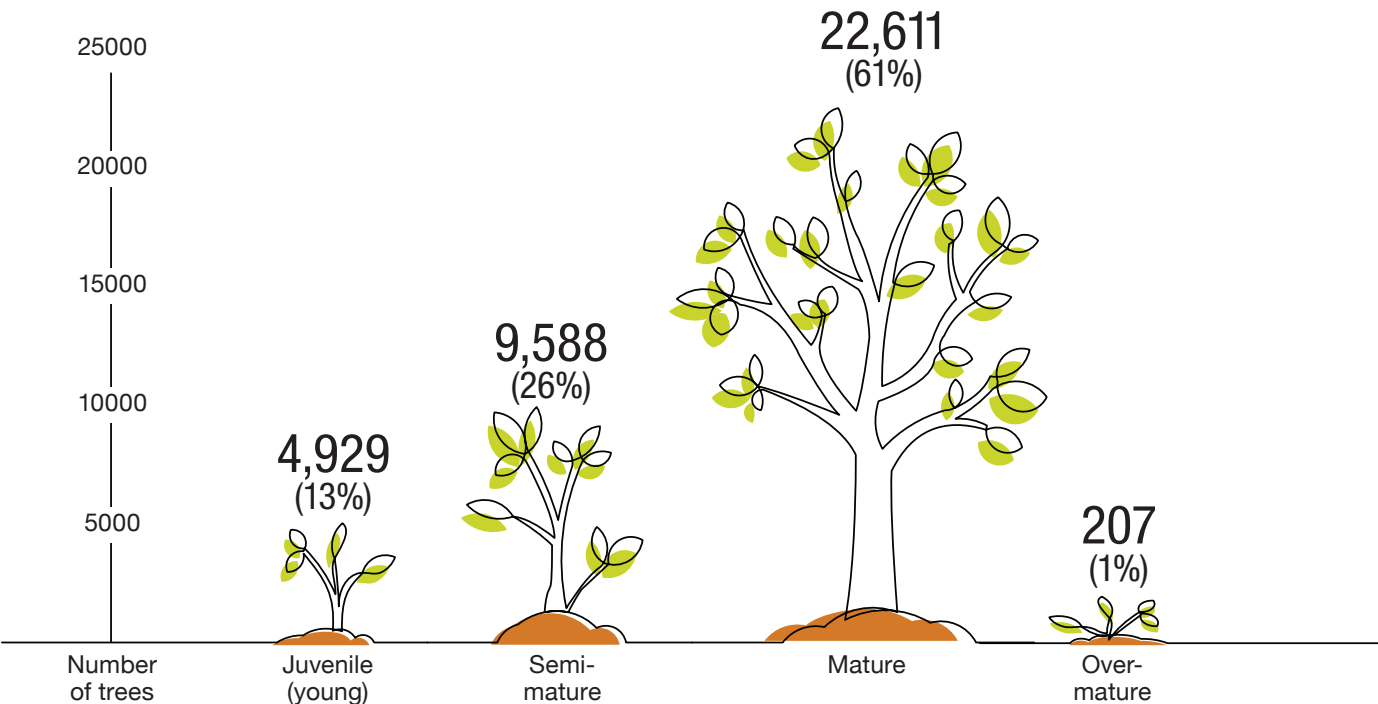
As a highly urbanised area, Randwick faces increasing competition for space. Streets and parks must accommodate utilities, roads, footpaths, drainage, recreation facilities and other community infrastructure. These constraints can limit opportunities for new tree planting and influence the size and species of trees that can be established.

Opportunities for expanding canopy often require innovative design solutions and the integration of trees into broader infrastructure projects.

An ageing tree population

Council manages approximately 43,000 street trees, many of which were planted decades ago. The most significant concern is not the condition of these trees but the age and life expectancy profile of the population as a whole. Around 61% of the street tree population is classified as mature or over-mature and of the trees assessed for useful life expectancy, 2,221 (5.9%) are identified as requiring replacement within 10 years^{iv}.

Figure 4 Tree age composition Randwick street tree inventory (Mosaic Insights)



Tree growth timeframes

Trees are a long-term investment. Newly planted trees can take 10 to 20 years to reach a size where they provide substantial shade and canopy benefits.

This means the benefits of today's planting programs may not be fully realised for many years. It reinforces the importance of protecting existing mature trees while establishing the next generation of canopy. Tree growth timeframes must also be considered when setting meaningful canopy targets. For example, a 2040 target gives trees planted today only 14 years to grow before progress is measured against the target, capturing only the early part canopy development. Extending the horizon to 2060 allows for larger canopy gains for the same planting effort, and better reflects the long-term nature of urban forest growth.

Urban growth and development

Urbanisation poses significant challenges to achieving high tree cover targets, due to infrastructure expansion which often reduces available planting area and potential tree canopy cover.

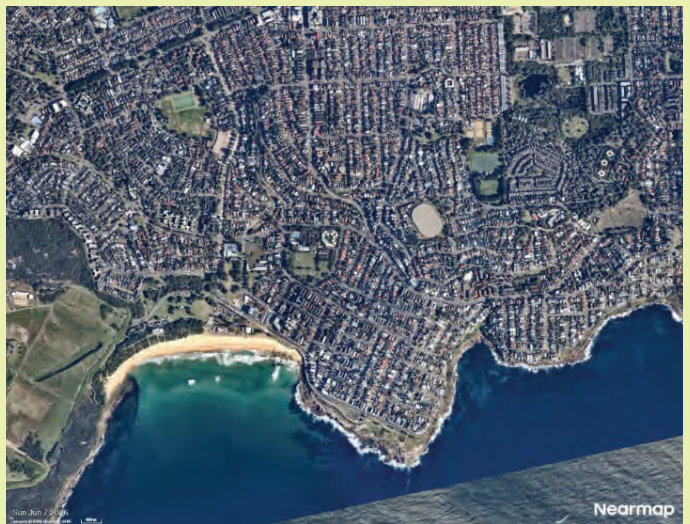
Randwick continues to experience population growth and urban renewal with our population expected to reach 154,745 by 2041^v, an increase of 8,261 from 2025^{vi}. Increased housing density and redevelopment can place pressure on existing vegetation and reduce opportunities for tree planting if not carefully managed. Currently, powerline conflict affects nearly half the street tree population with 17,095 trees (46%) sitting under powerlines. These types of urban growth and development constraints have direct impacts on increasing tree canopy from the existing population^{iv}.

Randwick Council needs to increase our urban forest and tree canopy cover to create a liveable city. Integrating urban forest objectives into planning, development assessment and infrastructure delivery will be critical to ensuring that growth and greening occur together.

Images showing urbanisation over time



Maroubra Beach c 1940's [Randwick City Council]



Maroubra Beach – June 2026 [Nearmap]

Climate change

Climate change presents both a challenge and a catalyst for urban forest expansion. Rising temperatures, more frequent and intense heatwaves, changing rainfall patterns, and increasing pressure from pests and diseases may affect the health, resilience and longevity of existing trees.

At the same time, the need for urban greening is becoming increasingly important. Climate projections indicate that average temperatures across New South Wales are likely to rise by between 1.2°C and 2°C by 2050, and between 1.3°C and 4°C by 2090, depending on future emissions scenarios (State of New South Wales 2024a).

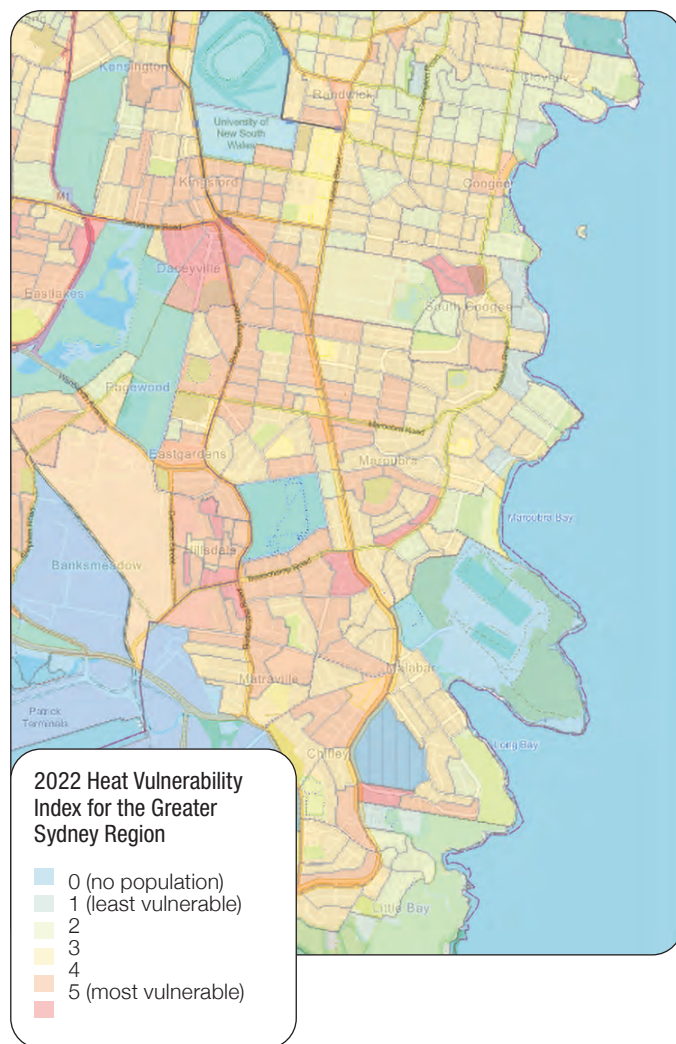
Urban forests are a critical climate adaptation measure that help communities prepare for and respond to increasing climate risks. By providing shade, reducing urban heat, supporting biodiversity, improving stormwater management and enhancing community wellbeing, urban forests strengthen resilience to heatwaves, drought, severe weather events and environmental degradation.

Expanding and maintaining a healthy urban forest will be essential to ensuring our communities remain liveable, healthy and resilient in a changing climate.

Community expectations

The community strongly values trees and supports increased canopy cover. However, trees can also generate concerns relating to leaves, roots, shading, infrastructure, views and maintenance.

Balancing individual concerns with broader community benefits remains an ongoing challenge. Achieving canopy targets will require continued engagement, education and collaboration between Council and the community.



Opportunities

Strong community support

Community consultation consistently demonstrates strong support for protecting existing trees and increasing canopy cover across Randwick. This support provides a strong foundation for implementing the actions identified in this Strategy.

Existing canopy and tree assets

Randwick already benefits from an extensive network of street trees, parks, bushland reserves and coastal vegetation. These assets provide a strong foundation for future canopy growth and biodiversity outcomes.

Protecting and enhancing existing canopy is often the most effective and cost-efficient way to increase urban forest benefits.

Public land and park planting capacity

Streets have the greatest canopy growth potential of any land use in Randwick. The existing street tree stock includes semi mature trees with significant canopy still to develop, and spatial analysis identified approximately 5,750 vacant sites across the Council area. While not all sites will be suitable or available immediately, they provide significant opportunities for increasing canopy cover over time through a sustained planting program. Parks have a higher canopy baseline (approximately 19.2%) and have fewer vacant sites (approximately 2,400) than streets, but they offer significant capacity for large tree planting given the availability of deep soil.

Partnerships beyond Council land

Meaningful canopy growth will require collaboration with residents, businesses, schools, universities, hospitals and other major landholders. Partnerships provide opportunities to increase tree planting and improve canopy outcomes across areas of the Council area that Council cannot directly manage.

Green grid and connectivity opportunities

Randwick contains several important green corridors identified through the Sydney Green Grid and other strategic planning initiatives. These corridors provide opportunities to improve canopy cover, increase habitat connectivity, encourage active transport and deliver cooling benefits at a landscape scale.

Capital works and renewal programs

Street upgrades, park improvements, drainage works and public domain renewal projects provide opportunities to integrate urban forest outcomes into existing investment programs. Coordinating planting with infrastructure renewal can improve delivery efficiency and maximise long-term outcomes.

Innovation and improved design

Advances in urban greening, water-sensitive urban design, soil technologies and climate-resilient planting techniques are creating new opportunities to establish trees in locations that were previously considered unsuitable.

These approaches will play an increasingly important role in delivering canopy outcomes within a highly urbanised environment.

Together, these challenges and opportunities demonstrate that increasing canopy cover is not simply a matter of planting more trees. Success will depend on protecting existing canopy, planning for future generations of trees, working collaboratively across land tenures and integrating urban forest outcomes into the way the city is planned, designed and managed.





Vision, Strategic Directions and Canopy Targets

Our vision is a resilient, diverse and thriving urban forest that provides shade, cooling, biodiversity and wellbeing benefits, creating a greener, healthier and more liveable Randwick for current and future generations.

Vision

Randwick's urban forest will be shaped by long-term planning, shared responsibility and a coordinated approach across Council, the community and other land managers. It will prioritise the protection of existing trees and vegetation, the establishment of new canopy in appropriate locations, and equitable access to green, shaded environments across the Council area.

Strategic directions

The strategic directions of this Urban Forest Strategy have been informed by both expert technical analysis and extensive consultation undertaken with Council staff, community members and external stakeholders. Participants consistently identified the need for strong strategic leadership, protection and growth of the urban forest, biodiversity and climate resilience outcomes, meaningful community partnerships and evidence-based implementation. These themes have been translated into four strategic directions that guide Council's approach to managing the urban forest over the next decade:

- Plan
- Engage
- Protect and Maintain
- Grow

Together, the strategic directions provide a coordinated framework for planning, protecting, maintaining and growing Randwick's urban forest while supporting the delivery of canopy, biodiversity, cooling and liveability outcomes.

Canopy targets

Council developed tree canopy cover targets as the overarching indicator for measuring the progress of our urban forest.

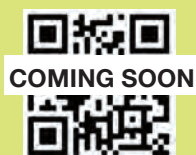
Council's adopted tree canopy targets were developed through detailed, evidence-based modelling undertaken as part of the Tree Canopy Feasibility Study^{iv}. The study examined canopy distribution across the whole Council area, tree growth rates, planting opportunities, land ownership patterns and the practical constraints of delivering large-scale canopy expansion within a highly urbanised environment. This analysis was supported by Council's tree inventory, canopy mapping, land use information and spatial analysis, providing an evidence-based understanding of where future canopy growth can realistically be achieved.

The study found that canopy growth in Randwick is influenced by several factors, including land ownership, tree growth timeframes and availability of planting space. As a result, the Strategy adopts:

- a land-use-based approach to canopy planning, recognising that streets, parks and private land each have different opportunities, constraints and levels of Council influence; and
- a long-term planning horizon, out to 2060, recognising the long-term nature of urban forest management and reflecting the time required for trees to mature and contribute meaningful canopy cover. An interim measure at 2040 allows trees planted today around 14 years to grow, meaning they will begin to be captured in the canopy cover measurements, while still in the earlier stages of canopy development.

Read the report

An expert consultant, Mosaic Insights, prepared the Tree Canopy Feasibility Study. You can read the report here



This approach ensures that canopy targets are both ambitious and achievable, grounded in local evidence, and aligned with Council’s capacity to deliver long term urban forest outcomes. The adopted targets are:

TARGET CITY WIDE TREE CANOPY COVERAGE OF 19% BY 2060			
INTERIM LAND-USE-BASED TARGETS			
YEAR	STREET	PARKS	PRIVATE
2040	23-24%	21-22%	15.6%
2050	27-29%	22-24%	15.6%
2060	37-38%	24-26%	15.6%

These canopy targets focus on areas where Council can have the greatest influence and recognises the importance of retaining existing mature trees, which currently provide most canopy benefits across the city.

Achieving these canopy targets will require a combination of protecting existing mature trees, replacing ageing trees, undertaking sustained planting programs and working with private landowners and other major land managers to support canopy retention and expansion. Given Council’s significantly limited influence over private land management, maintaining the current level of canopy is considered a challenging outcome. This constraint is reflected in the target, which focusses on maintaining existing canopy in this area, and achieving increases on lands that Council has greater control over.

The canopy targets provide a practical and evidence-based framework for guiding investment, measuring progress and supporting the delivery of a cooler, greener and more resilient Randwick over the long term. Additional targets and indicators have also been developed for the strategic directions and many individual actions, ensuring progress can be tracked progressively and accountability is maintained throughout implementation.





Actions

The Urban Forest Strategy translates the vision, strategic directions and canopy targets into a coordinated program of action. The actions have been informed by Council's strategic priorities, the Tree Canopy Feasibility Study, technical analysis and engagement undertaken with Council staff, stakeholders and community representatives.

Consultation consistently identified the need for strong governance, protection of existing trees, biodiversity outcomes, community partnerships and evidence-based implementation.

This aligns with the recommendations outlined Tree Canopy Target Feasibility Study^{iv}. These recommendations were based on the four pillars of best practice urban forest management within the NSW Government Greener Neighbourhoods Guide (please see Policy Framework within this Strategy page 22).

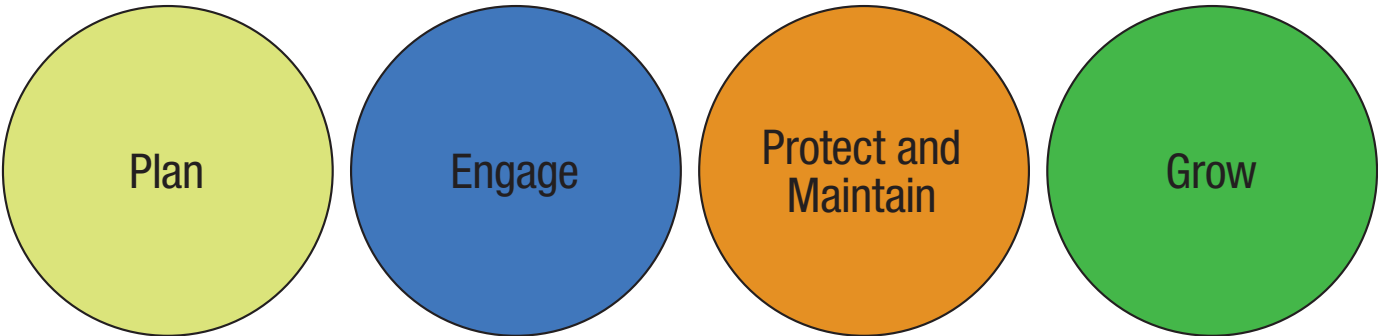
The pillars include governance and leadership, data and evidence, engagement and goals and targets. In addition, Council has committed to additional resources, an increase in annual plantings to 1,751, and improved collaboration. There has also been recent Development Control Plan (2026) improvements and focus on expanded education. Implementation of our actions and overall strategy will accelerate growth of our urban canopy.

The actions are organised under the four strategic directions, are strategic in nature and span a 4–14 year timeframe. They align with Council’s Community Strategic Plan and other relevant strategies and plans, and will be delivered through Council’s Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. Implementation will occur through future Delivery Programs, annual Operational Plans and business unit work programs, ensuring urban forest outcomes are embedded across Council’s ongoing operations, projects and decision-making processes.

The actions are intended to remain adaptive and responsive to changing circumstances. Progress, emerging opportunities and new evidence will inform future reviews, ensuring the Strategy continues to support a cooler, greener and more resilient Randwick.



The Strategy adopts a long-term, evidence-based approach focused on four strategic directions:



Plan

Outcome:

Urban forest outcomes are embedded across Council planning, decision-making, investment and governance processes.

Achieving the vision of this Strategy requires more than tree planting. It requires a coordinated, long-term approach that integrates urban forest outcomes into planning, infrastructure delivery, policy development and organisational decision-making.

Consultation participants consistently identified the importance of governance, accountability, funding, data and cross-Council collaboration to support successful implementation.

Target:

- Incorporate urban forest outcomes into relevant Council strategies, plans and major capital works projects by 2036

REF	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
1.1	Establish an internal urban forest working group	Establish a cross-department working group within 12 months of Strategy adoption to coordinate implementation, support collaboration and assign accountability for urban forest outcomes across Council.
1.2	Review green infrastructure asset management	Review Council's approach to green infrastructure asset management to effectively include nature based infrastructure into Council's asset management planning, using available best practice as a guide by 2030.
1.3	Integrate urban forest objectives into Council plans, capital works and decision-making	Embed urban forest outcomes within masterplans, infrastructure renewal, asset management, Plans of Management and major project delivery.
1.4	Strengthen planning framework	Use strategic planning, local planning instruments and development controls and processes to improve tree retention and protection, increase tree canopy cover and expand urban greening across private and public land. This includes clear requirements for canopy, deep soil and planting areas. Consider tree replacement ratios, offset mechanisms and/or developer contributions where retention is demonstrated to be impractical and ensure replacement considers predicted mature tree canopy rather than tree count alone.
1.5	Resource and fund	Continually identify and allocate sustainable funding and sufficient resource requirements to support the implementation of this Strategy throughout all planning stages during the life of the strategy. This should include consideration of expanding Council's public tree inventory, implementing proactive tree maintenance and lifetime maintenance of public trees. An additional tree planting team to be established by 2027.
1.6	Establish baseline data, monitoring and reporting	Identify and maintain robust urban forest data and performance measures to support evidence-based decision-making. Deliver annual reporting on progress with baseline data established by 2028.
1.7	Apply heat, canopy, health and social equity mapping to prioritise action	Use spatial analysis to identify low-canopy areas, urban heat hotspots and priority communities where increased greening will provide the greatest benefits for cooling, health, wellbeing and equity outcomes and integrate these priorities into the Green Grid planning and urban greening programs by 2030.
1.8	Apply canopy targets in planning	Apply relevant land-use tree canopy targets across streets, parks and private land projects and developments, supported by measurable requirements for tree retention, new planting, deep soil and soil volume, to improve accountability and focus investment where canopy gains are most achievable.
1.9	Incorporate Caring for Country principles into urban forest planning	Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to incorporate cultural knowledge, values and Caring for Country principles into urban forest planning and management by 2030.

Engage

Outcome:

Residents, community groups, educational institutions, major landholders, businesses and government agencies actively contribute to growing, protecting and valuing the urban forest.

Community support and participation are essential to the long-term success of Randwick's urban forest. With a significant proportion of canopy located on private land, achieving canopy targets and biodiversity outcomes will require strong partnerships between Council, residents, community groups, educational institutions,

major landholders, businesses and government agencies. Engagement actions focus on building awareness, encouraging stewardship, supporting behaviour change and creating opportunities for the community to contribute to the protection and expansion of the urban forest.

Targets:

- Maintain community satisfaction rating for environmental awareness and education of ≥80%
- Increase the number of individuals participating in urban forest initiatives, on a 2025 baseline

REF	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
2.1	Deliver urban forest education and awareness campaigns	Increase community understanding of the environmental, social and economic benefits of trees and urban greening, while building support for urban forest initiatives, including the consequences for the vandalism and illegal removal of trees.
2.2	Support community planting, stewardship and volunteer programs	Encourage active participation by the community in community planting activities and events such as Street Gardens, Bushcare, Plant With Us, Native Havens, Request a Street Tree and community gardens. Encourage local champions, both individuals and street groups.
2.3	Partner with schools, institutions and major landholders	Work collaboratively with schools, universities, hospitals, sporting organisations and other large landholders to increase canopy and biodiversity outcomes across the LGA.
2.4	Assist the community in accessing native plants	Support private land greening by investigating providing residents with access to free and or low cost suitable tree species and locally indigenous plants.
2.5	Work with land developers to improve canopy outcomes and tree retention	Identify and implement opportunities for early engagement and clear guidance to encourage better tree retention, planting and canopy outcomes in developments.
2.6	Deliver targeted engagement in low-canopy and heat-vulnerable communities	Develop specialised/locally specific education, support programs and greening initiatives in locations where additional canopy will provide the greatest health, cooling and equity benefits. Engage identified priority communities by 2030.
2.7	Recognise and celebrate community greening leaders and success stories	Highlight individuals, schools, businesses, community groups and other local champions that are making significant contributions to protecting and expanding the urban forest annually from 2027 onwards.
2.8	Strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and community engagement	Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led projects, cultural learning opportunities and engagement activities that strengthen connections between Country, culture and the urban forest annually.
2.9	Promote urban forest advocacy networks	Work with established and respected organisations that advocate for the urban forest, to help raise awareness of its importance by 2028.

Protect and Maintain

Outcome:

Existing trees and vegetation are protected, well-managed and supported to maximise their long-term benefits.

Protecting and maintaining existing trees is essential to achieving Randwick's urban forest objectives. Mature trees provide most of the canopy cover and many of the environmental, social and biodiversity benefits valued by the community.

These actions focus on protecting existing assets, improving tree health and resilience, and ensuring the urban forest is managed as a long-term community asset.

Targets:

- Maintain a community satisfaction rating for protection of natural bushland of $\geq 80\%$
- Maintain a community satisfaction rating for tree preservation of $\geq 80\%$

REF	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
3.1	Maintain green infrastructure asset management	Develop GIS-based inventory of trees and other green infrastructure by 2028. Maintain and regularly update a GIS-based inventory of tree and other green infrastructure asset information annually to support planning, maintenance, risk management and strategic decision-making.
3.2	Proactively assess Council's public trees	Regularly assess tree condition and implement planned maintenance programs to maximise safety, longevity and canopy benefits.
3.3	Prioritise the protection and retention of all trees, primarily mature, significant and/or habitat trees	Recognise the critical role mature trees play in canopy cover, biodiversity, habitat provision and neighbourhood character by retaining them wherever practicable, and consistent with appropriate risk management considerations.
3.4	Strengthen tree protection during construction and development	Improve tree protection requirements and site management practices to minimise impacts on private and public trees during development and infrastructure works by 2030.
3.5	Improve compliance, enforcement and penalties for unauthorised removal	Review and strengthen monitoring and enforcement practices by 2028 to discourage illegal tree removal, vandalism, inappropriate pruning and failure to comply with approved tree protection or replacement requirements. Consider resourcing requirements to support this.
3.6	Deliver planned maintenance, watering and establishment programs	Continue to ensure newly planted and existing trees and vegetation receive the care required to remain healthy, resilient and capable of achieving maturity.
3.7	Require replacement planting to maintain canopy over time	Support long-term canopy succession by replacing removed trees to ensure ongoing renewal of the urban forest.
3.8	Strengthen pest, disease and utility conflict management	Reduce threats to tree health through proactive management of pests, diseases and conflicts with infrastructure and services.
3.9	Petition higher government authorities for urban forest advocacy	Advocate to the State and Federal government to review regulations associated with tree management that act as barriers and negatively impact tree retention, canopy and urban greening.
3.10	Establish compliance for tree replacement	Establish a process for monitoring and enforcing permits and consents for tree removals and replacements associated with development by 2030.
3.11	Improve habitat for wildlife	Assess senescent native trees for retention as habitat in preference to being removed, ensuring appropriate risk management considerations are applied.
3.12	Apply arboricultural expertise to tree-related claims and investigations	Involve Council arborists in the assessment of insurance claims, infrastructure conflicts and alleged property damage associated with Council-managed trees, supporting fair, consistent and evidence-based outcomes, aligning with Council's approved claims process where appropriate.

Grow

Outcome:

Canopy cover, biodiversity and urban greening are expanded in locations where they provide the greatest community and environmental benefit. Growing the urban forest will require a sustained and coordinated approach that balances canopy expansion with biodiversity, climate resilience and urban liveability outcomes. These actions focus on increasing tree canopy where it provides the greatest benefits while improving connectivity, habitat and resilience across Randwick.

Targets:

- City wide tree canopy coverage of 19% by 2060 interim land-use-based targets
- | Year | Street | Parks | Private |
|------|--------|--------|---------|
| 2040 | 23-24% | 21-22% | 15.6% |
| 2050 | 27-29% | 22-24% | 15.6% |
| 2060 | 37-38% | 24-26% | 15.6% |
- Plant 1,715 trees each year

REF	ACTION	DESCRIPTION
4.1	Deliver tree planting aligned with canopy targets	Continue to expand canopy cover through strategic planting programs on Council-managed land (including streets, parks and bushland) in accordance with canopy targets and planting priorities to achieve adopted canopy targets for 2040, 2050 and 2060.
4.2	Expand planting along walking, cycling and transport corridors	Improve green space connectivity, comfort, biodiversity and active transport outcomes by increasing canopy along key movement routes in accordance with the Green Grid Plan from 2028 onwards.
4.3	Increase canopy around schools, community facilities, centres and commercial areas	Expand green infrastructure in heavily used public places through streetscape upgrade projects and developer public domain works, particularly around centres, community facilities, pedestrian routes and high-use areas, to improve access to shade, cooling and placemaking, including street gardens.
4.4	Deliver innovative greening projects	Incorporate innovative greening approaches into Council projects that increase canopy cover and biodiversity in constrained urban environment, such as pocket and micro-forests.
4.5	Improve planting outcomes through soil volume standards, WSUD and passive irrigation	Apply best-practice design approaches that improve tree establishment, growth and long-term canopy outcomes. This includes standards for deep soil, soil volume, root zones, drainage, passive irrigation and WSUD to support healthy tree establishment and long-term canopy.
4.6	Support canopy expansion on private land and in developments	Work with landowners and developers to increase tree planting and canopy retention beyond Council-managed land. Investigate incentives to support retention and expansion.
4.7	Increase locally native vegetation and integrate Caring for Country outcomes	Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led projects and engagement activities that increase local native vegetation and integrate Caring for Country Outcomes
4.8	Increase species diversity	Increase species diversity in public tree planting using recognised models such as 10-20-30 diversity principle to assist with climate change, pest and disease mitigation, infrastructure conflicts and long-term maintenance.
4.9	Adhere to industry best practice for tree management	Council staff stay informed of evolving and industry best practices through opportunities such as attending tree management workshops, seminars and networking events and undertaking training annually. Assessment and compliance practices are periodically reviewed against industry best practice.

Implementation, Monitoring and Reporting

Implementation of the Strategy will be delivered over the next 14 years through programs and projects undertaken across Council and in partnership with residents, community groups, educational institutions, businesses, major landholders, government agencies and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives.

Delivery will be supported through existing operational and capital budgets, external grant funding opportunities and collaborative partnerships that contribute to urban forest outcomes.

Protecting and growing Randwick's urban forest is a shared responsibility. Council business units responsible for planning, development assessment, asset management, open space management, tree services, sustainability, bushland management and community engagement all have a role in delivering the Strategy.

The actions contained within this Strategy are strategic in nature and generally span a 4–14 year timeframe. They will be embedded within Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Framework and delivered through future Delivery Programs, annual Operational Plans and business unit work programs. This approach ensures urban forest outcomes are integrated into Council's ongoing planning, operations, infrastructure investment and decision-making processes.

Progress will be monitored through a range of measures relating to canopy cover, tree establishment, urban forest health, biodiversity outcomes and community participation. Monitoring will draw on Council's tree inventory and GIS systems, NSW Government canopy datasets, project reporting and other relevant environmental data sources. Outcomes and lessons learned will be incorporated into future planning and decision-making to support continuous improvement.

Implementation of the Strategy will be tracked through Council's existing reporting mechanisms and aligned with the Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. Progress and key achievements will be communicated through Council's regular reporting processes to ensure transparency, accountability and

ongoing community engagement in the protection, maintenance and growth of Randwick's urban forest.

A comprehensive review of the implementation will be undertaken every four years, aligned with Council's Delivery Program review cycle. Reviews will consider progress against the Strategy's vision, objectives, targets and actions, together with emerging evidence, planning requirements and changes in environmental conditions. This process will provide an opportunity to refine actions, identify future priorities and ensure the Strategy remains adaptive, evidence-based and responsive to changing circumstances.

The Urban Forest Strategy forms part of Council's broader strategic planning framework and supports the delivery of the Community Strategic Plan. It aligns with a range of Council strategies and plans, including the Environment Strategy, Open Space and Recreation Strategy, Integrated Transport Strategy, Resilient Randwick Strategy, Housing Strategy, Local Strategic Planning Statement and Development Control Plan. Together, these documents support a coordinated approach to creating a greener, cooler, more liveable and climate-resilient Randwick.

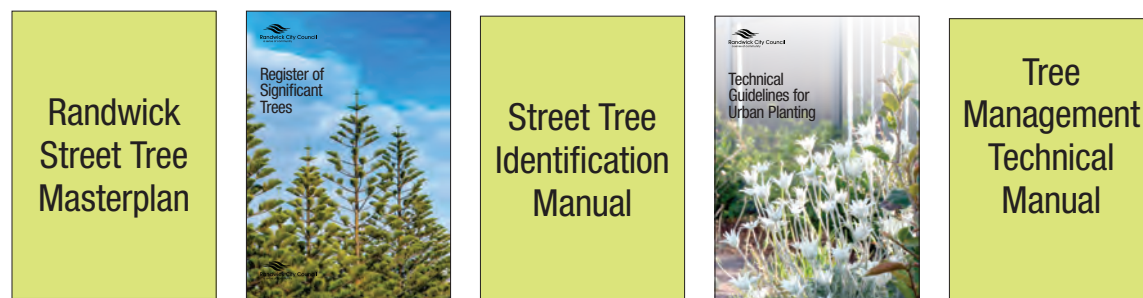


Supporting Documents



The following documents were developed and/or revised alongside this Strategy and support its implementation:

- Randwick Street Tree Masterplan
- Register of Significant Trees
- Street Tree Identification Manual - Online Tool
- Technical Guidelines for Urban Planting
- Tree Management Technical Manual



References

- i Greener Neighbourhoods Guide, Department of Planning, 2026
- ii Ecological Work Plan, Randwick City Council, 2023
- iii Street Tree Inventory, Homewood Consulting, 2022 and 2023
- iv Tree Canopy Feasibility Study, Mosaic Insights, 2026
- v Population Projections, Department of Planning, 2026
- vi Community Profile, .idcommunity, 2026

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