

Attachment B

Engagement Report

Engagement report - Register of significant trees



Report
November 2025

The City of Sydney acknowledges the Gadigal of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of our local area.

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Background

The Register of Significant Trees (the Register) identifies and celebrates the importance of significant trees in the City's evolving landscape. It provides a strategic framework for their management and protection, ensuring these important natural assets are protected and appreciated by current and future generations.

In 2005, Council adopted its first Register of Significant Trees, with a total of 1,931 trees listed. In 2013, Council adopted the most recent version of the Register, which included a total of 2,668 trees, and resolved that a review of the Register be undertaken in 10 years time.

For trees to be listed on the draft Register, they must meet our tree-focused assessment criteria. Significance is assessed across 6 categories, noting each category includes detailed criteria to guide consistent and thorough evaluation;

1. Visual
2. Botanical
3. Ecological
4. Historical
5. Social/cultural
6. Commemorative

A tree listed on the Register also does not mean it can never be removed, however it does ensure any proposals affecting it receive careful, case-by-case review, considering the long-term health, public benefit and significance.

Trees not included in the draft Register are still recognised as valuable and remain protected under various planning controls. These include the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021, as well as our Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, which together establish comprehensive requirements for tree protection throughout our area.

Early community engagement was undertaken from 10 March to 7 April 2025. This engagement provided an opportunity for the community to nominate new trees and to provide feedback on any existing trees on the current Register. A total of 73 submissions were received, and where appropriate, the draft Register was updated in response to the nominations received.

Exhibition of the updated draft Register was undertaken from 1 to 29 September 2025. This engagement primarily provided an opportunity for the community to provide feedback on the updated draft Register, noting that several new nominations were received during that period. Letters were also sent to each property owner for all new nominations received during this period, with extended timeframes provided for them to review and submit comments.

A total of 20 submissions were received, consisting of 14 online and 6 email submissions. All submissions have been reviewed, and where appropriate, the draft Register has been updated.

Engagement Summary

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to ask the community to provide:

- feedback on the updated draft Register of Significant Trees
- new nominations for trees to be included on the Register.

Submissions received during exhibition consultation

During the early engagement stage, we received 73 submissions via an online survey and emailed submissions.

During the exhibition stage, we received 20 submissions via an online survey and emailed submissions.

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 45 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

Submissions

General comments or comments on existing trees listed

20 submissions were received, as summarised below.

Comment	Total	City of Sydney response	Change to Register recommended
<p>Beaconsfield/Rosebery - General Comment</p> <p>Raises concern that no trees in Beaconsfield or Rosebery are included on the Register of Significant Trees despite the presence of ecologically important trees supporting local bird and bat species. Requests an explanation for why this area was excluded from the Register.</p>	1	<p>All trees across the LGA are valued for their environmental, social and amenity contributions, regardless of whether they are listed on the Register of Significant Trees.</p> <p>The Beaconsfield and Rosebery areas reflect later phases of urban development, with most public tree planting occurring from the 1980s onward, meaning fewer examples of older or historically significant trees compared with suburbs such as Glebe, Camperdown or Elizabeth Bay.</p> <p>There were also few community nominations received, which also partly explains their lower representation in the Register.</p> <p>However, several trees and groups in Rosebery are included in the Register, such as the Queensland Lacebarks along Hayes Road, the Queensland Kauri Pines in Durdans Avenue, and the mature figs within Turruwul Park and Crete Reserve.</p> <p>As trees in Beaconsfield and Rosebery continue to mature, they may be nominated and assessed for inclusion in future reviews.</p>	No
<p>Camperdown, 1 Sterling Court, Port Jackson Fig - <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i></p> <p>Does not support the new listing of the Port Jackson Fig, citing safety concerns due to branch failure, structural instability and disease. Notes previous tree collapse nearby and requests removal and replacement with a more suitable species to mitigate risk to life and property. Both submissions acknowledge the visual appeal of the Port Jackson Fig.</p>	2	<p>Noted, we acknowledge the concerns raised. The listing of the Port Jackson Fig in the Register of Significant Trees recognises its individual heritage, landscape and social significance as a remnant of the former 'Midanga' residence and early hospital plantings.</p> <p>Inclusion on the Register does not prevent pruning or other works necessary to address health or safety concerns. Similarly, listing does not preclude tree removal where this is demonstrated to be necessary.</p>	No

Comment	Total	City of Sydney response	Change to Register recommended
<p>Chippendale, Strickland Park London Plane - <i>Platanus x acerifolia</i></p> <p>Does not support the ongoing listing of six London Plane trees in Strickland Park, citing concerns about overgrown canopy, falling branches, root damage and health impacts. Notes that the trees contradict the City's previous approach to phasing out Plane trees and requests that they not be listed, suggesting instead a focus on replacement planting and the protection of trees along the street frontage.</p> <p>One submission suggests further consultation and the removal of trees, particularly one tree adjacent to 12 Bartley Street to reduce property damage and improve growing space for the remaining trees.</p>	2	<p>The London Plane trees were planted in the 1980s as part of broader efforts to enhance canopy cover and amenity in Chippendale. While relatively recent, this group now forms a distinctive and well-shaded pocket park that contributes meaningfully to the visual, environmental and social character of this densely developed inner-city neighbourhood.</p> <p>By way of background, these six trees were added to the Register of Significant Trees in 2012, following a submission requesting their inclusion from one of the authors of the two recent submissions.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised and note that ongoing maintenance is carried out as part of our proactive tree management program. Inclusion on the Register recognises the collective visual and social value of these trees, but it does not prevent pruning, root management or other works necessary to address health, safety or property impacts. Similarly, listing does not preclude tree removal where this is demonstrated to be necessary.</p>	No
<p>Elizabeth Bay, 1 McDonald St Moreton Bay Fig - <i>Ficus macrophylla</i></p> <p>Supports the listing of the tree, describing it as an important and beautiful feature that provides valuable separation and amenity within a densely populated area.</p>	1	Noted	N/A
<p>Elizabeth Bay, 53-55 Elizabeth Bay Rd Moreton Bay Fig – <i>Ficus macrophylla</i></p> <p>Supports this tree as significant. It stands out in the area and seems to add a lot to the local streetscape</p> <p>Expresses concern about the large Moreton Bay Fig adjacent to the Salamanca building. Notes repeated branch failures over several years, including a recent branch that dropped narrowly missed pedestrians. Considers the tree to be hazardous and in need of substantial pruning or culling to prevent future injury or property damage.</p>	1 2	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted. The responsibility for the maintenance and management of trees on private land rests with the property owner/s.</p> <p>Inclusion on the Register does not prevent pruning or other arboricultural works necessary to maintain tree health and structure.</p> <p>Where there are concerns about the condition or structure of a listed tree, an application may be made to Council for the necessary pruning / removal works, as required under our Development Control Plan.</p>	No

Comment	Total	City of Sydney response	Change to Register recommended
Does not support the listing of the London Plane, citing damage to private sewer infrastructure and significant repair costs. Considers the tree to be inappropriately located for a small park, causing overshadowing and posing ongoing risks to nearby properties. Believes the City has not managed the tree responsibly and it should remove it rather than included in the Register.		<p>The London Plane tree has been assessed as a mature specimen that provides important visual, environmental and social benefits to the local area. Its proposed inclusion on the Register of Significant Trees recognises these values.</p> <p>We acknowledge the concerns raised, and while listing identifies the tree's significance, it does not prevent reasonable maintenance works being undertaken where required. Any specific concerns regarding tree roots or infrastructure impacts can be submitted for assessment by the City's arborists and/or engineers.</p>	
<p>Rosebery, Hayes Road Queensland Lacebark - <i>Brachychiton discolor</i></p> <p>Supports the existing listing of the Queensland Lacebark avenue on Hayes Road, Rosebery, recognising its historic foresight, scale and contribution to the suburb's character.</p> <p>Commends Council for acknowledging this planting and suggests that other significant street tree avenues in Rosebery - such as those on Mentmore Avenue and Dunning Avenue - also be considered in future reviews. Highlights the importance of maintaining generous street widths to support large canopy trees and encourages continuation of the City's progressive urban forest work.</p>	1	<p>Noted. The City appreciates the support for the existing listed.</p> <p>Comments regarding other significant tree avenues in Rosebery, including Mentmore Avenue and Dunning Avenue, are appreciated and may be consideration as part of future reviews of the Register of Significant Trees.</p> <p>The City shares the view that continued commitment to large canopy plantings are vital to maintaining the area's distinctive urban landscape and environmental quality.</p>	N/A

New tree nominations received since the draft Register was on Exhibition (since August 2025), and the recommended outcome

Specific tree/s or site nominations were received and assessed. Nominations and the recommended assessment outcome have been listed alphabetically below, by suburb then location.

Camperdown

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
Sterling Circuit, Camperdown	23	The <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>hillii</i> (Hill's Weeping Figs) along Booth Street were planted in the 1970s and today form a mature avenue reaching around 17 metres in height. Their scale and evergreen canopy contribute strongly to the streetscape and provide continuity to the historic Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children frontage. As a group, they represent the widespread mid 20 th century use of Hill's Weeping Fig in Sydney's civic and institutional landscapes and remain an enduring green landmark of the Camperdown precinct.	Y
	1	The <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i> (Port Jackson Fig) at the corner of Booth Street and Pymont Bridge Road is a mature specimen of around	Y

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
		17 metres that anchors the former hospital frontage and marks the historic curtilage of 'Midanga'. As one of the last surviving early plantings on the Royal Alexandra Hospital site, it contributes materially to the heritage character of Camperdown. Its landmark corner position and continuity with 19th-century planting traditions give it strong visual, historical, and social significance within the streetscape.	
	1	The <i>Araucaria cunninghamii</i> (Hoop Pine) is a mature specimen of around 21 metres that originally marked the driveway entrance to the Victorian residence <i>Midanga</i> and later the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children. As one of the oldest surviving plantings on the site, it demonstrates late 19 th century preferences for substantial conifers to frame important entries.	Y

Darlinghurst

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
Stanley Street, Darlinghurst	1	The <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> (Sydney Blue Gum) on Stanley Street is a mature specimen of around 25 metres in height with a canopy spread of 12 metres, likely planted in the late 1970s. Its tall form, evergreen canopy, and strong streetscape presence illustrate the shift towards native tree planting during this period. The tree remains a prominent visual landmark, reinforcing the enduring role of Sydney Blue Gum as one of Sydney's most recognisable tall forest species.	Y

Erskineville

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
Ashmore Street verge (north)	8	The <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> (Jacaranda) form a cohesive avenue planting established in the 1980s to 1990s adjacent to Erskineville Oval. Their broad canopies create a striking seasonal display, reflecting the enduring popularity of the species in Sydney's late 20th-century streetscapes. As mature specimens, they contribute to the character of the Oval precinct and embody the cultural association between Jacaranda flowering and the arrival of summer, giving them both visual and communal significance.	Y
61 - 62 Ashmore Street, Erskineville	2	The <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>hillii</i> (Hill's Weeping Figs) are a mature group planting established in the early 1980s on land formerly associated with the Metters factory in Erskineville. Beyond their landscape contribution, the trees hold strong community significance, having been the focus of a major campaign in 2014–2015 that secured their retention as part of the Park Sydney redevelopment. Their scale, resilience, and canopy presence provide a green landmark in a dense urban setting, reflecting the widespread use of Hill's Weeping Figs in Sydney's streets and parks and contributing both social and aesthetic value to the local character.	Y
	2	The two <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>hillii</i> (Hill's Weeping Fig) specimens adjacent to the substation on Ashmore Street are understood to have been planted in the early 1980s. While Hill's	N

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
		<p>Fig is a popular urban tree valued for its resilience and canopy, these specimens have developed suppressed growth due to spatial constraints and proximity to built form.</p> <p>Although they contribute to the collective character of the broader group planting, their reduced form and compromised condition limit their individual landscape value. On this basis, the two figs near the substation are not considered to meet the threshold for inclusion on the Register.</p>	
98A Burren Street, Erskineville	1	<p>The <i>Grevillea robusta</i> (Silky Oak) is a native rainforest species from the NSW north coast and south-eastern Queensland. It became a popular ornamental planting in Sydney from the late 19th century, featuring in civic schemes, public parks, and gardens, and remained fashionable through the early to mid-20th century. Its tall form, fern-like foliage and golden flowers made it a striking choice, widely planted as a garden, street and park tree from the 1890s to the 1950s.</p> <p>The subject specimen, located in the rear yard of a private property adjacent to Albert Street, is approximately 17 metres in height and likely dates from the 1940s–1950s, when the species was especially popular in domestic gardens. Although visible from the public domain, it grows in a confined space between a boundary fence and a garage, which has reduced its visual prominence.</p> <p>While Silky Oaks of this period illustrate a once-common planting tradition in Sydney, the species is no longer widely used in urban landscapes due to self-seeding and maintenance issues in constrained sites. In this context, although the specimen is a mature example, it does not demonstrate the prominence or heritage values required to meet the threshold for inclusion on the Register.</p>	N
Copeland Street, Erskineville	2	<p>The <i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i> (Forest Red Gum) specimens adjacent to Erskineville Oval on Copeland Street are approximately 14 and 16 metres in height and, based on archival review, were likely planted during the 1980s–1990s.</p> <p>Although indigenous to the Sydney region and once widespread across the Cumberland Plain and coastal lowlands, these are planted rather than remnant examples of original vegetation. While they provide shade and contribute to the amenity of the Oval's edge, they are relatively recent additions and are not associated with the earlier phases of the park's history.</p> <p>Erskineville Oval occupies land originally granted in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, later proclaimed as Macdonaldtown Park in 1885, renamed Erskineville Park in 1892, and long linked with community recreation and sporting use, including as the home ground of the Newtown Rugby League Club between 1913 and 1954. The present Forest Red Gums reflect late 20th century planting trends favouring native eucalypts in urban parks and streets.</p> <p>On this basis, while their contribution to the park's landscape character is acknowledged, the Forest Red Gums are not recommended for inclusion on the Register.</p>	N

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
Ellen Lawman Rest Area, Erskineville	1	The <i>Ficus rubiginosa</i> (Port Jackson Fig) is located within the Ellen Lawman Rest Area. Based on a review of aerial and archival imagery, the tree appears to have been planted during the 1990s and is considered a relatively young specimen. At its current stage of maturity, the Port Jackson Fig does not demonstrate the historical, ecological, botanical, social, cultural, or commemorative values typically required to meet significance criteria. While it contributes to local amenity and may develop greater landscape or aesthetic value as it matures, the tree is not presently regarded as significant in a heritage context.	N
54-56 Erskineville Road, Erskineville	2	<p>The <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> (Sydney Blue Gum) and <i>Eucalyptus punctata</i> (Grey Gum) are located on a small parcel of Council-owned land on Erskineville Road. The site was formerly occupied by residential development but appears to have been vacant since the late 1970s or early 1980s and is now used as a local community garden.</p> <p>Analysis of aerial imagery indicates that the two trees were established between the late 1990s and early 2000s. Both Sydney Blue Gum and Grey Gum are relatively common native species across the City of Sydney LGA, valued for their rapid growth, shade canopy, and ecological benefits, including habitat provision for native fauna. A comparative assessment demonstrates that larger, older, and more historically or botanically significant specimens of these species exist elsewhere in the LGA.</p> <p>The subject trees do not display distinctive visual prominence, historic association, or rarity that would elevate them beyond their typical role in contemporary urban planting schemes.</p>	N
Green Ban Park, Erskineville	1	The <i>Ficus elastica</i> (India Rubber Fig) is a mature specimen planted in the late 1970s that has developed into a substantial and visually distinctive tree within Green Bans Park. Its large evergreen canopy, aerial roots, and strong form make it an uncommon example within the City of Sydney, enhancing the character of the park. Beyond its visual qualities, the tree holds strong communal value through its association with the 1990s Green Bans movement, symbolising community activism and contributing to the park's identity as a significant social and historical landmark.	Y
23 Eve Street, Erskineville	2	<p>The <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> (Lemon Scented Gum) is a mature specimen of approximately 20 metres in height, located in the rear garden of a private property. It is likely to have been planted in the mid-1980s. While a visually attractive species, this example has limited visibility in the public domain and contributes little to the wider Erskineville streetscape. It does not demonstrate the prominence, setting, or associative values required to meet the threshold for listing.</p> <p>The <i>Livistona australis</i> (Cabbage Tree Palm) is approximately 13 metres high and situated towards the rear of a private property. Although the species has cultural associations in New South Wales, this individual specimen is not of considerable age or prominence. Its private garden setting limits its contribution to the local streetscape, and it does not display the maturity or</p>	N

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
		contextual values necessary for inclusion on the Register at this time.	
John Street, Erskineville	1	The <i>Harpephyllum caffrum</i> (Kaffir Plum) is a small specimen of around 6 metres in height, located beneath overhead powerlines on John Street. The tree is considered to have been planted during the late 1990s. Repeated pruning for powerline clearance has significantly altered its natural form, resulting in a compromised canopy and reduced visual amenity. This example does not display the form, or prominence necessary for heritage significance. Its constrained setting under powerlines further limits its potential to develop as a specimen of note. For these reasons, the Kaffir Plum is not considered to meet the threshold for listing. It is noted that other Kaffir Plums have been planted in John Street; however, these also represent isolated examples rather than evidence of broader or historically significant use of the species within the LGA.	N
	1	The <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> × <i>botryoides</i> (Wollongong Woollybutt) is a mature specimen, reaching approximately 20 metres in height. While the species is relatively uncommon in the City of Sydney LGA and this individual appears to date from the late 1980s, the tree is in only fair overall condition. It exhibits reduced crown density and widespread canker-like lesions throughout. The Wollongong Woollybutt is not recommended for listing due to its current fair health and short useful life expectancy.	N
Maureen Oliver Reserve	1	The <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> (Sydney Blue Gum) in Maureen Oliver Reserve is a mature native tree planted in the 1970s that has grown into a landmark feature of the Erskineville streetscape. At approximately 22 metres in height, it dominates the reserve, provides shade and amenity, and forms a visually prominent marker along Erskineville Road.	Y
Sydney Street, Erskineville	1	The <i>Eucalyptus saligna</i> (Sydney Blue Gum) is a mature street tree of substantial size, planted in the 1970s and now reaching around 25 metres in height with a canopy spread of 15 metres. It reflects the mid-20th-century trend towards native street planting and provides a strong visual presence along Sydney Street. As one of Sydney's most recognisable tall forest species, it illustrates the enduring role of the Sydney Blue Gum in shaping the character of suburban landscapes.	Y
Victoria Street, Erskineville	17	<p>The <i>Melaleuca quinquenervia</i> (Broad Leaved Paperbark) is a widely used street tree species throughout the City of Sydney LGA, valued for its hardiness, adaptability, and ability to provide shade and amenity in urban settings. The specimens along Victoria Street, range in height from 11 to 16 metres and appear to date from the 1980s, a period when the species was commonly planted across the LGA.</p> <p>These trees contribute to the local streetscape, offering seasonal character and environmental benefits typical of the species. However, they do not demonstrate any particular visual, historic,</p>	N

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
		or botanical significance beyond their typical use in urban planting schemes. As such, these trees are not considered to meet the threshold for listing at this time.	

Ultimo

Location	Number of Trees	Nomination assessment	Nomination Support (Y/N)
Goods Line, Ultimo	22	The <i>Ficus microcarpa</i> var. <i>hillii</i> (Hill's Weeping Fig) group along the Goods Line in Ultimo was planted during the 1990s and established by the early 2000s, prior to the site's reuse as a linear park in 2015. The avenue represents late 20th-century civic planting practice and is strongly associated with the transformation of the former freight line into a public domain project. Located beside the UTS Dr Chau Chak Wing Building, the trees reinforce the educational and cultural setting and contribute shade, scale and greenery to the Ultimo/Pyrmont precinct.	Y

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/policy-planning-changes/your-say-updating-register-significant-trees> was created. The page included information about the consultation.

2. Online feedback form

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an interactive map. A link to the map was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

3. Sydney Your Say e-newsletter

An email was sent to 6643 people through our Sydney Your Say e newsletter

4. Notification letter

A notification letter was issued to 633 properties, advising recipients of the consultation and informing them that one or more trees located on their property are currently included on the register.

A notification letter was also issued to four property owners for all new nominations received during the exhibition period (since August) period, with extended timeframes provided for them to review and submit comments.

5. Stakeholder email

A notification email was issued to 24 organisations, advising recipients of the consultation and informing them that one or more trees located on their property are currently included on the register.

[Proposed works & maintenance](#)

Your say on updating our register of significant trees

Help us preserve Sydney's valued natural and cultural landscape.

Under review

Contributions to this consultation are closed for evaluation and review. The project team will report back on key outcomes.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD

1 September 2025 to 29 September 2025

What we're doing


We're accepting your feedback on our updated draft [register of significant trees](#).

Our strategies, policies and plans across various portfolios help to meet our greening aims and objectives. This includes the register of significant trees, which is reviewed around every 10 years to reflect changes in listings.

A summary of key information about the register of significant trees and how to comment on a listed tree is [outlined below](#).

Karen Sweeney

URBAN FOREST MANAGER

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COPY EMAIL ADDRESS

Next steps

Our expert panel will review all feedback received.

The register will be updated where required, and we will report the results to Council and the Environment and Climate Change Committee.

We'll make a recommendation to Council to adopt the register.

How you can give feedback

Consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 29 September 2025.

1 [Use our interactive map](#)

Click on a tree to learn more about it and send us your feedback.

2 [Email or post your feedback](#)

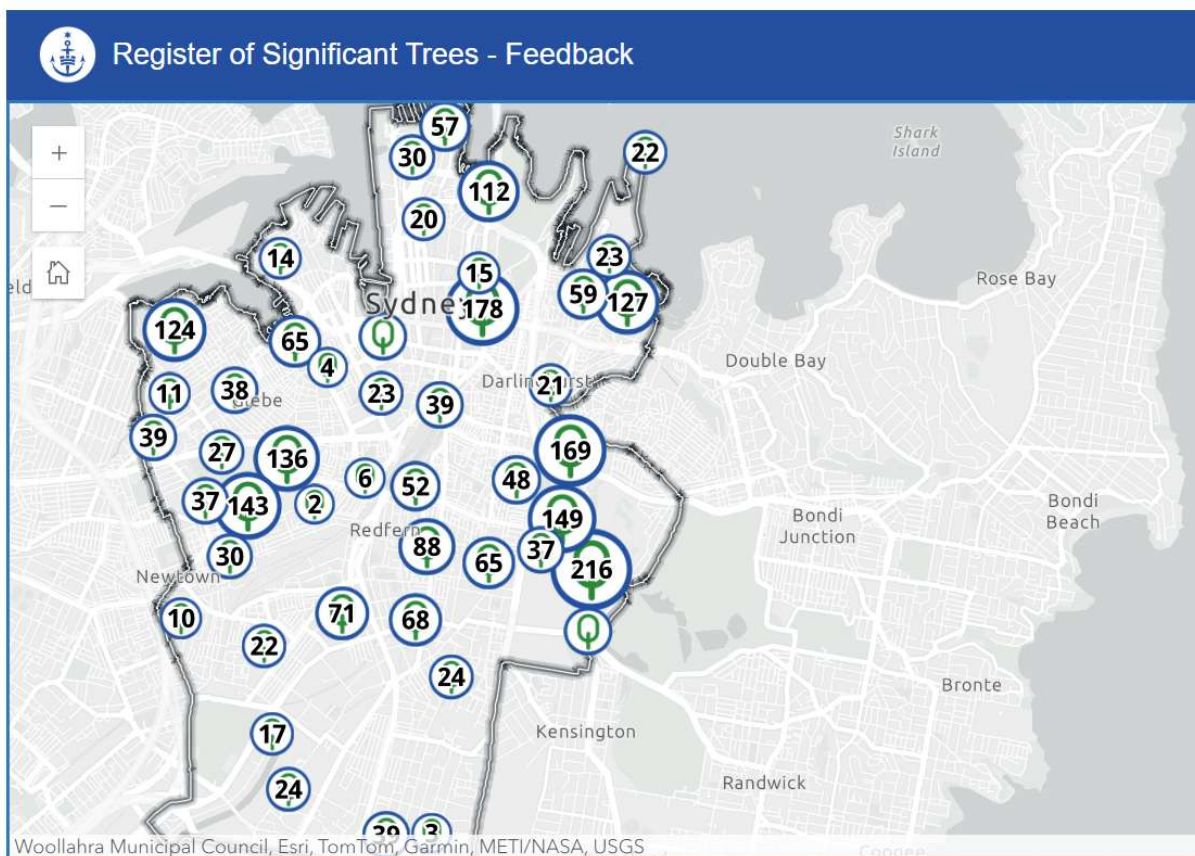
You can give your feedback by email to sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au or post to:

Karen Sweeney
City Greening and Leisure
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Interactive map

Interactive map

To comment on a tree, click on a tree icon. You can zoom in and out to see more trees.



Sydney Your Say

CITY OF SYDNEY 



Image: Chris Southwood / City of Sydney

[Our updated draft register of significant trees](#)

We've updated our register of significant trees following your nominations. We now ask for your comments on the revised tree listings.

Provide your feedback by Monday 29 September.

[Read more](#)

Notification letter



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1 September 2025

Updating our register of significant trees

We're reviewing and updating our register of significant trees. The register highlights important trees in our area. It records their significance to our urban landscape, guides their management and protects them for future generations. Trees in the register may be in parks and streets as well as private property.

The register was first adopted by Council in 2005 and updated in 2013. It's reviewed around every 10 years. Updates may include where trees have been removed, or additional trees that now meet the classification criteria.

In March we invited community feedback on trees to be added to the register, including feedback on trees already listed. Expert consultants reviewed these nominations and the feedback we received. These changes to the register have been made.

A new draft register has been developed and is now open for public comment. The register includes one or more trees on your property. The listing information can be found on the map at the link below.

We're now inviting feedback on this updated register until 29 September 2025.

If you would like to comment on the register, or have photos of trees you would like included, please visit [cityofsydney/consultations](https://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/consultations).

For more information, contact our urban forest manager Karen Sweeney at sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V. Lee".

Veronica Lee
Executive Director, City Services

