

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X087075 **DATE:** 9 December 2022

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Veronica Lee, Director City Services

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant to Item 8.3 - Public Exhibition – Urban Forest Strategy and Item 8.4 - Public Exhibition – Street Tree Master Plan

For Noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Background

At the meeting of the Transport, Heritage, Environment and Planning Committee on 5 December 2022, Councillors requested that consideration be given to extending the consultation period (currently proposed to be 13 December 2022 to 28 February 2023) due to WorldPride being held in early 2023 from 17 February to 6 March 2023.

Consultation and tree planting timeframes

The City's tree planting program occurs in the cooler months of March to September, with the majority of trees planted in autumn, when the conditions are best for planting and healthy tree establishment.

To enable the street tree planting program to commence in mid-March and deliver our 2023 program, it has been recommended that Council commence planting at the conclusion of consultation period, while submissions are considered and prior to the adoption of the Street Tree Master Plan.

The consultation period proposed from 13 December to 28 February 2023 coincides with the warmer months when tree planting is not occurring. The two-and-a-half-month timeframe was considered appropriate to accommodate the holiday season.

Consideration was given to extending the consultation period beyond the planned closing date of 28 February 2023 to accommodate WorldPride (17 February to 6 March 2023).

An extension in timing, until the end of March, would delay the commencement of the tree planting program as planting could not occur at the same time as the community consultation.

The delay of the program would impact the delivery of the corporate target for street tree planting, with staff expecting that the target of 700 street trees would not be met for 2022/23. Therefore, it is not recommended that that consultation period be extended beyond 28 February 2023.

Memo from Veronica Lee, Director City Services

Prepared by: Karen Sweeney, Urban Forest Manager

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer