

Item 4.

Post Exhibition – Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan and Tree Management and Donation Policy

File No: X087075, X085710, X085711

Summary

This report recommends that Council adopt the draft Urban Forest Strategy, draft Street Tree Master Plan, and the draft Tree Management and Donation Policy.

On 12 December 2022, Council resolved for the draft Urban Forest Strategy (the Strategy), draft Street Tree Master Plan (the Plan), and the draft Tree Management and Donation Policy (the Policy) to be placed on public exhibition for a period of 12 weeks. Community consultation occurred between 13 December 2022 and 28 February 2023.

Consultation activities included online engagement and information sessions. The consultation was promoted on various social media channels, and an email was sent to 601 stakeholders. The digital marketing campaign created broad awareness of the consultation.

In response to the public exhibition, a total of 28 submissions were received for the Strategy, 130 submissions for the Plan, and eight submissions for the Policy. This followed early engagement for the Plan in mid-2022, where a total of 559 submissions were received, and where appropriate, changes were incorporated into the draft Plan prior to exhibition.

Members of the public were able to comment through Sydney Your Say, through the online Street Tree Master Plan feedback page, and via email or post. The consultation identified strong support for these documents. A full summary and analysis of the submissions is available in the engagement report in Attachment F.

The submissions have been reviewed and where appropriate the draft Strategy, Plan and Policy have been updated in response to community feedback. Only minor amendments were needed between the draft and final versions of the Strategy and Plan. No amendments to the Policy were required.

The final draft Strategy is shown at Attachment A and the final draft Policy is shown at Attachment C. The 25 recommended changes to the online version of the Plan are shown at Attachment B, with the final changes to be made online following the Plan's adoption.

Adoption of the Strategy, Plan, and Policy will allow the City to continue its focus, greening efforts and activities to make Sydney a cool, calm, resilient city and be a truly green City by 2050.

Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note the submissions received from the community on the exhibited draft Urban Forest Strategy, draft Street Tree Master Plan, and the draft Tree Management and Donation Policy, as shown at Attachment F to the subject report;
- (B) Council adopt the Urban Forest Strategy, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report;
- (C) Council adopt the Street Tree Master Plan, with the recommended amendments as shown at Attachment B to the subject report;
- (D) Council rescind the existing Tree Donation Policy and Tree Management Policy, as shown at Attachments D and E to the subject report;
- (E) Council adopt the Tree Management and Donation Policy, as shown at Attachment C to the subject report; and
- (F) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and the Tree Management and Donation Policy in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication;
- (G) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make minor amendments to the Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and the Tree Management and Donation Policy in order to update technical details and approve tree species updates following localised community consultation;; and
- (H) Councillors be informed of any amendments made under (G) above.

Attachments

- Attachment A.** Urban Forest Strategy
- Attachment B.** Street Tree Master Plan - link to online version and list of recommended changes
- Attachment C.** Tree Management and Donation Policy
- Attachment D.** Tree Donation Policy
- Attachment E.** Tree Management Policy
- Attachment F.** Engagement Report
- Attachment G.** Guidance Report on Allergens and Irritants of Trees

Background

1. Trees play a vital role in the future of Sydney. They are the largest living things in the urban environment and their environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits are well established and beyond doubt. Our society relies on these benefits every day.
2. There is growing research and community recognition of trees as essential green infrastructure. Cities throughout the world are exploring the potential for urban forests to mitigate and manage the risks of climate change. As cost-effective solutions, trees shade and cool our streets, parks and homes. They increase biodiversity, improve our mental and physical health, and enhance economic activity and property values.
3. There are approximately 88,500 trees currently located within the City of Sydney Local Government Area (LGA). This includes the City's 34,500 street trees, 14,000 park trees, as well as an estimated 40,000 private trees. Collectively, these tree canopies cover 19.8 per cent of the LGA. The City is one of only a few councils in Australia that has consistently increased canopy cover over the past decade.
4. As Sydney's density increases and the climate changes, increases to tree canopy and more equitable access to its benefits are essential to the liveability and efficient functioning of the city.
5. The Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision strategy commits the City to becoming green, global and connected. In the Sustainable Sydney community survey 77 per cent of respondents want a green city with parks, trees and nature. Of the respondents, 84 per cent want to see more trees in local streets. The Strategy responds to the community's need for more greening across the City.
6. The Greening Sydney Strategy 2020-2030 was adopted by Council in July 2021, and its target is to increase green cover to 40 per cent across the local area, including a minimum of 27 per cent tree canopy by 2050. Implementation and operationalisation of the approved actions in the Greening Sydney Strategy is in progress.
7. The City has the following suite of tree management policies, plans and procedures to manage the urban forest:
 - (a) Tree Management Policy – provides the strategic framework for the management of trees in the City of Sydney's urban forest.
 - (b) Urban Forest Strategy – provides the strategic context and management for the urban forest, including specific canopy cover, species and age diversity targets.
 - (c) Tree Management Controls – identifies the land and trees protected under the statutory planning instruments (SEPP, LEP and DCP). There are severe penalties (up to \$1.1M) if these provisions are breached.
 - (d) Street Tree Master Plan – provides a guide to the provision and planting of street trees throughout the City of Sydney.
 - (e) Register of Significant Trees – identifies and recognises the significant trees in the City of Sydney and guides their management to ensure their protection for future generations.
 - (f) Tree Donation Policy – assists organisations and the community to donate trees to be planted in the City of Sydney's public domain.

- (g) Park Tree Management Plans (for our iconic parks) – provide proactive and effective management strategies for the maintenance and conservation of the parks' tree populations and long-term strategies for tree removal and replacement.
- 8. Regular reviews of each policy, plan and procedure are carried out, with major reviews undertaken on a five or 10 yearly basis. This process identifies opportunities for improvement, with high levels of community involvement, to ensure the City's ongoing success in tree and urban forest management.
- 9. This report recommends Council adoption following the comprehensive review and community consultation undertaken for the draft Urban Forest Strategy, draft Street Tree Master Plan, and draft Tree Management and Donation Policy. This Strategy, Plan and Policy will supersede the current policies.
- 10. In line with the current Resolution of Council for the Strategy, Plan and Policy, it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to undertake minor amendments to the Urban Forest Strategy, Street Tree Master Plan, and the Tree Management and Donation Policy when required. Such amendments may include updates to a specific street tree species, following community consultation, updates to technical details and minor wording changes (e.g. to update legislation names). Councillors will be informed of any amendments made.

Urban Forest Strategy 2022-2032

- 11. The Strategy details a vision for an expanding urban forest canopy, distributed equally for the benefit of all, and managed to ensure it remains a sustainable and resilient asset for our communities.
- 12. The Strategy outlines four directions, and nine supporting actions that will ensure a healthy and sustainable forest:
 - (a) Direction 1 – An integrated forest - to overcome current and future challenges, trees must be considered as essential infrastructure and fully integrated within the urban landscape. This will be achieved through ongoing best practice urban forestry and optimising the connections between various types of infrastructure (grey, blue, and green) through coordinated approaches to design and implementation.
 - (b) Direction 2 – A growing forest - our target is to achieve a minimum of 23 per cent canopy cover by 2030 and 27 per cent canopy cover by 2050. Reliable methods are used to track gains and losses of canopy cover over time within streets, parks, and properties.
 - (c) Direction 3 – A forest for all - in a just and fair city, it is vital that the benefits of the urban forest be distributed fairly across the city. Spatial analysis at regional and local scales will help prioritise action in areas it is most needed.
 - (d) Direction 4 – A resilient forest - the urban forest can be vulnerable to changes in the environment. The Strategy responds to the risk of climate change through actions that promote a more diverse and resilient urban forest. The sustainable management of the forest will ensure that future generations enjoy its benefits and costs remain relatively consistent over the long term.

13. The Strategy includes a number of actions under each of the strategic directions, designed to collectively drive the targets and outcomes. The City will prioritise new tree planting initiatives on the basis of need and opportunity. We will continue to plant trees wherever it is possible and appropriate to do so. The creation of new planting sites will be prioritised where our communities need them most.
14. The Strategy also includes a new Tree Species List, which outlines the tree species considered to be appropriate for future planting within our local area. The ability of species to adapt and thrive in our predicted future climate were key factors in developing the new list. The list was developed with the assistance of professional arboricultural consultants, academics, landscape architects, an Indigenous consultant and experienced urban forest practitioners. The list will help to promote a more diverse and resilient urban forest through awareness of the wide variety of species suited to the future climate of our local area and the most appropriate site conditions for their establishment and growth. Our aim is that the list will be a valuable resource and reference, to assist in the future selection and planting of trees on public and private land.
15. The Strategy has been developed by City staff, with input from all divisions that have an opportunity to influence urban forest outcomes. The implementation of the Strategy will require a similar collaborative effort from the City and the community.

Street Tree Master Plan 2023-2033

16. The Plan is a critical part of the City's suite of policies and strategies that are used to proactively manage our urban forest. Trees like all living things, grow, age and eventually die. The Plan has been carefully developed to guide our future street tree planting. It guides where trees are planted and what species will be used to replace existing trees when they eventually reach the end of their useful lives.
17. Our focus for future street tree planting responds to the challenges facing our community and city from the impacts of climate change and the need to build more resilient and sustainable communities. This Plan is focussed on increasing canopy cover and species diversity, to help the City meet our greening and canopy targets, and our core objectives to create a cool, calm and resilient city.
18. The Plan consists of the following key components:
 - (a) An interactive online map which nominates the tree species and planting arrangements for each street, allowing users to view and filter the information for a variety of uses;
 - (b) Introductory information relating to context, objectives and use of the Plan;
 - (c) Supporting information detailing the various criteria, factors and principles that guided tree species selection;
 - (d) Technical guidelines for the supply, installation, and establishment of new street trees; and,
 - (e) Links to other key resources and documents.

19. The key objectives of the Plan are to;
 - (a) Increase canopy cover and promote the establishment of attractive, resilient and well-shaded streets;
 - (b) Develop a palette of reliable street tree species that are well suited to the street environment and are likely to thrive into the future;
 - (c) Increase the use of locally indigenous species, improve the biodiversity of our streets, and increase habitat for native fauna;
 - (d) Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities by creating streets that promote and support active transport, and social interaction;
 - (e) Inform and direct a consistent and effective approach to tree planting in streets – ensuring "the right tree for the right place"; and,
 - (f) Reinforce and enhance the character of our city's precincts through distinct and appropriate street tree planting.
20. The Plan has been developed by the City's Tree Management Team and Arterra Design, arborists, landscape architects and an Indigenous ecologist, who were engaged to assist with the comprehensive review of the 2011 Plan. The City's Spatial Information Services Team created the online mapping tools.
21. This is a plan for the future. It means we use it when choosing species for new planting locations and where a replacement tree is required. Existing trees will not be removed to implement the new species listed in the plan. This will only happen gradually – as existing trees need replacing. Existing street trees will normally be left to grow for their natural life and they will only be removed once they have become a safety issue or an unacceptable hazard. The exception to this might be when major street improvements or infrastructure upgrade works are required. However, tree removal will always be a last resort option.
22. The implementation of the Plan will occur over the next 10 years, until the next iteration is comprehensively reviewed, consulted and adopted.

Tree Management and Donation Policy

23. The Policy outlines the City's policy principles for managing trees across seven key areas:
 - (a) Tree Management and Protection – best practice tree management and tree protection will be given high priority in all aspects of the City's activities.
 - (b) Tree Species Selection and Planting – with the underlying principle of planting "the right tree in the right location".
 - (c) Tree Removal - tree removal is a last resort option; however public safety always takes priority.
 - (d) Public Tree Asset Management - specialised care and management for our trees, as they are growing in a harsh urban environment.

- (e) Community Consultation and Engagement - encourage consultation and communication about tree management and the urban forest.
- (f) Tree Donation – provide guidance to the community and City staff on the tree donation process.
- (g) Trees as essential infrastructure – outlines how trees will be considered as long-term assets, similar to utilities and the built form, ensuring tree removal is not an expedient option in our city, and planting locations are maximised.

Allergens and irritants of trees

- 24. The potential impact from Plane trees was raised during the early community engagement for the Plan. At the Council meetings in December, City staff were requested to engage with relevant experts to provide information on the potential impact of Plane trees, and other trees in general, regarding allergens.
- 25. Professor Connie Katelaris and Associate Professor Ed Newbigin were engaged to provide independent specialist guidance, as they have considerable expertise in this area. Please refer to Attachment G for the full report, which includes short biographies.
- 26. The report outlines the causes of common airborne allergies, the main aeroallergens in Sydney and their sensitisation rates (dust mites 63 per cent, animal dander 40 per cent, moulds 27 per cent, cockroach 30 per cent, temperate 44 per cent and subtropical 38 per cent grass pollen, weed pollen 32 per cent, tree pollen overall 16 per cent, birch tree pollen 19 per cent) and Plane tree pollen 7 per cent).
- 27. The report also explains the difference between an allergy and irritant;
 - (a) An allergy is a chronic immunological disorder that occurs when a person's immune system mounts an abnormal response to something in the environment (called an allergen) that does not normally bother other people. People who are sensitised to an allergen typically develop symptoms when they encounter the allergen. Allergic diseases include allergic rhinitis (hay fever), asthma, skin conditions like eczema and food allergies.
 - (b) An irritant is a non-corrosive substance that can transiently and reversibly cause discomfort or slight inflammation when in contact with a part of the body. The body's response to the irritant is entirely normal and not a sign of underlying disease.
- 28. The report includes the following key information about Sydney's experience with Plane tree allergies, that;
 - (a) more people in Sydney are sensitised to grass pollen and birch pollen than to plane tree pollen (as outlined above).
 - (b) the high season for plane tree pollen is from August to October with a peak in early September. The season for achene (fruit) fibres roughly coincides with that for plane tree pollen but the leaf trichome (small hair) season is later and continues until the leaves are mature in mid-summer.

- (c) studies have been undertaken to determine the pattern of sensitisation for residents of inner Sydney suburbs such as Darlinghurst, Paddington, and Surry Hills where there are large numbers of these trees. The summary of these studies found that, although people in inner Sydney were sensitised (responsive to / affected by) plane tree pollen, this did not appear to trigger their seasonal symptoms. It is possible that the eye and nasal symptoms the participants experienced were caused by irritation from plane leaf trichomes (hairs) and achene (fruit) fibres.
29. The reports recommendation states; "Despite the lack of reliable data about tree pollen allergenicity, there is still a need to develop a robust strategy for the evolution of Sydney's urban forest. For any disservice that an urban forest provides through allergen production, a mature urban forest provides a far larger number of services through its contributions to pollution removal, noise reduction, decrease in the urban heat island effect and a range of other socioeconomic benefits such as cultural heritage and a sense of community wellbeing. We recommend that the risks posed by tree pollen allergens be mitigated through the staged increase in the diversity of Sydney's urban forest. The increase can be achieved by using a diverse mix of tree species, including trees where there currently isn't a consensus on allergenicity, and by avoiding future plantings of large stands of a single type of tree".
30. In summary, people are more allergic to a range of other common airborne allergies. In regards to trees, (despite the limitation) the research concludes that people are more likely to be irritated by Plane Trees rather than suffering an allergic reaction. Notwithstanding, we are phasing out new Plane tree plantings as recent research found they will not thrive under the future climate conditions. The draft Street Tree Master Plan will also provide a staged increase in species diversity over time.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision

31. Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision renews the communities' vision for the sustainable development of the city to 2050. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the city, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This policy is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
- (a) Direction 2 - A leading environmental performer - the Strategy, Plan and Policy builds on the existing canopy cover targets (23 per cent by 2030, and 27 per cent by 2050). More detailed analysis within specific land uses will help to monitor progress and drive outcomes. The City is currently on track to meet these targets, with consistent increases in canopy cover within streets, parks, and properties. From 2008 to 2020 canopy cover has increased from 15.5 per cent to 19.8 per cent.
- (b) Direction 3 - Public places for all - the Strategy, Plan and Policy will provide improved, attractive and healthier public spaces, increasing the amenity, thermal comfort, providing more opportunities for social interaction and inclusion.

- (c) Direction 4 - Design excellence and sustainable development - the Strategy, Plan and Policy aims for a forest that is fully integrated within the urban landscape. The coordinated design of nature-based solutions that prioritise trees and urban canopy cover will optimise the connections between grey, blue and green infrastructure, and promote resilience and benefits for all communities. The dedication of space for tree canopy and community uses improves the amenity, liveability, and health of the city.
- (d) Direction 5 - A city for walking, cycling and public transport - the Strategy, Plan and Policy supports this Direction by ensuring the City's network of streets and open spaces are shaded to provide thermal comfort, and support active transport all year round.
- (e) Direction 6 - An equitable and inclusive city - the Strategy, Plan and Policy aims to provide the community with equitable access to canopy cover, based on geographic locations and also for future generations.
- (f) Direction 7 - Resilient and diverse communities - the Strategy, Plan and Policy supports engagement with the community in the sustainable management of the urban forest throughout all areas. We will engage with our communities to highlight their role as custodians, to inform them of any emerging risks to the forest and involve them in the actions required to mitigate those risks.
- (g) Direction 8 - A thriving cultural and creative life - trees make for successful public spaces that are visually appealing and encourage the exploration of the city and its diverse cultural, creative and entertainment offerings.
- (h) Direction 9 - A transformed and innovative economy - the Strategy, Plan and Policy supports the economy, as research has found that tree canopy results in higher commercial returns, as people spend more time, and money, in green spaces.

Organisational Impact

- 32. In developing the Strategy, Plan and Policy, consultation was undertaken with relevant City staff.
- 33. Implementing the Strategy will require a multi-disciplinary approach to ensure each portfolio (streets, parks, and properties), delivers their allocated share of the tree canopy targets. Actions and projects are being proposed in the budgets and business plans of responsible units.
- 34. The Plan will be implemented primarily by the City's Tree Management Team and related tree maintenance service providers. Third parties will also have a minor involvement in implementing the Plan as part of development or major street upgrades, with technical details provided to ensure the City's standards are met.
- 35. The review of the Policy has identified that minimal changes are required in the management of the City's trees. Basically, it will be 'business as usual' for the City's Tree Management Team in implementing the Policy.
- 36. Collectively, Council and the community will need to continue working in a collaborative manner to ensure the specified Policy principles and canopy targets are achieved.

37. The time frame for implementing the majority of the Strategy, Plan and Policy will largely occur over a 10-year period and be completed by 2032, with many actions required to continue to ensure the ongoing sustainable management of the forest. The Strategy, Plan and Policy will be scheduled for review by 2033.

Social / Cultural / Community

38. The Strategy, Plan and Policy will have significant benefits for the community, including providing the significant physical and mental health benefits outlined in the Greening Sydney Strategy. Compelling research proves that:
- (a) in neighbourhoods with a tree canopy of 30 per cent or more, adults had a lower likelihood of:
 - (i) developing psychological distress (by 31 per cent);
 - (ii) developing diabetes by (31 per cent);
 - (iii) developing cardiovascular disease (by 21 per cent);
 - (iv) developing cardio hypertension (by 21 per cent); and
 - (v) rating their general health as fair or poor over six years (by 33 per cent); and
 - (b) connecting with nature for as little as a couple of hours can reduce blood pressure, lower stress, improve cardiovascular and metabolic health, improve concentration, memory and attentiveness, lift feelings of depression, improve pain thresholds, improve feelings of energy, boost immune systems by increasing the count of the body's natural killer cells, increase anti-cancer protein production and help people lose weight.
39. The Policy also provides opportunities for building social capital through community involvement such as the tree donations planting events.

Environmental

40. The United Nations describes climate change as the defining issue of our time. In June 2019, the City of Sydney declared that climate change poses a serious risk to the people of Sydney and should be treated as a national emergency. Our city must adapt to the changing climate and increase its resilience to the likely impacts. Heatwaves are Australia's deadliest natural hazard. They now arrive earlier, are hotter, and last longer. Urban temperature extremes can present us with life-or-death situations. Urban heat mitigation through greening can significantly reduce human heat related morbidity and mortality. Research has found that:
- (a) Individual trees can make a valuable difference to air temperatures, by as much as 10°C.
 - (b) At the local scale, temperatures at ground level also vary significantly. One study showed the difference was 10°C cooler in the street that had 30 per cent canopy cover, compared to a street with just 10 per cent canopy cover.

- (c) At the precinct scale, groups of trees that combine to provide greater than 40 per cent canopy cover at the scale of a city block have been found to reduce local ambient air temperature by more than 1.3°C.
41. The Strategy, Plan and Policy outlines the opportunities to accelerate our action in the areas of canopy cover and urban forest resilience. These actions help us in cooling local streets, reducing heat absorption, reducing energy needs, improving storm water quality, reducing storm water runoff, reducing dust and air pollution, sequestering carbon, and improving the diversity of the City's urban ecology.

Economic

42. The Strategy, Plan and Policy will deliver economic benefits to the city. Research in other cities has shown that green urban environments increase property values, improve commercial activity in retail centres and are an attraction for employers to recruit and retain quality staff.
43. Tree canopy cover is the most cost-efficient method of addressing urban heat. As greening also provides a multitude of environmental, social and economic benefits, every dollar invested provides a higher return.
44. Best practice street tree selection, such as selecting species that are proven performers, will grow to an appropriate size within the street, and are planted in accordance with the quality specifications and details, will increase the trees' longevity and reduce maintenance impacts. This is vital to increasing canopy cover and the benefits the canopy cover provides over time.

Financial Implications

45. The actions required in this Strategy, Plan and Policy are largely funded through operational budgets for tree maintenance and management, and capital budgets for tree planting. Sufficient funds are already allocated within the City's approved Long Term Financial Plan. Note that individual capital projects will include funding for tree planting, where appropriate, and approval will be sought as part of total project budgets.

Relevant Legislation

46. Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
47. Local Government Act 1993.
48. Roads Act 1993.
49. State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Biodiversity and Conservation 2021.
50. Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012.
51. Sydney Development Control Plan 2012.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

52. The Strategy, Plan and Policy will be reviewed within 10 years of its adoption.

Options

53. Not proceeding with the Strategy, Plan and Policy impacts the city in the short, medium and long term. This includes detrimental impacts regarding urban heat mitigation and community health and wellbeing.

Public Consultation

54. Following Council endorsement, the Strategy, Plan and Policy was subject to a public exhibition period of 12 weeks from 13 December 2022 to 28 February 2023.
55. A strategic approach to public exhibition ensured that a range of methods and activities were used to invite feedback from stakeholders. The consultation included online engagement, e-newsletters, community screens and direct letters to stakeholders.
56. Letters were sent to 601 stakeholders inviting participation in the consultation. This included people who made a submission during the street tree masterplan early engagement phase, as well as organisations and individuals who may have an interest in the project such as community garden groups, chambers of commerce and community action groups.
57. The consultation was promoted via a social media campaign on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn. The digital marketing campaign created broad awareness of the consultations. There were;
 - (a) 12 social media posts across the campaign which led to 1,415 engagements across organic social media (reactions, comments, shares, clicks);
 - (b) 54,700 people reached by Instagram and Facebook ads;
 - (c) 44,900 views of our LinkedIn ads;
 - (d) 22,000+ views of the video we made; and
 - (e) Two City of Sydney News stories related to the campaign were shown on 125 community screens across our local area during the consultation.
58. A project page on Sydney Your Say was set up which included an electronic copy of the Strategy, Policy, and links to the online Plan, Tree Species List, story map and other key information about the consultation. It received a high level of interest and a significant number of people engaged over the consultation period, with 1,071 unique pageviews of the Sydney Your Say page and 205 document downloads.
59. The Strategy received a total of 28 submissions during the consultation period (11 submissions via email and 17 submissions received via surveymonkey).

60. The Plan received a total of 130 submissions during the consultation period. This followed early engagement for the Plan in mid-2022, where a total of 559 submission were received, and where appropriate, were incorporated into the draft Plan. Below is a break-down of the latest feedback received.
- (a) 82 comments made through the online interactive map
 - (b) 47 email submissions
 - (c) 1 submission received through the post
61. The Policy received a total of 8 submissions during the consultation period. Of these submissions:
- (a) 4 submissions were received via surveymonkey;
 - (b) 2 submissions received via email;
 - (c) 1 submission via phone call; and
 - (d) 1 submission through the post.
62. Responses to the Strategy, Plan and Policy were received from various stakeholders including the following organisations and community groups:
- (a) Chippendale Residents Interest Group
 - (b) Glebe Society
 - (c) Greater Sydney Parklands
 - (d) Acumen Strata Management Pty Ltd on behalf of Gateway Apartments
 - (e) International Environmental Weed Foundation Habitat Network
 - (f) Milton Terrace Association
 - (g) National Asthma Council
 - (h) Pyrmont Action Inc
 - (i) Strata Embassy on behalf of an owner in 'Manar' apartment complex
 - (j) Sydney Water
 - (k) wwright lawyer
63. Overall feedback received during the exhibition period was positive and supported the Strategy, Plan and Policy.
64. Feedback obtained during the public exhibition period has informed finalisation of the Strategy, Plan and Policy which are now being presented to Council for adoption.

65. The changes made to the Strategy (shown in red text in Attachment A) are minor and include amending the organisation to the Greater Sydney Parklands as landowner of Centennial Parklands, clearer recognition on the importance of our significant trees and their contribution to heritage landscapes and canopy cover.
66. The 25 recommended changes to be made to the Plan are outlined in Attachment B. Only minor changes (e.g. names and dates of reference documents such as the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) Biodiversity and Conservation 2021) are recommended for the Policy, with the final document outlined in Attachment C.

VERONICA LEE

Director City Services

Karen Sweeney, Urban Forest Manager